



Los Angeles
Child Guidance
Clinic

WINTER 2004

in touch



Clinic Receives National Award for Excellence

We are proud to report that the Clinic's *Building Blocks: A Preschool-Linked Early Intervention Program* was named by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) as its 2003 winner of the Norbert and Charlotte Rieger Service Program Award for Excellence. Recognizing innovative programs that address prevention, diagnosis or treatment of mental illnesses in children and adolescents, this award was presented at AACAP's 50th Anniversary Meeting in Miami Beach, Florida, this past October.

Building Blocks was designed to help prevent problem behaviors in very young children from reaching a level of severe impairment and to increase children's readiness for academic success. By intervening early in the lives of young children, and taking mental health services to where children are – preschools – we help children to avoid future mental health diagnoses.

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Of critical importance to the success of Building Blocks has been the ability of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic to work hand-in-glove with the second largest school district in the nation. Through a collaborative with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the Clinic places mental health professionals into LAUSD Early Education Centers located in South Los Angeles in order to facilitate the identification and treatment of children at risk for mental health problems.

continued on page 2

CHAMPIONS OF EARLY INTERVENTION



(l. to r.) Standing are Barbara Stroud, Ph.D., Tami Harris, LCSW, Thomas F. Trott, M.D., Ph.D., Evis Coda, M.D. and Quinton C. James, M.D.; Seated are Elizabeth W. Pfromm, M.S., MPA, Leticia C. Lara, LCSW and Elena Judd, Ph.D.



These children are also at risk for poor school performance, substance abuse and involvement in the criminal justice system in the future. The preschoolers in our high-need, low-resource service community are particularly vulnerable. With this in mind, the performance goals of Building Blocks are to:

- Decrease social, behavioral and emotional problems in children ages 3-5 identified as at risk for school failure.
- Increase mental health knowledge and classroom skills of teachers, with an emphasis on identification and constructive intervention with preschoolers who exhibit early problems.
- Increase parent awareness of children's emotional and developmental needs, and how parental behaviors impact children's learning.

Our heartfelt thanks go to AACAP members Dr. Thomas Trott, Dr. Quinton James and Dr. Evis Coda who serve on the Clinic Board of Directors' Clinical Operations Committee. Their outstanding leadership, support and encouragement are unsurpassed.

We would also like to recognize the significant contributions made by Elizabeth W. Pfromm, the Clinic's Executive Director, to the Building Blocks Program. Ms. Pfromm conducted extensive research on early childhood interventions and then developed the Building Blocks Program model. In 1999, with a lead grant from the S. Mark Taper Foundation, a private family foundation in Los Angeles, Ms. Pfromm began the implementation of Building Blocks.

As additional funding was secured from The California Endowment and First 5 LA – Proposition 10 Commission, Leticia Lara, the Clinic's Associate Director of Early Intervention and Community Wellness, took the lead with a multidisciplinary team of staff who are dedicated to ensuring that at-risk preschoolers have healthier and productive futures.



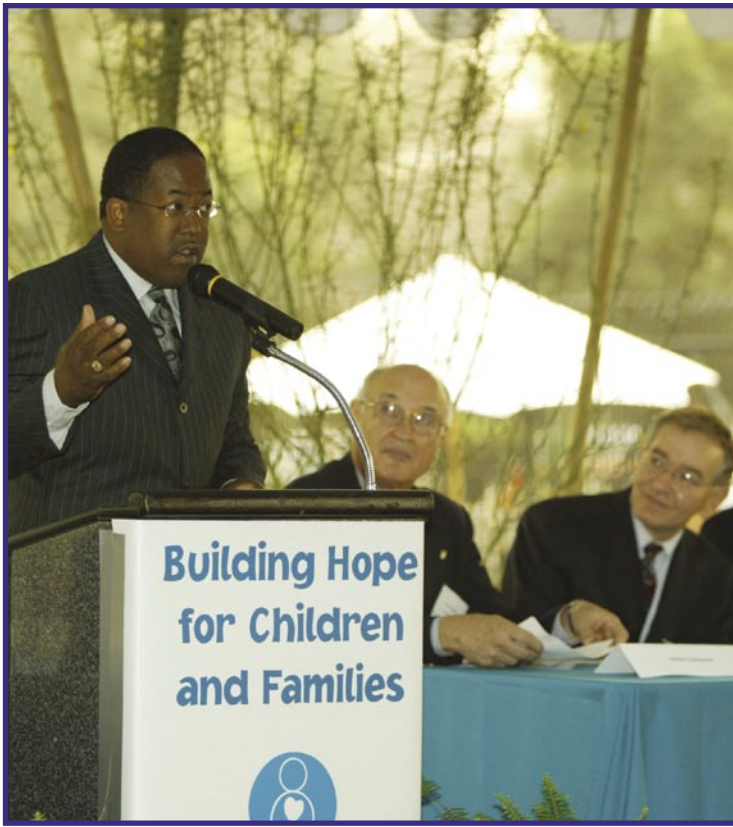
Dedication Event for Child and Youth Development Center

On October 24, 2003, we celebrated another milestone achievement for the Clinic – the dedication of our new Child and Youth Development Center. Public officials, community leaders, partners in service delivery, donors and friends joined with Clinic staff and board members for the dedication event, our first opportunity to publicly showcase the prominent facility which has been open to clients since

November 2002.

We were privileged to have the participation of longtime Clinic supporters State Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Director Marvin J. Southard making celebratory remarks. Their comments spoke to the critical mental health needs present in Central and

Departing from the traditional ribbon cutting, this ceremony symbolized tying the community together.



(l. to r.) State Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas extends his congratulations as Clinic Board Member John Liebman and Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W., Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, look on.



Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (r.), presents a commendation from the County of Los Angeles to Clinic Executive Director Elizabeth W. Pfromm.

South Los Angeles and the important resources the Child and Youth Development Center brings to our community. Further, their presence underscored the involvement of so many partners in realizing the Clinic's vision to build a facility to increase access to services for underserved children and families.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Jan Perry also attended the dedication event, and commendations were presented to the Clinic by representatives from California State Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson and United States Senator Dianne Feinstein. Another notable moment at the event was the acknowledgment of the

Clinic's Capital Campaign Cabinet members: Victoria Erteszek Foote, Keith Renken, Robert Brachman, John Liebman, Robin Moody, Stephen Royer and Virginia Wilson. Joining the Cabinet were Clinic Executive Director Elizabeth W. Pfromm, Valerie Ryan, then the Clinic's Director of Development and consultant Terry Monteleone. Their tremendous work under the leadership of Cabinet Chairperson David Hirsch inspired a broad base of community support, which helped the Clinic to raise over \$6.5 million for this vital construction and program expansion project.

At the conclusion of the program, Elizabeth

Pfromm led the audience in a "ribbon-tying" ceremony. Departing from the traditional ribbon cutting, this ceremony symbolized tying the community together. It represented both our community of friends, advocates and collaborative partners whose support made the new service facility possible and the larger community whose children and families benefit from the programs and services of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic.

Guests then had the opportunity to tour the new Child and Youth Development Center, which houses two of the Clinic's program divisions:

- 1) our Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, with programs that reach out to at-risk children ages 0-5 in order to reduce the likelihood that they will need bona fide mental health or special education services in the future; and 2)
- our Life Learning Program that serves the other end of the Clinic's service population, youth ages 15-25 who are transitioning to the adult world of higher education, employment and independent living.

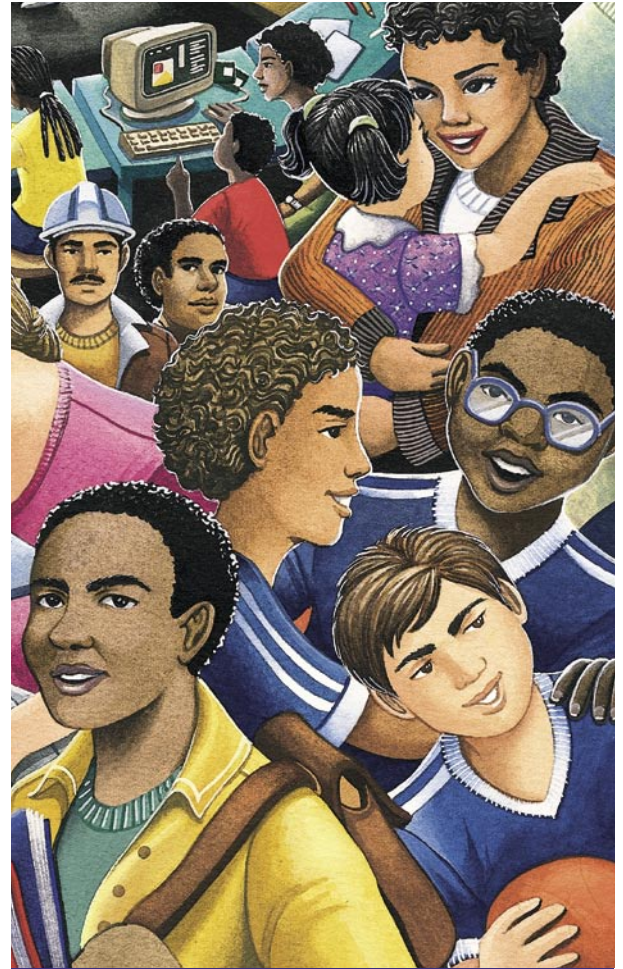
COMMUNITY PARTNERS



(l. to r.) Elena Judd, Ph.D., Clinic Director of Programs, Sandra Thomas, District Chief – SPA 6, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and Romalis Taylor, Regional Administrator – Wateridge Office – SPA 6, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.



(l. to r.) Karlyn Farris, Program Officer, Los Angeles County Children and Families First – Proposition 10 Commission, Leticia C. Lara, LCSW, Clinic Associate Director of Early Intervention and Community Wellness and Barbara Gutierrez, Administrative Coordinator Early Childhood Division, Los Angeles Unified School District.



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.

Never to be Forgotten

Legacies of Three Former Clinic Board Members

The summer and fall of 2003 brought the passing of three wonderful women, pillars of the Los Angeles community, who included the Clinic among their many philanthropic and volunteer endeavors. We lovingly remember their faithful friendship, inspirational leadership and generous support on behalf of children and families in Central and South Los Angeles.

Lucille Gross (Mrs. Herbert)

Boswell passed away in October 2003. Mrs. Boswell began her service to the Clinic in 1980 while working in community relations at Coca-Cola, and went on to be Chairperson of the Clinic's Board of Directors. She is remembered fondly for her special gift of bringing people together to achieve meaningful projects.

Harriet McElroy (Mrs. Charles)

Luckman passed away in September 2003. Mrs. Luckman, a tireless advocate and "friend-raiser" for our mission, was a board member for over four decades. She founded the Auxiliary of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, a support group that raised countless thousands for Clinic programs. The Harriet and Charles Luckman Building at 3787 South Vermont Avenue is named in honor of the Luckmans' magnanimous lead gift to what has become the Clinic's flagship facility. While extraordinarily committed to the full scope of Clinic services, Mrs. Luckman had a special fondness for the teenagers and young adults enrolled in our non-public school and vocational education programs.

Ruth R. (Mrs. Peter) Shelby

passed away in July 2003. Mrs. Shelby was elected to the Clinic's Board in 1961, and was an Honorary Board Member until her death. Mrs. Shelby was particularly committed to the preschool-aged children served by the Clinic's early intervention programs. Indeed, she was a tireless advocate for young children throughout South Los Angeles, lending many years of service to other community organizations such as USC School for Early Childhood Education and THE MUSES of the California Science Center. In 1984, Mrs. Shelby established a trust naming the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic as one of three beneficiaries. The proceeds from the trust amounted to an unexpected and truly generous gift in 2001.

Clinic Board of Directors Welcomes Two New Members

We are honored to count these community leaders, elected in July 2003, among the dedicated and talented individuals serving on our governing board.

Scott Bice is the Robert C. Packard Professor of Law at the University of Southern California Law School, where he served as Dean for 20 years. Mr. Bice's professional activities include service as President of the Association of American Law Deans, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Private Judging for the Judicial Council of California and Chair of the Law School Council of the State Bar of California. He also serves or has served on several nonprofit and corporate boards.

Wayne Moore is the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works where he oversees financial and accounting, personnel and strategic planning. Prior to his position with the City of Los Angeles, Mr. Moore worked at the Los Angeles County Mass Transit Authority for 10 years, overseeing the management of various projects as well as MTA's annual budget of \$2.8 billion. Mr. Moore has also been involved in a leadership capacity in several community organizations, including the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, NAACP and the United Methodist Church.



Brightening the Holidays

Gifts of Books and Toys for Children in Need



A special thank you to United States Senator Dianne Feinstein for her assistance in procuring a wonderful donation of 120 new books from First Book, a national nonprofit organization that gives children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. These books were used as holiday gifts for children served by the Clinic, as well as to supply the library at our Burton Green School.

Our sincere gratitude, also, to Gigi Duenas of Universal Studios who came through once again with a donation of over 60 boxes filled with a large variety of toys, clothes, shoes and Christmas ornaments. Items were distributed to Clinic children and families during the holiday season.

In 2004, as the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic celebrates 80 years of service to the community, we invite you to join us for the following Clinic-sponsored events:

- **May 1st** – Sixth Annual Family FunFest community fair
- **November (tbd)** – Statewide Early Intervention Mental Health Services Conference, with a special focus on child trauma in 0-5 year olds
- **November (tbd)** – 80th Anniversary Celebration Event

Watch for your next issue of In Touch for further details on these exciting activities commemorating 80 years of excellence in service delivery and commitment to the community.



Celebrating 80 Years of Service to the Community!

**Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
Established 1924**

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*Child and Youth Development Center
and Administrative Offices*
3031 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90007
(323) 373-2400

Exposition Park Office
*The Harriet and Charles Luckman
Building*
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Los Angeles, CA 90007
(323) 766-2345

Leimert Park Office
4401 Crenshaw Boulevard, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90043
(323) 290-8360

Access to voicemail for all three offices:
(323) 766-2360

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Elizabeth W. Pfromm, M.S., MPA

- **Affiliate of USC Keck School of Medicine, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**
- **Accredited by The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission for Job Development and Placement Services**
- **A Short-Doyle Contractor of the County of Los Angeles**
- **A Non-Public School Contractor of the Los Angeles Unified School District**

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to learn more about Clinic programs and activities.

