



Young Horizons

Child Development Centers

www.younghorizons.org

Summer 2019

“Educate Early”

Young Horizons Honored at Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Gala

50 Years of service recognized

Thursday evening, June 19th, at the Westin Hotel, Long Beach, was very special for Young Horizons. It was the 128th Annual Chamber of Commerce Gala and Randy Gordon’s 25th Anniversary as Chamber President/CEO.

In celebration of this special event, we were selected as an honoree for the 50 years of service we have provided to children of low-income families in Long Beach.

Close to 650 guests listened as Board Chair, Roger Scott, and Executive Director, Sarah Soriano, gave acceptance speeches expressing gratitude to the Chamber for this honor and to the community of Long Beach for their support over these past 50 years.

The Chamber gave a total of four awards. Co-honorees in the “Destination Tomorrow” category were Farmers & Merchants Bank and CenterCal Properties, LLC (retail complex developers of 2nd & PCH). “Nonprofit” co-honorees were Young Horizons and the Boys & Girls Club of Long Beach. Everyone was grateful for this prestigious honor.

A video about Young Horizons shown at the event included comments by Mari Hooper, past board member and close friend of our late co-founder, Irena Kohn. Ms. Hooper told of the very early years of Young Horizons when she enrolled her children and formed a lasting, lifelong friendship with Ms. Kohn. She is grateful that the legacy of Young Horizons is in excellent, capable hands with devoted staff and a dedicated board. We will show this video at our Gala on October 17th at the Hotel Maya. Don’t miss it!

Young Horizons’ sponsors for this event were Advisory Board members, Ed Ludloff, Glenn Ray, Roland Sponberg and Ron Whittaker. We are grateful for their continued support of our programs. Their dedication to our organization is truly heartwarming. Thank you.

We are grateful for all those who have been part of our 50 year history and we look forward to the next 50 years helping children of low-income families in Long Beach.



Pictured Left to Right: Advisory Board Members Ed Ludloff and Ron Whittaker; Jessica Scott, Board Chair Roger Scott, Executive Director Sarah Soriano, Board Vice Chair Debra Fixen, Board members: Christina Nigrelli, Jake Mooney, Misi Tagaloa and Danita Humphrey.



Celebrating 50 Years
YOUNG HORIZONS
CARING LOVING LEARNING

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, October 17, 2019
Hotel Maya
6:00 Reception | 7:00 Dinner

Early bird price of \$125 per person
\$150 per person after September 13
Tickets available online late July.

For Gala Information and sponsorship information,
please visit www.younghorizons.org
or call 562 437-8991.

Executive Director Message



50th Anniversary Celebrations Continue

The year is flying by as we continue to celebrate this important Golden Anniversary year. Each event that has been held at Young Horizons has had a special highlight of our 50th anniversary. We recognize, with gratitude, that this is an important marker in the life of our agency and there have been many hands and hearts that have kept us going throughout the years. Young Horizons has withstood the test of time and is thriving, thanks to our founders, Dr. Gerhard and Irena Kohn - who tirelessly gave of themselves to lay a solid foundation for Young Horizons - as well as to the numerous board members, funders, and volunteers.

Being honored at the LB Chamber Gala was a highlight of the year thus far. We are so grateful for this recognition and to the Long Beach community that has supported us.

We are looking forward to our Golden Celebration on October 17th at the Hotel Maya. Join us!

In our community, we are very proud to be part of the Long Beach Gives campaign. 9.19.19 Long Beach Gives Day #LBGIVES. This is a crowd-funding opportunity for Long Beach nonprofits to earn dollars donated by businesses, foundations, and individuals in 24 hours via online giving. Further information, including the donation link, will be available on our website and social media pages mid August.

As our 50th Anniversary celebration continues, we ask for your financial support to ensure a strong organization for the next 50 years and beyond.


Sarah M. Soriano
Executive Director

Graduations Mark a First Educational Milestone

135 Graduates move on to Kindergarten

Each year, as we enroll children in the summer and fall, we watch timid, sometimes crying children clinging to their mother or father at drop off. Slowly, they begin to make friends, become accustomed to their environment and relax a little more. Soon, we see laughing, happy children learning, playing, and engaged in activities. It is a beautiful cycle to observe and realize that we have the great privilege and responsibility in helping to shape these young children's lives.

Then June rolls around and we realize, it's time to let them go. It is bittersweet. Parents, teachers and children have formed

relationships and caring bonds. But we know, they are ready to move on. They are ready for Kindergarten and new adventures. Teachers have poured into them all their early learning knowledge and, like little sponges, they have absorbed it all.

At their Graduation, children have the opportunity to show off that learning. They sing, dance, recite poems and proudly display their preschool certificate as they receive it. Parents are so proud to see their children's development and express much gratitude for our program. We celebrate their first educational milestone together.



Take Home Book Program Celebration

Love of reading instilled early

Reading is key to success. At Young Horizons, we value the importance of teaching children the love of reading early in life. We are fortunate to partner with the Bring Me A Book Foundation to offer the Take Home Book Program to our families.

Each year, we offer this program free of charge through this partnership. Children receive a book bag with 3-5 books which they read for one week at home with family members. Prompt cards are included for parents to extend the learning and ensure reading comprehension. At the end of this 30-week program, families and children alike are celebrated for completing the program. Siblings and other family members who have read with the child all receive a certificate of participation. We know that it takes the entire family for this program to succeed. Parents have expressed how grateful they are for this program and how much their children learn and love reading. A special thank you to them and to our centers staff for helping make this program a success.



Field Trips

Extending Learning through hands-on experience

To extend the learning of our monthly theme, Wonders of the Sea, we took our children to the Aquarium of the Pacific to see first-hand the sea creatures they learned about during the month. Children loved exploring the beautiful exhibits and the shark tank tunnel was everyone's favorite. The touch tank gave children the opportunity to feel an actual shark. Children learned how to use a 2-finger touch to be safe. We were happy to have parent volunteers assist and are very grateful to our staff as well.



No TV Night Fun

Choosing Active Play instead of Screen Time

The first week of May is nationally known as Screen Free week. This American Public Health Association campaign aims to help “children, families, schools, and communities rediscover the joys of life beyond the screen. Families are encouraged to unplug from digital entertainment and spend all that free time playing, reading, daydreaming, creating, exploring, and connecting with family and friends!” (www.screenfree.org)

We hosted a No TV Night of Fun for families at our five centers. All activities had a physical emphasis. Children and parents played games, ran relay races, played musical chairs and even played soccer. Being active is of utmost importance for our physical well-being. Sitting and watching television or being on cell phones and tablets creates a sedentary lifestyle. Children and adults alike need to be active to stay healthy.



**SAVE THE DATE:
Center Closures**

Centers will be closed to observe the following holidays and special events:

Professional Development Day

August 30, 2019

Labor Day

September 3, 2019

Thanksgiving Holiday

November 22 & 23, 2019

Christmas Holiday

December 23-25, 2019

New Years Holiday

December 31, 2019 & January 1, 2020

Opportunities to visit our centers

Open House—week of September 16th at all centers. Come and visit the classrooms and see all the learning that happens.

Family Fun Day—week of October 7th at all centers. This event is meant to bring out the child in all of us. Parents and visitors explore the activities children engage in daily and understand what children are learning as they play.

Jumpstart Read for the Record—November 7, 2019

This year's selected book is *Thank You, Omu!* by debut author-illustrator Oge Mora. Join us and come out to read with the children. You will enjoy the experience almost as much as the children!

Harvest Lunch

Each year we prepare a delicious luncheon of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, and of course, pumpkin pie for all the children. Please join us. Contact us at info@younghorizons.org for date and time for each center.



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

Address Service Requested



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, October 17, 2019
 Hotel Maya
 6:00 Reception | 7:00 Dinner
 See inside for details

To our friend (s):

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE
 Please email us at 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

- Isabel Arvea
- Daysha Austin
- Debra Fixen
- Frank Gutierrez
- Danita Humphrey
- Katie Larson
- Abigail Mejia
- Jake Mooney
- Christina Nigrelli
- Roger Scott- **Chair**
- Misi Tagaloa
- Dina Zapalski

Advisory Board

- Dr. Martha Bernadett
- Edward Ludloff
- Michael Mais
- Glenn Ray
- 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
 Info@younghorizons.org
www.younghorizons.org



PROUD MEMBERS OF:

