



**YOUNG HORIZONS
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS**
501 Atlantic Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90802

Address Service Requested

*Our mission is to provide quality childcare
and preschool programs in a caring, loving
and learning environment.*

✂ SAVE THE DATE: ✂

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26, 2025, 5:30 - 7:30PM

To our friend (s):



THE GRAND EVENT CENTER: 4101 E WILLOW ST, LONG BEACH

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

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Advisory Board

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Roland Spongberg
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**Serving 340 children in
five Long Beach locations**

Kohn Center/Main Office
501 Atlantic Ave.

Central Pacific Center
1840 Pacific Ave.

Grisham Center
11 A W. 49th St.

North Pacific Center
2418 Pacific Ave.

Ludloff Center
2650 Pacific Ave.

License #198000638

Young Horizons is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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PROUD MEMBER OF:





YOUNG HORIZONS

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

www.younghorizons.org

Winter 2025

“Educate Early”

YOUNG HORIZONS SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER AT DAISY LANE PARADE

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, Young Horizons participated in the beloved Daisy Lane Holiday Parade in Long Beach this December. This parade is a cherished local tradition that brings together families, businesses, and organizations from across the area to celebrate the season. This year, we proudly joined the festivities with a group of 20 parents, children, and staff members, all eager to spread holiday cheer.

Dressed in festive attire, our team marched along Daisy Avenue, bringing smiles to onlookers as the team sang a collection of joyful holiday songs and handed out flyers to promote the center’s programs and services, helping raise awareness about the impact our centers have on the community. For Young Horizons, participating in this event was more than just about promoting our services, it was a way to connect with families, share the holiday spirit, and be part of a long-standing tradition that highlights the importance of togetherness and support in our community.

We are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to take part in such a special event. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the season and share in the holiday festivities.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Spring is Almost Here

Spring brings a sense of renewal and hope. Our preschoolers who may have struggled in the fall are pros at all things preschool and are ready to move on to the next step in their journey. As we embrace this new season, we take a moment to reflect on the milestones we've reached and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for our children, families, and staff.

It's inspiring to see our centers growing—not just in numbers, but in the richness of the learning and nurturing happening every day. I'm incredibly proud of the vibrant community we've built together—a space where children are encouraged to explore, discover, and thrive.

This past quarter has been filled with meaningful moments that have contributed to the ongoing development of our children. A key highlight was revisiting our strategic plan and goals with our board and senior staff. Coming together with a unified vision was both energizing and inspiring. Everyone shared in the excitement of charting a thoughtful path forward, ensuring that we continue to provide a program that supports the growth, development, and well-being of our children, families, and staff.

As always, we remain committed to offering an enriching environment that fosters the social, emotional, and cognitive growth of each child. Our dedicated teachers and staff continuously enhance their skills through professional development, ensuring that we provide the best educational experiences for our young learners.

We invite you to stay connected and engaged with the wonderful happenings at Young Horizons as we continue our shared journey in delivering high-quality early childhood education.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, we are making a lasting, positive difference in the lives of our children.



In Service,

Sarah M. Soriano
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED BY SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF LONG BEACH

We are proud to share that Sarah Soriano, our dedicated Executive Director, was honored by Soroptimist International of Long Beach for her steadfast public service and dedication to our community. This recognition highlights her unwavering commitment to shaping the future of children and families in our community by creating impactful educational opportunities and support systems.



Soroptimist International, renowned for its mission to improve the lives of women and girls, celebrated its 100 Year Anniversary by recognizing 25 “Women Who Have Made an Impact” and Ms. Soriano has certainly done so through her leadership in the Early Education Field. Her tireless efforts in advocating for early childhood education, supporting families, and ensuring every child has the tools they need to thrive have made a significant difference in the lives of many.

Ms. Soriano's dedication to nurturing the next generation and her work in fostering a more inclusive and equitable community is an inspiration. This recognition from Soroptimist International of Long Beach is a testament to her tireless commitment to improving lives and providing hope for a brighter future.

Congratulations, Sarah, on this well-deserved recognition and thank you for your continued passion and leadership. We are excited to continue our important work making a lasting impact on the lives of children and families in our community.

LEADERSHIP LONG BEACH DAY OF SERVICE: A HEARTFELT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR CENTER



We are thrilled to share some exciting news about a recent act of kindness and community spirit that has made a lasting impact on our center. In February, Young Horizons was honored to be selected for the annual Leadership Long Beach Day of Service, when local leaders come together to give back to the community in meaningful ways.

This year, we were fortunate to have a team of dedicated volunteers including members of the community, the board of directors and YH staff, lend their time and energy to refresh and beautify our center by painting seven movable fence panels used on the playground. While this may seem like a simple task, it plays an essential role in creating a warm, welcoming environment for the children and families we serve.

The day started early, with the volunteers arriving enthusiastically and ready to work. As they picked up their wire brushes and got to scraping and then painting, it was clear that this effort was about more than just a fresh coat of paint. Their hard work symbolized our community's care and commitment to our children's well-being. The fence—often the first thing visitors see—now stands brighter, fresher, and more inviting, reflecting the vibrant energy of the children who learn and grow here daily.

Beyond the physical transformation, this project's impact was truly felt in the connections made that day. The spirit of teamwork and generosity was evident by these volunteers coming together to make a difference. Their presence and dedication reminded us that working together can create positive change that benefits us all.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Leadership Long Beach for their generosity and service. Their commitment to strengthening our community through action is truly inspiring, and we are grateful for their contribution to Young Horizons.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

We are deeply grateful to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Long Beach East Stake, for their generous food donation to support families in need.

On February 13, 2025, they delivered nearly 40,000 pounds of food to 25 churches and food pantries in Long Beach, including 1,400 pounds to Young Horizons. Items like salsa, beans, pasta, diced tomatoes, and potato flakes help provide nutritious meals for families facing food insecurity. This made a significant difference for the families we serve.

These contributions ensure that families can access nutritious food during times of hardship, reducing the burden of food insecurity and bringing relief to those who need it most. Despite the rain, over 40 volunteers worked tirelessly to unload a 50-foot truck, demonstrating true community spirit.

On behalf of all the families, we extend our heartfelt thanks. Your generosity truly makes a positive impact on our community!



YEAR 2 UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

As we enter Year 2 of our strategic plan, we are proud to share significant progress across our five primary strategic areas: enhancing marketing, expanding programs, engaging stakeholders, building and strengthening our workforce, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

The board of directors and Senior Staff recently met to celebrate Year 1 accomplishments and set new goals for the coming year. We are excited for the continued progress and impact in the years ahead. As we enter Year 2 of our strategic plan, we've made significant strides across five key areas: marketing, program expansion, stakeholder engagement, workforce development, and long-term sustainability.

MARKETING:

- Enhanced digital presence, improved engagement and brand recognition through an updated website and social media.
- Highlighted Food Program in social media posts
- Increased community outreach at local family events
- Renewed signage on buildings, delivery van will be updated in the spring.

PROGRAM EXPANSION:

- Expanded infant and toddler program to serve an additional 12 infants and 24 toddlers. Pending license, projected opening late spring.
- Mental Health Consultation program implemented. Intern program will be added in the fall.
- Added STEAM program by partnering with Shared Science for activities in the classrooms.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:

- Created engagement strategies for board by including board members at events at centers.
- Focus groups and surveys were conducted and have deepened our connection with parents, board members and staff, ensuring their input is central to our efforts.

BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING THE WORKFORCE:

- Provided training programs and focused on employee well-being which have strengthened our team's skills and job satisfaction. Financial incentives were added to support staff economically.
- Recruitment and retention strategies have been identified and implemented.

SUSTAINABILITY:

- A team was established to identify diverse funding sources, and they are developing a comprehensive sustainability plan to ensure long-term stability.



We're excited for the continued progress and impact in the years ahead.

EVENT CALENDAR

May 4 - 10
Teacher Appreciation Week

May 26
Centers Closed
for Memorial Day

July 4
Centers Closed
for Independence Day

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

Please email us at info@younghorizons.org if you prefer to connect electronically.