

Volunteer Day at Young Horizons

Helping to Beautify our Playground

This summer, Young Horizons was the grateful recipient of a beautification project by awesome volunteers from Kiwanis Club of Long Beach, YH board members and other volunteers.

The volunteers took on two projects to beautify the playground at our Kohn Center. Six wrought-iron fence panels were in much need of a new coat of paint and rust treatment. Also, the exterior walls, playground equipment and concrete needed to be power-washed to remove dirt buildup.

Thank you to David Haisley and Steve Gratch, YH Board members, and David Reed,

Kiwanis Club member, for spearheading the project and coordinating volunteers.

We put out a call for volunteers to the public and even some of our parents and their children came out to help. One of our mothers brought her daughter who attends the Kohn Center and painted the fence panels together. Her daughter said, “I want to help make my school beautiful!” Other volunteers power washed the playground and exterior walls for a fresh, clean play area for our children to enjoy.

Thank you for giving your time to help us.



Young Horizons—Strategic Planning

Setting Goals and Objectives for our next 5 years

Young Horizons embarked on a process this summer to plan our strategic goals and objectives for the next five years. Thank you to the Young Horizons Board Ad Hoc Committee members, Dina Zapalski, Katie Larson, Danita Humphrey and Steven Gratch who coordinated this effort.

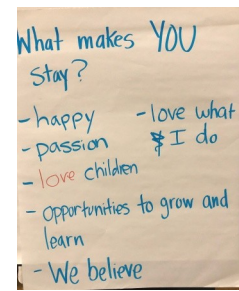
We took into account the input of our parents, staff and board members by conducting surveys and focus groups. We also heard from some of our community partners by personal interviews. Thank you to everyone who helped us and gave open and honest feedback on areas of focus for our strategic direction.

We had a great turn out for our Parent Focus Group with over 30 parents in attendance. Our staff focus group was held during the Staff Professional Development Day. After the focus groups, the board had a retreat to consolidate all the feedback and plan our future goals based on the input received.

Our final 5 year strategic plan will be ready at the beginning of the new year. Continuous evaluation of our programs ensures children are receiving the best quality program possible. We are grateful for all who participated in this process.



Parent Focus group participants



Responses to why Staff stay at YH

Executive Director Message

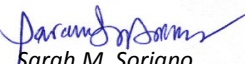


Moving Forward with Purpose

As I reflect on the preparations for our 50th anniversary, I have had time to recall the almost quarter century I personally have spent with Young Horizons. I have lived through the many changes and ups and downs over the years. When I first started my career at Young Horizons, I worked directly with our founder, Dr. Kohn. He and his wife Irena, our program director at the time, worked tirelessly and with determination. I saw, first-hand, their desire to make a difference in the lives of the children and families they served. Dr. Kohn was involved in many aspects of the community, but mainly in the psychology world. He understood how important early learning and development were and advocated on behalf of the most vulnerable families. Now, sitting in the Executive Director chair myself, I can't help but feel the same sense of responsibility to serve our community; to make a difference, to keep our quality high, as every child deserves. It is difficult at times, but so worth it.

It is this sense of importance that keeps us engaged in our community with our policy and decision makers to ensure these programs will be here for the vulnerable children and families in our community.

We have been so fortunate to have dedicated staff who have stood together to make our programs possible. We are grateful for you, our community supporters who financially support our mission. We know we can count on you for years to come, and we thank you.


Sarah M. Soriano
Executive Director

50 Years of Service Preparing for our Golden Anniversary



Dr. Gerhard Kohn, Founder

2019 will be a very special year for Young Horizons as we will celebrate 50 years of service to the community. We are excitedly planning our events to commemorate this milestone year. Our annual Spring Fest Wine & Cheese Event will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019 and Open Houses will be held at all centers in September. We will end the year with our 50th Anniversary Gala to be held on Thursday, October 17, 2019.

Young Horizons began as a service organization that included day care, reading programs, tutoring and day services for special needs children. Dr. Gerhard Kohn and his wife Irena had a vision of helping the most vulnerable children and their families to succeed.

They understood the critical importance of an early education and were pioneers in this field.

Over the years our programs have changed to meet the need in our community. Today, our services include Infant, Toddler and Preschool care for vulnerable families, a Food Program that serves healthy and nutritious meals, and a Parent Engagement program that includes a Take Home Book program to encourage reading at home. Their vision has grown into an organization that now has five centers serving over 400 children daily in Long Beach.

We are grateful for the dedication and passion that got us started and look forward to the next 50+ years serving the Long Beach community.

Play is Learning

Children's work is play and play is hard work

Everyday you can hear children laughing, playing, singing, and having a wonderful time in their classrooms. Many ask the question, "Are they learning?" and our answer is always the same, "Of course!" Children's work is play. Through play they learn about their world. One way Young Horizons makes sure children are learning about their community is by inviting special guests to the centers. This summer, children had visits from a hair dresser, a registered nurse, a dental assistant, and even a chef who prepared a delicious, healthy salad. Children also learn about things that grow, such as plants, animals, and insects. At our Ludloff Center, children had the opportunity to explore ladybugs. Their teacher brought ladybugs and released them into the bushes. Children had a delightful time exploring, letting the ladybugs crawl on their fingers or on a leaf. It was quite a memorable experience for them.



Ms. Wendy Aviles, R.N.



Ms. Lesvya

The B Room Barber Shop



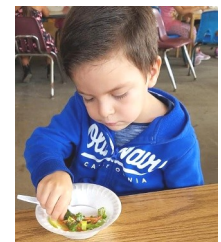
Chef William Nave,
CSULB Beachside Restaurant



Jorge Quinteros
Western Dental



Exploring ladybugs.



Tasting the delicious salad prepared by Chef Nave.

Professional Development Day

Semi-Annual Staff Training Keeps us Current

As is customary each year, we close our doors twice a year in Spring and Fall, to provide training and professional growth opportunities to our staff on current topics so that we can learn and grow together.

We started our day with a Strategic Planning focus group conducted by our YH Board of Directors Ad Hoc Committee members. Next, we had specialized training on how to handle a hostile intruder at a center. Although a difficult topic, it is critical to be prepared. The third workshop was advanced training on our new Learning Genie online child assessment tool and the final workshop was on creating a vision board. Vision board creation is an important step in setting goals as it gives a visual of what staff hope to achieve in their work. On this day, we also celebrated staff years of service with awards for 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years. We are fortunate to have loyal, dedicated staff who believe in Young Horizons and partner with us daily to make our mission possible. Taking the time to provide this training is a great investment and the results are evident in the quality of our programs.



#Giving Tuesday

Join the movement-Plan to Give

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 27, 2018

Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Since its inaugural year in 2012, #GivingTuesday has become a successful movement that celebrates and supports giving and philanthropy.

As you plan your end-of-year giving, we ask you to consider Young Horizons. Our programs serve a critical need by enabling low-income parents to go to work to provide for their family or go to school to further their education. Please help us sustain our programs and plan on making your donation today. Visit our website: www.younghorizons.org/donate, click on our logo to make a donation.

Organization of Parents and Teachers (OPT) Elections

Parents and Teachers Elect New Board

Each year, the parents and teachers elect officers to oversee the activities of this parent involvement group. Congratulations to our newly elected officers of the Organization of Parents and Teachers. By participating, parent board members learn about organizational structure, how to lead meetings, how to make decisions about their programs and gain important leadership skills. Candidates run campaigns utilizing posters at all five centers. Ballots are distributed to all parents and teaching staff for voting. We are proud of the parents who have stepped up and volunteered to be part of this great organization.

Our new board members are: President, Sonnoya Meloncon; Vice-President/Treasurer, Jackie Gonzalez, Secretary, Marlen Perez and Center Representatives: Central Pacific, Felicia Castro; Grisham, Sonia Garcia; Kohn Center, Selina Cruz; Ludloff Center, Blanca Plancarte; and North Pacific, Amber Pimentel. We look forward to a great year together planning the activities for our children and parents.



Event Calendar

SAVE THE DATE:

Grab Your Hat and Read with the Cat!

Celebrate Read Across America

Day: Friday, March 1, 2019

Celebrate the joys of reading on Dr. Seuss's birthday. Readers of all ages are encouraged to come to our centers and celebrate with us by reading to our children.

Grab your favorite Dr. Seuss book and join in the fun.

To volunteer, contact our program director, Danielle Triplett:

dtriplett@younghorizons.org.

Center Closures

Centers will be closed to observe the following holidays and special events this coming fiscal year:

Thanksgiving Holiday

November 22-23, 2018

Christmas Holiday

December 22-26, 2018

New Year's Day

January 1, 2019

Martin Luther King Day

January 15, 2019

Professional Development Day

February 16, 2019

Presidents Day

February 19, 2019

Memorial Day

May 28, 2019

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

April 8-12, 2019

This is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, and families.

We will be having special themes each day of the week for children and families to enjoy. The fun begins with Music Monday, followed by Taco Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. Stop by one of our centers and join the fun.



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
 if you prefer to connect electronically.

ANNUAL REPORT
ENCLOSED

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.

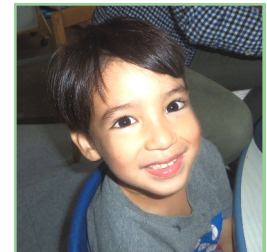
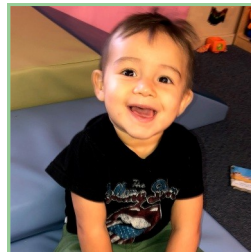
Board of Directors

Founder: Dr. Gerhard Kohn

- Daysha Austin
- Debra Fixen
- Steven Gratch
- Frank Gutierrez
- David Haisley
- Danita Humphrey
- Katie Larson
- Abigail Mejia
- Christina Nigrelli
- Roger Scott- *Chair*
- Misi Tagalao
- 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.

Grisham Center
 11 A W. 49th St.

North Pacific Center
 2418 Pacific Ave.

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

Info@younghorizons.org

www.younghorizons.org

Proud Member of:

