



Young Horizons

Child Development Centers

“Success Starts Here”

Spring 2017

Mayor Garcia Visits Young Horizons

His teaching skills shone through as he read to the children

On March 2nd, Young Horizons celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday by raising awareness about the importance of reading in a child’s life.

We were honored to have Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia share some time with our staff and most importantly, read to our children. Through the Mayor’s Fund for Education, he shares his vision for education and commitment to the Long Beach College Promise.

The Mayor’s Fund for Education is a newly created non-profit that will invest in educational programs from early childhood through higher education to ensure student success. Sarah Soriano, our Executive Director, was able to share about the impact Young Horizons has on our families and the community. We are fortunate to have a mayor who understands and supports early education. Thank you Mayor Garcia.



Community Officers Engage with Young Horizons’ Children

Promoting positive interactions between our children and the police

After spending countless hours developing and delivering powerful messages to youth in the City of Long Beach, Police Officer Jason Lehman created *Why’d You Stop Me?* (WYSM) in 2011 to create a connection between the police department and the community. One of the things that triggered his wanting to create this nonprofit was when he discovered there was a group of youth plotting to kill police officers. Their identities were not revealed to him but he had the opportunity to speak to a large audience in which those youth had been included. Talking about police procedures and interactions with the community helped eliminate the lack of trust that existed.

Officer Jason Lehman, his patrol partner and Officer Tommy Norman, who has been working on a community policing program in Arkansas, visited Young Horizons to talk to children about the importance of safety. They instilled a sense of trust when talking and reading to our children. They are both working on building stronger relationships so that children and the community know they can always go to a police officer if they are in need.

Thank you Jason Lehman and Officer Tommy Norman for taking the time to visit and for caring about our community.



Executive Director Message



*Staying
focused
for our
children*

As one season rolls around to the next, we re-focus our energies and purpose on what matters most—the children and families in our care. The early months of the year were filled with community events such as the city-wide Kindergarten Festivals, which offer information and resources to parents of incoming kindergarteners, and local advocacy events.

We are grateful to our staff for a successful Food Program Review. This review confirmed a well run, efficient program that supplies the nutrition needs of the children enrolled in our centers.

Early this year we were able to provide Adult and Child First Aid and CPR training to all of our staff. Although it is not a requirement, we believe it is critical for us to invest in this training for all staff to be prepared in case of an emergency.

We will begin the process of evaluating our programs which looks at all aspects of our program to ascertain that the levels of quality in our programs are maintained. This evaluation looks at our enrollment practices, the environment of the classrooms and playgrounds and children's individual development. This is an important component of our program and helps ensure that the quality our children and families deserve is provided.

Thank you for being a part of making this quality program a possibility.

Sarah M. Soriano
Executive Director

Needs Assessment Launch Event

Highlighting needs in LA County

Early Childhood Education is a critical part of a child's education as they move up to the Kindergarten level. The Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee conducts a needs assessment every five years to determine areas where child care needs are lacking. The committee hosted a launch event on March 20th to discuss the findings of the assessment. The executive summary can be accessed at the LA County's website: http://ceo.lacounty.gov/ccp/pdf/ECE%20Needs%20Assessment_Executive%20Brief%2003-30-2017.pdf. While there have been many advancements in the field, Los Angeles County is still falling short in providing services to all families and children in need.

As a follow up to the conversation, Young Horizons was invited to share this message of need on our local Spanish television station, Univision, Channel 34. The story aired on March 22 with an interview from one of our current parents and our executive director. The mother talked about the support she has received at Young Horizons which has allowed her to continue working and supporting her family as a single mom. She expressed gratitude for the improvements her daughter, Lupita, has made at Young Horizons.

The need for early care and education is critical and we need to make sure we are the voice of these children and their families to elected officials and the general public.



Staff Development Day at Molina Event Center

Teacher training ensures continuous improvement

We would like to thank the Molina Event Center for providing a beautiful venue for Young Horizons Staff Development Day. This day of training provided a great opportunity for teachers to learn new ways of teaching the arts, music and STEM in the classroom.

The trainings provided hands-on activities facilitated by experts in the arts, music and science fields. Our science workshop used every-day items that can be incorporated into projects for the purpose of engaging children and triggering their curiosity. The music workshop was facilitated by an instructor who has worked with very young children for many years. Through his teaching techniques he highlighted the fact that children are able to learn music theory at a very young age, even if they do not yet understand what it is.

As always, our teachers were excited and eager to put these new techniques into practice.



Hershey Cause—Cause Clarity

Helps us continue our legacy of service

The Hershey Cause (Cause Clarity) communications program has come to an end. Through the coaching sessions and trainings, Young Horizons has been able to develop a more clear and targeted message that adapts to various audiences. As a Dwight Stuart Youth Fund grantee, Young Horizons was offered the opportunity to participate in this training. By utilizing the tools that we learned through this program we will be working on improving our social media accounts, website, branding and communication with our audiences. We would like to thank Bethany Babyak of Hershey Cause for providing the coaching sessions and offering new ideas that will increase awareness about our organization. We will begin to use the phrase *Educate Early* because we believe it is never too early to start educating our children.



Dwight Stuart Youth Fund grantees and Hershey Cause staff at the culmination of the training.

Board Retreat

Focusing on Success

This winter the board scheduled a day to plan and prepare for the coming year. Through the retreat, Janet Levine, our fundraising consultant, created an atmosphere that was filled with opportunities for the board members to bond as a team, learn together and focus on the one goal we all share: helping our low-income families and their children.

Board members received training on fundraising strategies and how to increase individual and corporate participation to support our programs. The children and families we serve deserve no less.



New Young Horizons Website to Launch Soon

Our New Online Home

WWW.YOUNGHORIZONS.ORG

This new web address is clearer and easier for our families, donors and community members to read and remember. We are grateful to be working with Sue Reveche, of Reveche Media, to update and improve our website. The new site will be more interactive, more accessible to all electronic devices (desktop, tablet, smart phones) and updated with current information.

After our launch, we would love to hear what you think. Stay tuned for website launch information.

Event Calendar

Join us

May 1-5 is Teacher Appreciation Week. Stop by one of our centers to show your appreciation for the amazing work our teachers do daily.

May 17th is No T.V Night at all centers. Our children will be exploring fun and educational activities as opposed to watching T.V.

June 3rd is our Annual Family Picnic at Recreation Park in the City of Long Beach. Stop by for a Saturday of food, activities and entertainment.

The Month of June is a time to say goodbye to some of our Preschoolers moving on to Kindergarten. We will be having Preschool graduations throughout the month of June. Each center has planned a special ceremony for our young graduates.

Holidays we will be closed:

May 29th: Memorial Day

July 4th: Independence Day

September 4: Labor Day

Recent Past Events:

April 24-28 was the Week of the Young Child. We had special days each day of the week for children and families to enjoy. Thanks to parents and community members that stopped by.

April 26 was Administrative Professionals Day. Take the time to thank an administrative professional in your life.

April 27 was our Spring Fest Fundraiser at Shoreline Village. Guests had the opportunity to find out more about Young Horizons and how their donations directly impact our programs.

2017-2018 NOW ENROLLING!

We have openings at several of our centers. Call for information (562) 437-8991 or visit our website: www.younghorizons.org



Young Horizons
 Child Development Centers
 501 Atlantic Avenue
 Long Beach, CA 90802

Address Service Requested

To our friend (s):



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER
NOW AVAILABLE

Please email us at INFO@YHCC-LB.COM if you prefer to connect electronically.

Our mission is to provide quality childcare and preschool programs in a caring, loving and learning environment.

Young Horizons is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization serving children in Long Beach. Donations are tax deductible to the limit allowed by law.

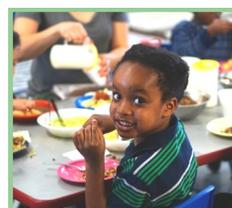
Board of Directors

Founder: Dr. Gerhard Kohn

- Daysha Austin
- Debra Fixen
- David Haisley
- Danita Humphrey
- Ron Kulek
- Katie Larson
- Daniel O'Leary
- Rose Oxford - *Chair*
- Luis Santana
- Roger Scott
- Sandy Wedgeworth
- Dina Zapalski

Advisory Board

- Dr. Martha Bernadett
- Edward Ludloff
- Michael Mais
- Roland Spongberg
- Ed Sudario
- Ron Whittaker



Serving 416 children in five Long Beach locations

Kohn Center/Main Office
 501 Atlantic Ave.

North Pacific Center
 2418 Pacific Ave.

Grisham Center
 11 A W. 49th St.

Central Pacific Center
 1840 Pacific Ave.

Ludloff Center
 2650 Pacific Ave.

License #198000638

Young Horizons is an equal opportunity provider and employer
 Office: 562 437-8991 Fax: 562 436-8847
www.YHCC-LB.com

Proud Member of:

