



# Young Horizons

Child Development Centers

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

Winter 2019

**“Educate Early”**

## Our 50th Anniversary Year has Arrived

*Young Horizons is turning 50—celebrations are planned throughout the year.*

Since 1969, Young Horizons has been serving the youngest, most vulnerable population in our community and we look forward to 50 more years and beyond. In the late '60s, early education was in its infancy. Researchers were learning about the importance of preparing a child early and providing opportunities for social and emotional growth through shared experiences.

Our founders, Dr. Gerhard and Irena Kohn were ahead of their time and understood the importance not only of providing early education, but the difference it made to low-income families who didn't necessarily have the resources other children had. Dr. Kohn was a committed advocate for funding to serve this vulnerable population. Irena researched and sought resources to improve the program quality and ensure all children in our centers received the best care possible.

What a legacy they have both left. It is our commitment to continue their work and continue to serve this vulnerable population.

We know the difference it makes when a child has the early learning experiences offered in a group setting. We know that we are helping to end the cycle of poverty because parents can work, go to school, or look for a job while we care for their children. We provide parents with workshops, resources and training opportunities to enhance their skills as their child's first teacher.



Join us this year as we celebrate fifty years of service to our community. Several events have been planned throughout the year. In April, we will have our Wine & Cheese Fest, in September our centers will open their doors for a 50th Anniversary celebration

Open House and our gala, as detailed below, will take place October 17th.

We invite you to support Young Horizons and join us in investing in the lives of children and families and make a difference today.

Donate online: [www.younghorizons.org/donate](http://www.younghorizons.org/donate).

## Irena Kohn

*We bid farewell to our co-founder*



Photo courtesy of Kiwanis Club of LB

Young Horizons celebrates the life of Irena Kohn, co-founder with her late husband, Dr. Gerhard Kohn. Irena was the heart and soul of Young Horizons. From the beginning, it was her dream and motivation that made our programs possible.

Those who worked with her will remember her passion for the children in our centers and making sure every day was special for each child. Her second passion was the staff. She had a unfailing trust and belief in each person's ability to reach their highest potential.

Irena would go out of her way to help staff go to college and take the necessary classes to better serve the children. She was tireless in her efforts, many days working 10 hours straight. Many who worked with her will recall the story she would share about opening a center in one month due to a need expressed by the director of the California Department of Education.

Young Horizons will honor Irena at our 50th Anniversary Gala celebration. Our administration building at 501 Atlantic Avenue will be renamed the Dr. Gerhard and Irena Kohn Building.

Irena will be greatly missed, but her legacy will live on for years to come. Her leadership and inspiration will be remembered forever.



## SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday**

**October 17, 2019**

**Hotel Maya**

Young Horizons'  
50th Anniversary Gala  
*“A Golden Celebration:  
50 Years of Serving the  
Children of Long Beach”*

## Executive Director Message



### Setting Goals to Succeed

The new year is here. Young Horizons is excited to move forward with our strategic plan and reach the goals we have set to serve our children and families. Each new year is a time to reflect on the past year and make plans for the new year. Our plan and standing resolution each year is to serve our children with excellence.

One way we ensure our programs are on track is a self-evaluation we conduct every year called the environment rating scales. We invite members of our board, our community, and parents to conduct these reviews at each of our centers. It is important for them to note areas where we can improve our programs.

We are excited with the proposed budget released by our newly elected governor, Gavin Newsom. His proposed State budget contains significant investments in early learning and care initiatives, including a study on providing universal preschool. Our governor understands and wholeheartedly supports the early education of young children. He knows what years of research have proven: the first five years of life are critical. Providing a high-quality learning environment for our youngest children is a top priority. We will continue to closely monitor the progress of the state budget and be a clear, strong voice for our children.

We count on our supporters, like you, to make our mission happen daily. Thank you for your support.

  
Sarah M. Soriano  
Executive Director

## Read for the Record Day Brings Reading and Inspiration

*Enjoyment for both children and volunteer readers*

Jumpstart's 13th annual Read for the Record Day brought fun and inspiration to the children and volunteers alike. In October, Young Horizons participated in this national annual event. The purpose of Read for the Record is to bring the joy of reading to as many children as possible across the nation.

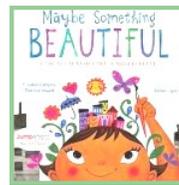
The book selected this year was, *Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campy and Theresa Howell and illustrated by Rafael Lopez. This is a wonderful book, based on the true story of the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, CA. A young girl brings

her community together through painting murals.

The Read for the Record Day results are now in and more than 1.7 million readers participated this year.

We are so grateful to our volunteer readers which included parents, community members, board members, and staff.

Children loved looking at the vivid colors and pictures and even created "murals" of their own with watercolors. We have lots of "Rembrandts in the making" at Young Horizons.



## Welcome New Board Members

*Two new members add strength to our team*

Young Horizons welcomes Christina Nigrelli and Jake Mooney to the Young Horizons Board of Directors.

Christina Nigrelli is the Senior Director of Programs of ZERO TO THREE's (ZTT) Western Office. ZTT is an advocacy organization that works on behalf of infants and toddlers. She brings expertise in early learning and care and policy matters that affect children. She has a passion for young children and wants to make a difference for low income families.



Jake Mooney is a Relationship Manager at Bryson Financial Group. He brings business expertise in the area of employee benefits and is an advocate for low income families. He believes we all have a part to play in making our community better.

We are excited to work with them in furthering our strategic goals of making children's lives better.

Welcome Christina and Jake to the Young Horizons family.



## Dental Office Visit Brings Smiles to the Children

*Community representative provides education*

Thank You to our guest presenter, Jorge Quinteros, from Western Dental, who did a wonderful job giving an Oral Care and Nutrition presentation for our children at all of our centers. Mr. Quinteros shared with children the importance of brushing teeth correctly and used plush dinosaurs for children to practice. He shared about different foods that are good and help build strong teeth as well as those foods that are not good for us. Children loved taking a turn to brush the dinosaur's teeth. He made learning fun with a song "brush, brush, circle, circle, brush, brush, circle, circle, brush, brush." Every child received a free toothbrush and information for their parents on dental care.



## Health and Safety Training

*CPR/First Aid training provided to all staff*

Young Horizons believes all staff should be prepared in case of an emergency. That is why all staff are provided CPR and First Aid training. Not only our teaching staff are provided with this training but administrative and food service personnel as well.

This winter, over 80 staff participated in a Saturday training to refresh their skills and knowledge in what to do in case of a first aid emergency or cardiac arrest. Our staff understand the importance of being prepared and expressed gratitude for this training.



## Family Fun Day

*Parents come out to have fun and learn*



Every fall, we open our doors for one evening for our families and children to come out and have fun at the Family Fun Day at their center. The focus of the Family Fun Day this year was physical exercise. Staying active and moving is very important to our physical health.



Parents enjoyed games such as hula hoops and basketball. There were also play dough making tables, a pumpkin carving station, a movement cube (dice with different exercises), and a dance floor to get up and move. We had a great turn out of parents who enjoyed an evening of fun and physical play.



### **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](mailto:dtriplett@younghorizons.org).

### **Center Closures**

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

Professional Development Day

February 15, 2019

Presidents Day

February 18, 2019

Memorial Day

May 27, 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.

### **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

May 6-10th is National Teacher Appreciation Week. We celebrate our teaching staff for their dedication to the children in their care.

Thank a teacher this week!



**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**

**Founders:**

**Dr. Gerhard & Irena Kohn**

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

