



Young Horizons

Child Development Centers

www.younghorizons.org

Fall 2019

“Educate Early”

Gala Celebrating 50 Years

Serving our community since 1969

The time has arrived and I am so excited to share this momentous event with our friends, supporters and community. 2019 marks 50 years of service to our children.

On October 17, 2019, Young Horizons celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a Gala at Hotel Maya. The gala included honoring two Champions of Children: our co-founder, the late Irena Kohn for her years of hard work and commitment to Young Horizons and Long Beach Mayor, Dr. Robert Garcia for his steadfast dedication to education for all children in Long Beach.

In addition to our champion of children awards, and in keeping with our tagline: Caring, Loving, Learning, three individuals were honored for their commitment to Young Horizons. Angelina Contreras was given the Caring Award for her 33 years of service to Young Horizons. Advisory Board member and past board member, Ron Whittaker, was recognized with the Loving Award for his 15-plus years of service to Young Horizons and his continued commitment to making our mission happen daily. Our very own

Executive Director, Sarah Soriano, was presented the Learning Award. She has been with Young Horizons for 25 years and has an unwavering commitment to the early education of children and support of families to help them succeed. We congratulate our awardees and thank them for their service.

Continuing the legacy of our founders, Dr. Gerhard and Irena Kohn, is the mission we take with full understanding of the responsibilities involved. They were such great visionaries. They knew and understood the importance of early education and decided to make a difference by providing safe environment where children can learn and play. We will continue this legacy and serve our children and families for many years to come.

This is where you come in, your gift of financial support of our programs helps ensure that for decades to come children and families will have this safe, home-away-from-home environment in which they can learn, grow and thrive. You can help make a difference.



Board Chair, Roger Scott presents award to Mayor Garcia.



Executive Director, Sarah Soriano, speaking about Irena Kohn's contributions to Young Horizons.



Mary Emlen and Eric Kohn, Irena Kohn's children, accept the Champion of Children Award.



Angelina Contreras accepts the Caring Award.



Ron Whittaker accepts the Loving Award.



Sarah Soriano accepts the Learning Award.

Executive Director Message



Celebrating 50 years of Caring, Loving, and Learning

We celebrated our 50th anniversary with a wonderful gala. We honored our late co-founder, Irena Kohn for all her work as a champion for children as well as our Mayor, Robert Garcia. This gave me the opportunity to pause and reflect on the legacy upon which we are building. Dr. Kohn and Irena gave so much of their time, effort, talents and financial resources because they believed in the basic premise that we are making a difference in the life of every child, every day, for the rest of their life. I reflected on how our programs are run, how families feel about our services and what we can do better. This fall, we worked with staff to develop a customer service program that focuses on how our parents and children-as “customers”- are treated and the quality of service they receive.

Young Horizons will launch this customer service model in the early months of 2020. We want to make sure our already talented and nurturing staff are meeting the needs of our families. The foundation can only be as solid as the material used. This home-away-from-home for children must be fortified daily. Staff have given input on this model and are excited for the launch. Taking into account that over 50% of our staff have been with us ten years or longer, we realize it is worth the investment.

Join us as we continue the legacy of our founders and continue to meet the needs of the vulnerable children and families in Long Beach


Sarah M. Soriano
Executive Director

Back to School

New School year begins, new learning is happening



As a new school year begins, we welcome new children to our centers as our graduates leave for kindergarten. Each year, we host an Open House/Back to School Night for our parents to get to know a little bit more about their center, our philosophy, upcoming events, field trips, rules and regulations and resources available to them in the community. Parents also get to know their teachers and center staff and have their questions answered.

We are grateful to our community partners from Pediatric Therapy Network, Dignity Health and Miller Children’s Hospital outreach program for coming out to share

information about their programs with our parents.

Opportunities to mix and mingle were offered so that parents could learn about each other. Several teachers held scavenger hunts with items to find such as the daily schedule, the menu, teachers’ qualifications, emergency exits and other pertinent information to help familiarize parents with their classroom and center. Parents enjoyed the evening.

We know this is a great way to start the year off right. Thank you to all the teaching staff for their hard work on making this night a success.

Parent Board Elections

Parents participate in the Organization of Parents and Teachers

As part of our parent involvement efforts, Young Horizons offers parents an opportunity to participate at a greater level in the decisions for the parent group, the Organization of Teachers and Parents (OPT). The OPT meets monthly to plan extra-curricular events for the centers. The parents and teachers elect a board to direct them each year.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers:

President: Ariel Gilligan

Vice-President: Jacqueline Gonzalez

Secretary: Mayra Flores

Treasurer: Araceli Estrada

Central Pacific Center Representative: Julie Uribe

Grisham Center Representative: Sonnoya Meloncon

Ludloff Center Representative: Vanessa Franco

Kohn Center Representative: Salina Cruz and Fatima Zamorano

North Center Representative: Maria Luna

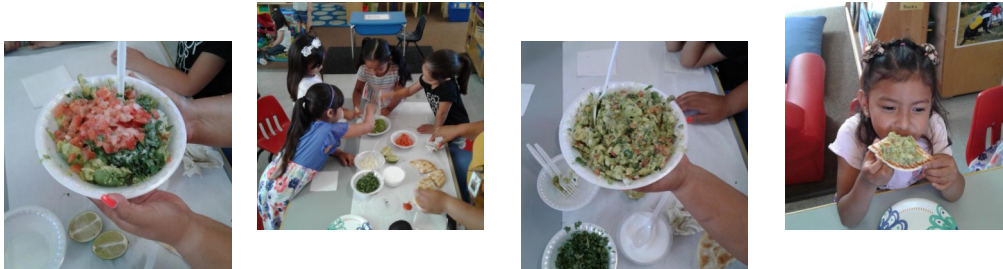
Together, they will make this a great year for our children. They have already begun planning field trips for the spring and are actively participating in board meetings. We are grateful for their involvement and excited to see their growth as they lead this group.

Cooking Experience Fun

Children learn through food preparation

Something as easy as making guacamole can bring lots of learning and fun to a classroom of preschoolers. Children had the opportunity to measure, cut (with plastic knives, of course), mix and prepare their very own guacamole. And then they got to enjoy it with pita bread.

Measuring is an important part of math, while cutting, mixing and spreading exercise fine motor skills. Overall, the guacamole was a hit and our children wanted more. Learning can be yummy, too!



Community Service Project at North Pacific Center

Fehr & Peers volunteers beautify playground

Thanks to board member, Katie Larson, Fehr & Peers Traffic Engineer Firm showed up in a big way this fall for our North Pacific Center. This center has a wooden play structure that needs sanding and re-varnishing every few years. A team of over 20 volunteers showed up on a Saturday morning ready to work. They sanded and re-varnished the playground structure in less than 3 hours. But, being traffic engineers, that wasn't all they did. The project coordinator, Andrea Bjornlie, came up with a beautiful traffic pattern tricycle path that mimics a real bicycle path. Tricycle cut-outs and arrows were painted on the concrete in white. A true-to-life scaled down stop sign, a "parking lot" and cross-walk were also incorporated to help make a safer playground for the children. On Monday morning, the children could not believe their eyes. They loved the new cross-walk and painted tricycles. Board members and staff volunteered to help make this project a success. Thank you, Fehr & Peers!



Event Calendar

SAVE THE DATE:

Center Closures

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

- Thanksgiving Holiday
November 22 & 23, 2019
- Christmas Holiday
December 23-25, 2019
- New Years Holiday
December 31, 2019 & January 1, 2020
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 20, 2020
- Staff Professional Development Day
February 14, 2020
- Presidents' Day
February 17, 2020

Volunteers Read to our Children



Jumpstart's Read for the Record brings together millions of people each year in classrooms, libraries, community centers, and homes across the US. This annual campaign was launched over a decade ago to highlight the importance of building early literacy and language skills for EVERY child, so that all children have the opportunity to enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

This year's selected book was *Thank You, Omu!* by debut author-illustrator, Oge Mora.

We had 24 volunteer readers come to the center to read with the children. This lovely book talked about a lady named Omu, who made soup so delicious, everyone had some but at the end of the day, there was no soup left for her. The community came together and had a delicious potluck dinner with Omu.

The children and visitors loved the story. Thank you to all our volunteer readers.



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

Address Service Requested

To our friend (s):

**2018-2019 Annual Report
 Enclosed**

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.

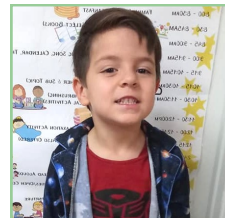
Young Horizons is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization serving children in Long Beach. Donations are tax deductible to the limit allowed by law.

Board of Directors

**Founders:
 Dr. Gerhard & Irena Kohn**

- Daysha Austin
- Axel Dubon
- Debra Fixen
- Frank Gutierrez
- Danita Humphrey
- Katie Larson
- Abigail Mejia
- Jake Mooney
- Christina Nigrelli
- Roger Scott- **Chair**
- Misi Tagaloa

- Advisory Board**
- Dr. Martha Bernadett
 - Edward Ludloff
 - Michael Mais
 - Glenn Ray
 - Roland Sponberg
 - 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
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www.younghorizons.org



PROUD MEMBERS OF:

