



**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.

To our friend (s):

ANNUAL FLESTA

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026, 5:30 - 7:30PM
THE GRAND EVENT CENTER

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

Alejandra Albarran Moses, Ph.D.

Board Chair

Sharon Barker

Frank Gutierrez

Moustapha Hammoude

Danita Humphrey

Anna King

Nancy Manriquez Dowell

Juancarlos Mariano

Roger Scott

Alexandra Torres Galancid

Rosalina Vergara

Bianca Villanueva

Elizabeth Willis

Advisory Board

Martha Bernadette, MD

Katie Larson

Michael Mais

Roland Spongberg

Ed Sudario

Ron Whittaker



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

Office: 562 437-8991

Fax: 562 436-8847

Info@younghorizons.org

www.younghorizons.org



PROUD MEMBER OF:





YOUNG HORIZONS

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

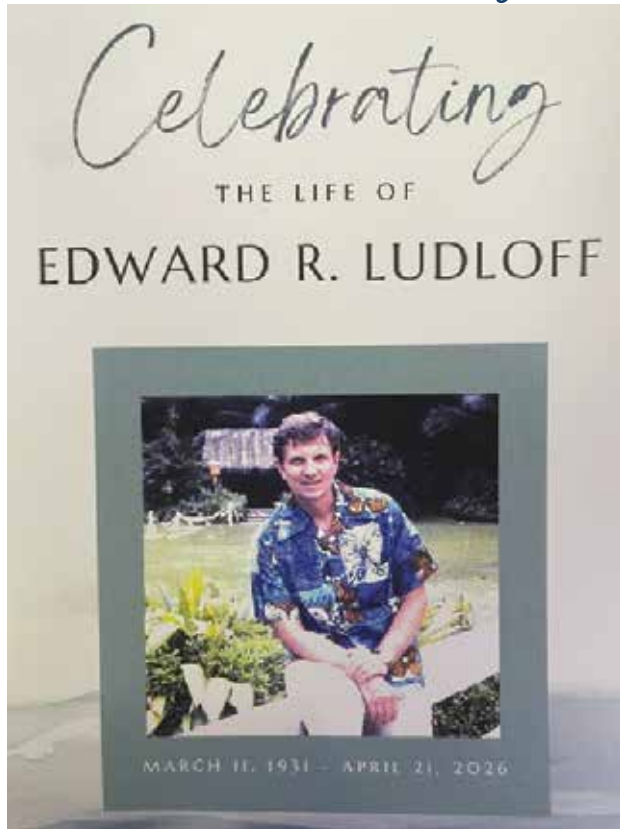
www.younghorizons.org

Spring 2026

“Educate Early”

HONORING ED LUDLOFF

Aloha 'Oe, until we meet again



Young Horizons mourns the loss of longtime board member Ed Ludloff with deep sadness and profound gratitude. For 20 years, Ed served our organization with unwavering dedication, generous wisdom, and a steadfast belief in our mission. He helped guide Young Horizons through some of our most challenging seasons and most important transitions, always offering steady leadership, thoughtful counsel, and genuine care for the children and families we serve. Ed brought a remarkable depth of business expertise to the board, but even more than that, he brought integrity, heart, and a quiet strength that left a lasting mark on all of us.

When our founder, Dr. Gerhard Kohn, passed away in 1997, Ed stepped forward with compassion and resolve to help lead Young Horizons through a pivotal moment in our history. He helped steward the transition of our programs, provided oversight during the interim leadership period, and supported the hiring of a new Executive Director, Carolyn Loveridge. Three years later, when Carolyn moved to Northern California, Ed once again advocated for strong and thoughtful leadership, championing the promotion of then Program Manager Sarah Soriano to Executive Director. Time and again, Ed showed what it meant to lead not only with experience, but with trust, loyalty, and a deep commitment to the future of Young Horizons.

During the recession, when Young Horizons had exhausted its funds and was waiting for the State budget to pass, the future of our programs was uncertain. We faced the heartbreaking possibility of missing payroll, laying off staff, and closing our doors to hundreds of families who depended on us. In that critical moment, Ed sprang into action. He met with Julie Meenan of the Gumbiner Foundation, and the Foundation approved a loan that covered payroll and operating expenses, allowing us to remain open and continue serving our community. That act of leadership was more than a financial lifeline, it was a reflection of who Ed was: someone who showed up when it mattered most, protected what was precious, and gave of himself in service to others.

In honor of Ed's leadership, when a new center was opened in 2007, the board unanimously voted to name the new center in his honor - The Ludloff Center.

We will miss Ed deeply, and we will remember with enduring gratitude the extraordinary difference he made in the life of Young Horizons. Thank you, Ed, for loving Young Horizons so deeply and for the lifetime of leadership you provided.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

As we wind down another meaningful year, we celebrate the growth, joy, and discovery our children have experienced together. Through play-based learning, they have continued to build the skills, confidence, and curiosity that prepare them not only for Kindergarten, but for life. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our graduates and sincere thanks to our families for trusting Young Horizons with what matters most, our children.

While this season brings reflection, it also signals renewal. As a year-round program, Young Horizons remains active and engaged throughout the summer months. Our leadership team is already planning for the year ahead, exploring new ways to enrich learning, strengthen family engagement, and support our dedicated staff.

Summer also brings a focus on safety, wellness, and continued exploration. We look forward to providing a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment where children can continue to learn, play, and thrive.

Thank you for being part of our community. We are excited for all that lies ahead.



In Service,

Sarah M. Soriano
Executive Director

CELEBRATING FAMILIES DURING WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

During Week of the Young Child, we focused on family engagement by inviting parents to create culture boards that reflected their family's traditions, values, heritage, and lived experiences. This meaningful activity gave families an opportunity to share what makes them unique and to bring an important part of themselves into the classroom community. Parents created boards that beautifully represented the richness and diversity of their cultures.

The project was more than an art activity; it became a celebration of identity, connection, and belonging. As children saw their families' stories, languages, and traditions honored in a visible way, it helped strengthen the bridge between home and school, reminding everyone that every family has something valuable to contribute.

Family engagement is such an important part of early childhood education because children thrive when families feel welcomed, respected, and included in their learning environment. By valuing culture and inviting families to share who they are, we help create classrooms where children feel seen, families feel connected, and community grows stronger.



FARM DAY EXCITEMENT

Farm Day at our centers was the perfect way to bring our monthly learning theme of animals to life. Children enjoyed a special visit from a petting zoo and were thrilled to see the animals up close as they gently pet, observed, and learned about a variety of farm friends. In addition, they participated in engaging hands-on activities, including playing with farm animal props, playing "Pin the Tail on the Donkey," and practicing "milking" a model cow, which added to the excitement and deepened their understanding through play.

Experiences like Farm Day help bring learning to life by sparking curiosity, encouraging gentle interactions, and a wonderful opportunity to capture special moments at each center.

As an added learning activity, the children explored the process of making butter by shaking jars of heavy cream until it transformed into creamy butter. They had a blast "shaking their sillies" and eagerly took turns shaking the containers with the teacher. They were fascinated by the different stages of the process, paying close attention to the changing texture and consistency. The experience was especially meaningful as they were able to taste their creation, which they enjoyed on bread.

MEET THE MEAL MAKERS

This spring, we hosted a special event for our families, Meet the Meal Maker—an opportunity to connect with the dedicated team behind the meals served at our centers. Our food program, funded by the California Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), meets rigorous nutrition and quality standards to support the health and development of the children we serve.

During the event, Food Program Coordinator Saul Ramirez and Head Cook Amalia Cardenas shared how we serve Family Style meals. They explained the purpose behind this model, how meal portions are calculated, and the process involved in planning our menus.

The event concluded with a delightful cooking demonstration featuring one of the children's favorite breakfast items: pancakes. Families had the chance to participate and enjoy delicious, fluffy pancakes prepared with love by our food program team. We are grateful for our dedicated Food Program team and the delicious meals they prepare for our children.



INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBER ANNA KING

We are thrilled to welcome Anna to the Young Horizons Board. Anna brings more than 30 years of leadership experience, a heart for service, and a deep commitment to community. A Cal State LA graduate in psychology, she has built a distinguished career guiding teams, mentoring others, and helping people navigate challenging circumstances with care and compassion.

We know her experience, wisdom, and joyful spirit will be a wonderful gift to Young Horizons, and we look forward to all she will bring to our mission and community.

SUPPORTING EVERY CHILD, EVERY FAMILY: SERVING CHILDREN WITH DIVERSE NEEDS

Young Horizons is committed to creating an inclusive, supportive environment for children with diverse needs and the families who care for them. We believe every child deserves access to a nurturing, developmentally supportive environment, and every family deserves a partner who understands their unique journey.

For many families raising a child with special needs and navigating daily routines can feel overwhelming. Our goal is to make those days easier. We work collaboratively with parents and caregivers to understand each child's strengths, challenges, and routines, ensuring our care aligns with what works best at home and at school.

Our staff focuses on understanding each child's individual needs, adapting routines and activities to support participation, comfort, and growth. Just as importantly, we work closely with families ensuring our care reflects what works best for their child.

At the heart of our work is a simple belief: every child belongs, and every family deserves a trusted partner.

EVENT CALENDAR

CENTERS CLOSED

July 3:
Independence Day

September 7:
Labor Day



NOW ENROLLING

A new year brings new beginnings! Ensure your child is prepared for kindergarten with our nurturing, educational programs.

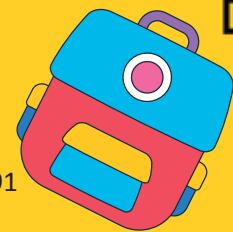
New State income scale allows more families to qualify.

- ▶ Spanish speaking – all centers
- ▶ Healthy meals and snacks
- ▶ Centers open all year
- ▶ High quality education programs

Call for more information 562-437-8991
or visit www.younghorizons.org



For Admission
Scan QR Code



Young Horizons welcomes children with special needs and supports them with credentialed, highly trained educators who create nurturing, inclusive learning environments.



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

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