



Los Angeles  
Child Guidance  
Clinic

# in touch



## First Steps Program: Making Strides in Early Intervention

The innovative First Steps Program, piloted in 2002 with funding from the Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation, is being integrated into the Clinic's ongoing, core programs thanks to \$120,000 in private philanthropy. First Steps reaches overburdened families, including parents with mental health and/or substance abuse problems, whose infants and toddlers are at risk for future involvement in special education, mental health services or specialized developmental programs.

Grant funding has been secured from the following local foundations who are committed to increasing access to quality health care, particularly for those who lack adequate insurance: The California Community Foundation's Centinela Medical Community Fund, The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation, Rose Hills Foundation and UniHealth Foundation.

Operating within the Clinic's award-winning Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, the First Steps Program brings services for infants and toddlers into families' homes. This model improves child and family functioning by supporting parents as individuals and focuses on the development of strong parent-child attachments. Behavioral and emotional problems in 3-5 year olds often result from a lack of a solid attachment with their parent. First

Steps is innovative in that it serves the 0-3 population of children in the low-resource community of Central and South Los Angeles with an evidence-based service delivery model. This approach to treatment prevents future mental health problems by increasing parents' awareness about their children's needs, improving children's development, and increasing safety and stimulation in the home environment.

Following the announcement of their grant award, Judy Spiegel, Vice President of Programs at the California Community

Foundation, applauded the Clinic's history of success and impact in the South Los Angeles community: "The Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic is a wonderful match for this community, with its long-standing expertise in the area of early intervention and its extensive experience as a family-driven and culturally sensitive mental health service provider."

**First Steps serves the 0-3 population of children in the low-resource community of Central and South Los Angeles.**

### Your support can change the life of:

- A young mother suffering from depression
- An abused toddler living with domestic violence
- A struggling single-parent
- A developmentally delayed infant, prenatally exposed to drugs
- A pregnant teenager with mental health issues



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# Message from Chairperson Michael W. Stoddard

**B**uilding on my service as a board member for the past eight years, including the position of Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee for the last four, I am honored to have been elected the Clinic's new Chairperson. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you an important issue facing the children in our community, and one that I plan to focus on during my two-year term.

The staggering level of trauma experienced by youth in our Central and South Los Angeles community is a pivotal characteristic that sets the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic apart from other mental health providers in the greater Los Angeles area. While all children and families face significant challenges when confronted by risk factors such as high poverty rates, teen pregnancy, prenatal exposure to alcohol and drugs, domestic violence and child abuse, those in our community must also live with the profound effects of ongoing random street violence.

By virtue of living in unsafe neighborhoods, children on the Clinic's caseload have been killed as a result of random community violence – they were simply going about daily life. Further, many of our children have unfortunately witnessed the violent death of a parent or a sibling.

In response to daunting crime statistics and the severe impact that trauma has on children's ability to function and learn, my priorities as Chairperson include:

- Increasing awareness about the level of violence in our community, and its impact on children's healthy development.
- Establishing a "model of excellence" for mental health service delivery to children who experience life-altering trauma before they reach the age of 5.

While there is much work to do, I am excited about the opportunities that lay ahead. I am confident that our efforts will make a difference in the lives of children who otherwise would not receive the caring support and guidance they need to reach their greatest potential.

On behalf of my fellow board members and executive staff, thank you for your interest and support of our endeavors at the Clinic. I look forward to keeping you apprised of our work and its effects on the children and families of Central and South Los Angeles.



Michael W. Stoddard  
Chairperson of the Board

# Special Thanks



## Welcoming New Supporters

**W**e are grateful for the contributions of two new funders, whose grants support innovative programming through our First Steps Program:

- ♥ The Rose Hills Foundation
- ♥ The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation

Our heartfelt appreciation for the following in-kind donations:

- ♥ The Quilters Group, including Marion Baker, Lorraine Lubner, Janis Minton, Margery Morris, Judy Pacht and Joyce Zaitlin, recently completed a beautiful, handmade and embroidered quilt, which is on display at our Child and Youth Development Center.
- ♥ The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association contributed 40 tickets to its Summer Sounds series presentation of Korea. The Clinic's Early Intervention Day Treatment preschoolers were thrilled to experience this live musical performance.



## Thanking Old Friends

**T**he UniHealth Foundation, whose mission is to support activities that significantly improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities, is committed to long-term solutions, innovation, education and prevention, promoting access and building community partnerships. Following on the success of supporting the Clinic's Building Blocks Program, the Foundation has made a generous grant to the First Steps Program.

The Employees Community Fund of Boeing California is an employee-owned and operated nonprofit public charity that distributes funds to organizations that improve the quality of life where employee contributors live and work. This most recent grant award for our Building Blocks Program represents the fourth gift that the Fund has made to the Clinic in the past five years.

The California Community Foundation, founded in 1915, makes grants to nonprofit organizations serving the communities of Los Angeles County. The Foundation is committed to increasing access to health care and in the past has funded the Clinic's Building Blocks Program. Now, through the Centinela Medical Community Fund, the Foundation is supporting our First Steps Program.



**The mission of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic is to provide quality mental health services to a community in great need by ensuring easy access and promoting early intervention.**

# Carlos Perez: A Life of Service

Several years ago at the invitation of board member John Liebman, Carlos Perez attended an Open House at the Clinic's Harriet and Charles Luckman Building. Impressed with the presentation, Mr. Perez summarizes his decision to serve on the Board of Directors: "The Clinic's sound and professional programs and financial operations, coupled with the quality services provided to children and families, convinced me to join the board." His expertise in accounting and finance were a perfect fit for the Audit and Investment Committees, and this year he serves as Treasurer.

A 32-year veteran of the financial services firm Deloitte & Touche, including 24 as a partner, Mr. Perez has dedicated his life to public service. He was appointed by Mayor Richard Riordan to the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Monument Commission, and is a past board member of the United States Mexico Chamber of Commerce. In 1993 he was named among the "100 Influential Hispanics" by Hispanic Business Magazine, and was presented the Professional Achievement Award by the National Hispanic Employee Association in 1995. This summer, Mr. Perez was recognized for his outstanding service to his profession, community and country by the Los Angeles chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA) at their 2004 Annual Dinner Gala. As well, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award at ALPFA's National Conference in Chicago.

A native of Los Angeles, Mr. Perez and his wife Martha are longtime

residents of San Pedro. This year they will become the legal guardians of a teenager whose parents have passed away. Now retired, Mr. Perez plans to enjoy more time for exercise, especially jogging, and travel.

The Clinic is grateful for Mr. Perez's dedicated support over the past two years and looks forward to his contributions and involvement in years to come.



*Carlos and his wife Martha at the Annual ALPFA Dinner Gala*



*Jess Penilla (R), Deloitte & Touche Director and ALPFA member, congratulates Carlos Perez.*

## Did you know?

California's Little Hoover Commission, an independent state oversight agency, found that 40 to 90% of children in the juvenile justice system have one or more mental health disorders. Many of these children end up behind bars simply because key mental health services are not available.

## We provide a solution:

Through our Life Learning Program, the Clinic offers specialized services for older adolescents and young adults (ages 15-25) with mental health problems, providing them with the critical support that is necessary for their successful transition to greater independence.

Services include one-on-one counseling in the areas of vocational assessment, employment seeking, job development and independent living skills.

- Last year, clinic staff reported success among 86% of clients who received services.
- 13 continued on to higher education.
- 20 gained employment.
- 38 are in the process of successfully completing high school.

## Honor Roll of Donors

### Fiscal Year July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

The Clinic is deeply grateful for gifts received this past fiscal year from old and new friends alike to support our comprehensive array of programs and services. Thank you for your vital contribution to our ongoing efforts to offer help and hope for troubled children and their families.

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\$100,000 and up

First 5 LA  
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**Every effort is made to publish accurate recognition. If you find an error or omission, we welcome your call. Please contact the development office at (323) 766-2360 ext. 3360.**

# Dr. David Satcher Named Keynote Speaker at Early Intervention Conference

**O**n January 27, 2005, Dr. David Satcher, the former U.S. Surgeon General, will be presenting the keynote address at the Clinic's Statewide Early Intervention Mental Health Services Conference. The conference will serve as a training and learning forum for mental health and child service providers in order to reduce the impact of trauma on children ages 0-5. To date, we have engaged the following conference co-sponsors: Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, California Department of Mental Health, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Los Angeles Unified School District Early Childhood Education Division, Mental Health Association in California, California Department of Developmental Services, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, and California Early Intervention Technical Assistance Network (CEITAN). For more information on the conference, please contact Debbi Winter, Director of Development at (323) 766-2360 ext. 3308.



The conference will serve as a training and learning forum for mental health and child service providers in order to reduce the impact of trauma on children ages 0-5.



**Celebrating 80 Years of Service to the Community!**

**Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic  
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