



# Young Horizons

Child Development Centers

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

Spring 2021

## “Educate Early”

### Light at the End of the Rainbow

*Hopes rise after a year of the pandemic*



A year has passed since we were all overtaken by the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. As an organization, we have taken the time to step back and reflect on everything that has happened in this past year and we end up with one shared feeling – **hope**. After quickly pivoting to service children in vastly changed and different environments and new processes for care, including distance learning and remote engagement for parents, we have made it to this one-year mark. Mixed in with the sense of hope, staff and parents alike have expressed deep gratitude for everything that we have been able to carry out and achieve. More than half of our staff have received both doses of the COVID vaccine with scheduled appointments pending for the remainder.

We have once again begun enrolling families as businesses begin to reopen and things slowly return to our new normal. We know we are not 100% out of the woods yet but we are definitely headed in a better direction. We look forward to continuing to provide the caring, loving, learning environment where our children feel safe and thrive.

### Winter Highlights

*Socially distanced events kept our program going and our children smiling*

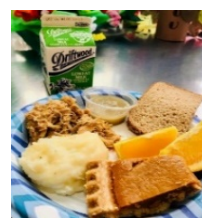


For our mid-year *Take Home Book Program* (modified for COVID), celebration, children performed their re-enactments of Fairy Tales for parents and staff – socially distanced of course! They performed *The Three Little Pigs* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

Yearly, our centers participate in The Great Shakeout, a nationwide earthquake drill to encourage earthquake preparedness. Children learn how to duck and cover their head.



Another annual favorite is the *Jumpstart Read for the Record* book selection and reading. Every center participated in reading this book to the children. Although we could not have visitors, we encouraged our families on social media to read it to their families at home. In total, 179 children and staff participated in reading the book. Everyone enjoyed the story.



Harvest Lunch is a must each year. The kitchen staff came through for the children with a delicious turkey lunch for each individual center.

## Executive Director Message



*Our Rainbow lends new meaning*

In a recent conversation with a colleague, she stated, "I can see the light at the end of the rainbow." It instantly resonated with me and brought to mind our beautiful logo with a rainbow symbolizing hope. This has been a challenging, life-altering year but we can see the end in sight. Just as the rainbow after the rain brings a sense of joy and hope, we are seeing the drop in cases as a positive sign.

Throughout our 52-year history, our staff, teachers, board of directors, along with our volunteers and supporters have defined who we are as an organization. We have risen to the occasion regardless of the challenges at hand to fulfill our purpose of being here when we are needed the most.

If there is one factor that explains our longevity and our ability to not only weather times of crisis, but emerge from them stronger, it is being in it *together* with you. It is our strategy, structure, and philosophy that guides Young Horizons' purpose: serving our children and their families. Thank you for standing with us throughout the years.

Sarah M. Soriano  
Executive Director

## Holiday Gifts Bring Smiles

*Our Community Gives Back*

Our community stepped up and supported Young Horizons during the holidays and we are so grateful. The Rotary Club of Long Beach included Young Horizons' families in their Holiday Giving campaign and supported 35 of our highest-need families with Vons and Target gift cards to make their holidays brighter. In addition, Oltman's Construction provided an activity box for every child filled with toys, crayons, and learning materials. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Atherton Ward, also supported Young Horizons with toy donations for all of our children.

Community support means so much to Young Horizons. It helps us remember we are not alone and there is a community around us that cares and steps up to make the lives of our children and families better. Thank you.



## Central Pacific Center Celebration

*20 Years of Service*

Our Central Pacific center celebrated 20 years of operation. We held a small celebration in January to commemorate this occasion (COVID safe, of course).

In 2001, Young Horizons was faced with a difficult decision. The facility that housed our preschool program was no longer available and we needed to find a suitable location. Our board of directors and then Executive Director, Carolyn Loveridge, worked together and found the location at 1840 Pacific Ave. An empty strip-mall style building with lots of room for improvement but great potential. We went to work renovating it, installing a playground and child-sized restrooms. It was licensed for 86 children to operate our half-day preschool program with an AM and PM three and a half hour sessions. Congratulations to our staff who have made this such a wonderful center through the years.



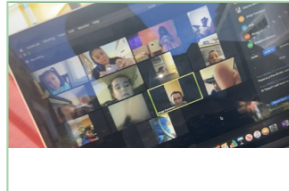
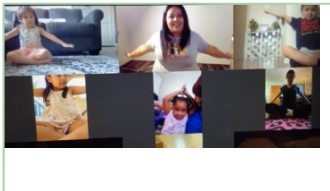
## Teacher Spotlight

### At-Home Learning Success

This past year has been a year of change and challenge. Teacher Dana Lopez, Kohn Center Preschool, shares her experience of successfully transitioning to distance learning for her classroom during the pandemic.

“During the Covid-19 Pandemic many new adjustments in everyone’s everyday life had to be made. For me, transitioning to at-home learning (also called “Distance Learning”) was one of the biggest. With so much confusion and distress, I made sure to create strategies that worked best for both families and me. To begin with, I created a classroom-based, private Instagram page, where I reached out to every one of my parents to follow my page. All of the children’s parents followed the page and it created a fast and safe way to communicate daily. I used the page to post daily activities, updates on reopening, and any additional support parents needed. Providing that consistency is key. I scheduled Zoom calls for every Thursday at the same time weekly. For those students that were unable to attend due to parent work schedules, I offered one-on-one zoom calls available as well. Some of the meetings included: talent shows, meditation and relaxation sessions, lunch time together, and share days. All were very successful, and children really enjoyed them. Also, I continued with parent conferences to get parent feedback, which was always very positive. I created at-home projects for parent-child engagement and for children to share. Overall, even after returning to the classroom, I have continued to interact with parents and post children engaging in activities while at school through Instagram. Parents successfully continue to engage and reply with positive feedback about posts and ways their children are safely learning while at school. This has made both at-home learning and in-classroom learning during this pandemic a complete success in my classroom.”

This is only one example of the many teachers at Young Horizons who pivoted to create a wonderful learning experience for their children and continue to meet their needs. Thank you, Young Horizons staff!



## Young Horizons Joins LB CIP Internship Program

CSULB launched a new internship program this spring: The Long Beach Community Internship Program (LB CIP) which connects students who participated in [the Long Beach College Promise](#) (free local college for LBUSD students) and are now CSULB seniors, with local nonprofits to provide them with working experience.

Young Horizons welcomed Judith Duran to work with us on our social media outreach and administrative tasks. She created an online version of our parent survey in lieu of in-person paper surveys. She has proven to be a tremendous asset and we are delighted to see her growth.

This program is vital to assisting students entering the workforce and we are grateful to participate.

## Event Calendar

### SAVE THE DATE:

4/12-16 - Week of the Young Child – follow us on social media for daily activities  
5/3-7- Teacher Appreciation Week - Show a teacher your appreciation

### Center Closures

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

May 31 – Memorial Day  
July 5 – Independence Day  
September 3 – Professional Development Day  
September 6 – Labor Day  
November 25-26 – Thanksgiving and day after  
December 23-24 – Christmas Break  
December 30-31 – New Years

### Church Donates Food to our Families

Late this winter, the Atherton Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints once again stepped in to support Young Horizons’ families with a generous donation of food items for all our families. The donation was coordinated by Staci Loveridge and included 60 volunteers, that were at the ready to offload an 18- wheeler from Salt Lake City, Utah, made possible by Advisory Board member, Roland Spongberg. We are so grateful for this generous donation.





**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**

- Axel Dubon
- Kris Gragson
- Maria Gragson
- Frank Gutierrez
- Danita Humphrey
- Abigail Mejia
- Jake Mooney
- Christina Nigrelli
- Roger Scott, **Chair**
- Misi Tagaloa

**Advisory Board**

- Dr. Martha Bernadette
- Katie Larson
- Michael Mais
- Glenn Ray
- Roland Spongberg
- Ed Sudario
- Ron Whittaker



*Serving 416 children in five Long Beach locations (pre-COVID-19)*

**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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