



# Young Horizons

Child Development Centers

[www.younghorizons.org](http://www.younghorizons.org)

Winter 2018

*“Educate Early”*

## Kohn Center Playground Grand Opening

*Community partner donations help make a beautiful new playground possible*

Thanks to the generous contributions of Westland Real Estate Group, Inc. and the Kiwanis Club of Long Beach, our Kohn Center playground was just upgraded. We are so grateful and the children are ecstatic to have a new playground.

Young Horizons was selected by Westland to celebrate their 10,000th apartment unit. In honor of their success, they elected to give back to their community. We were nominated by one of our parents who works there. Thank you Westland.

Additional funding was secured from The Kiwanis Club of Long Beach through a Community Service Awards grant. Without support from our community, this project would not have been possible. Thank you. **The Grand Opening will be held in late February—check our website and social media for updates.**



## Harvest Lunches Celebrate Thankfulness

*Children enjoy a delicious harvest lunch*



As is customary at Young Horizons, our children enjoyed a delicious Harvest Lunch this fall to celebrate thankfulness and expressing gratitude. These are concepts that are important for young children to learn from an early age.

We are grateful to board member, Katie Larson, who came out to visit and even helped carve the turkey at our Grisham Center. The lunch included turkey, mashed potatoes, bread, oranges and even pumpkin pie—a hit with everyone. Children had the opportunity to share what they are grateful for as they enjoyed their meal. It warmed our hearts to hear them respond, “my teacher,” or “my school” - we are grateful for them too!



## Executive Director Message



### Starting the New Year with Purpose

The beginning of each new year is a good time to pause and reflect as we plan for the future. In this reflection, we realize there is so much to be grateful for. We are grateful for everyone who, in one way or another, has helped us achieve our mission daily. From staff, to board members, to parent and community volunteers, we are so grateful for the time and effort each one has put forward to make a child's life better.

Speaking of volunteers, we have just completed our environment rating reviews known as ITERS/ECERS (Infant Toddler/Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale). Parents, staff and board members came out to individual classrooms to assess the quality of the physical space as well as the interactions among children, teachers, and parents. Thank you to all who participated.

Another way to help Young Horizons is by supporting our upcoming fundraiser: Wine & Cheese Spring Fest, April 19th. This is our annual event to raise much-needed funds to support our programs. The evening promises to be enjoyable with entertainment provided by the *Jazz Angels*, a high-school music mentorship program. More information will be posted on our website.

Part of our reflection has included planning the upcoming celebration of our 50th anniversary. We will begin the celebration in October to commemorate the many years of providing a caring, loving learning setting for the children in our care. Join us!

  
Sarah M. Soriano  
Executive Director

## Parent Group Elects New Board

### Parents step up to serve

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Organization of Parents and Teachers (OPT) Board. Each fall the parents of our five centers elect a board to lead their organization in parent involvement and engagement activities. The board is the decision making body and oversees the activities of the group. Parents run for the various offices and voting takes place at each center. Serving on the OPT board allows parents to experience volunteering, participating in meetings and making decisions. The new officers are as follows:

President: Margarita Mendoza

Vice-President: Sonnoya Meloncon

Secretary: Emily Bowman

Treasurer: Jacqueline Gonzalez

#### Center Representatives:

Central Pacific Center: Esly Espinoza

Grisham Center: Jasmin Barrios

Kohn Center: Ernesto Guzman

Ludloff Center: Tania Garcia

North Pacific Center: Monica Olivares

A big thank you to our Parent Coordinator, Dinora Navarro for her dedication to the parents and for ensuring success in their activities. Thank you.

## Holiday Gifts Bring Cheer to Our Children

### Toy drives, book drives and other donations make gifts possible



The Paramount High (PHS) School Spirit Squad, Latinos in Action, CTA Southeastern Service Center Equity Team, and the Angius Family made the holidays merrier for the children at our centers. Every child received a gift, thanks to their generosity.

The Paramount High School Spirit Squad performed for the children and had the children join them in dancing fun. We are grateful to PHS advisor, Christine Barboza for coordinating this event and organizing the toy drive for our children. Ms. Barboza also organized a book drive with the California Teachers Association Southeastern Service Center Equity Team. Teachers from across the southeast region donated beautiful new books which were given as gifts to the children.

Marta Cota with Latinos in Action also brought a generous donation of gifts to the children at our Kohn Center. In addition, one of our staff members made a donation on behalf of the Angius family to ensure that every child had a gift to brighten their holidays.



## Fairy Tales Come to Life at Young Horizons Centers

*Children perform for parents and families*

The State Department of Education has high learning expectations for children in subsidized care. A newly added component to our educational guidelines is introducing Visual and Performing Arts to the children. The expectation is to introduce children to theater, the arts, and music. This requirement includes a component of having children perform.

To incorporate this new learning component, Young Horizons introduced a new theme into our curriculum: Fairy Tales. Over the course of the month of November, children read three beloved fairy tales: The Little Red Hen, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Three Little Pigs. Children enjoyed reading the stories and learning about the different characters. At the end of the month, children prepared their own costumes and stage props and performed a fairy tale of their choice. Enjoy the videos on our [Face Book page](#). Parents and family members were thrilled to watch their children's performance and the children had a blast.



## "Eating Healthy on a Budget" Parent Workshop

*Hands on workshop gives parents healthy options*



Parents' lives can be busy and stressful and it can be easy to just quickly stop and buy fast food instead of preparing a nutritious, home-cooked meal. To help educate parents on healthier choices, Young Horizons provided a "Eating Healthy on a Budget" workshop to give parents information and resources on how to make better food choices on a limited budget. A big thank you to Marcus Hobbs for providing this workshop at our Kohn Center. Mr. Hobbs has made a life commitment to healthy eating and shares his knowledge with as many people as possible.

He shared the importance of preparing home-cooked meals and eating together as a family. There are many online food buying resources for parents as well as those that were shared.

The part parents loved the most was preparing, cooking and enjoying the meal together.

Tips for Eating Healthy on a Budget:

1. Plan ahead before you shop.
2. Shop to get the most value for your money.
3. Make cost-cutting meals.



### Staff Appreciation:

**Administrative Professionals Day**  
April 25 is Administrative Professionals Day. Administrative staff make the background work happen.

**Teacher Appreciation Week**  
We celebrate our teachers May 7-11 for all the hard work they do. Make sure you thank the teachers in your life too.

### Our centers will be closed in observance of the following Holidays/Events:

2/16/18 Professional Development Day—We close our centers twice per year to offer Professional Development training to teachers.  
2/19/18 Presidents' Day  
5/28/18 Memorial Day  
7/4/18 Independence Day

### Kindergarten Festivals

Community-wide resource fairs for families of children entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2018-2019. These festivals are a collaboration with the LB Early Education Committee and the LB Unified School District.  
January 13—Dooley Elementary  
February 3—Roosevelt Elementary  
February 24—Oropeza Elementary  
March 10—Burcham Elementary

### Annual Fundraiser



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

Address Service Requested

To our friend (s):



***ELECTRONIC  
 NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE***

Please email us at [info@younghorizons.org](mailto:info@younghorizons.org)  
 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
- Steven Gratch
- Frank Gutierrez
- David Haisley
- Danita Humphrey
- Katie Larson
- Roger Scott- *Chair*
- 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

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 Office: 562 437-8991 Fax: 562 436-8847

**[www.younghorizons.org](http://www.younghorizons.org)**

Proud Member of:

