

OUR MISSION

“Provide quality support services, training, and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities, their families and others who will benefit.”

(Revised Mission - Approved 3/13/2007)

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Summer 2007

THE GUIDING HAND

News About Home of Guiding Hands; Advocates for People with Developmental Disabilities

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

When a Lutheran businessmen's group started talking about what they could do for their community in the late-1950s, the idea of creating a residential "home" for San Diegans with developmental disabilities was born. After years of discussion and planning by this dedicated group, the project materialized in December 1961, with the incorporation of the Lutheran Association for Retarded Children, popularly known as Home of Guiding Hands (HGH).

By 1964, the corporation had obtained 14 acres of land in the San Diego community of Lakeside, and by August 1967, four residential buildings accommodating 24 children each, an administration building, medical building and a swimming pool had been constructed. One of HGH's founders, the late-Ray Wilson, said in a 2001 interview, "We were dedicated to it and we all felt great about it. It seemed that everything that came in our paths, we overcame."

The inspiration for the "home" came from Art (now deceased) and Gail Korshus, who had a son with special needs who required training and residential assistance. When the Lutheran Businessmen's Association, of which Mr. Korshus was a member, learned of the family's need, they challenged themselves with establishing a "home away from home" for San Diego children with developmental disabilities. According to Mrs. Korshus, their son, Terry, moved in the day HGH opened. "We had explored places all over the state but we were never satisfied with them," she said. "I am so thankful to think that the Guiding Hands was built. It was an answer to our prayers and those of so many others."

HGH was an innovation in the 60s, as there were no residential and training services for children or adults with developmental disabilities (mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy) in San Diego County. According to admitting physician and longtime member of the HGH Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, Dr. H. Glenn Kellogg, when HGH opened in 1967, "People came from all over the United States" with their children. "We admitted 30 patients a day for three days," he said. At the end of those three days, HGH was near full-capacity. Kellogg's own son, Jacob, became an HGH resident in 1989.

Over the years, HGH's residential population has transitioned from a majority of children to adults. "Many factors contributed to this change. Public opinion and laws shaped school and social programs that fostered mainstreaming of special needs children and provided assistance to their families, so that children could

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HOME OF GUIDING HANDS 2007-08 Board of Directors

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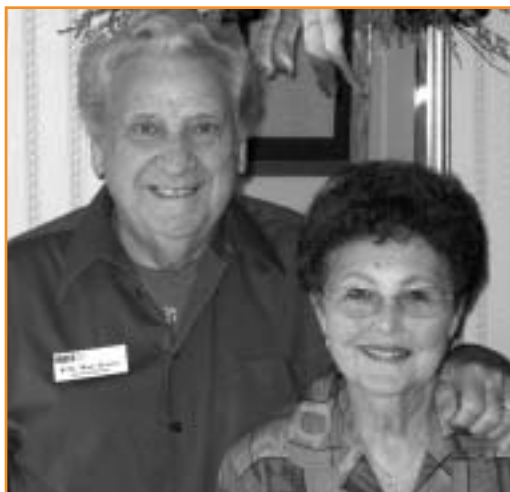
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HGH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
public benefit corporation.
Nonprofit ID: 95-6058273

PRESIDENT COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

The Marine Corps brought newly elected Home of Guiding Hands' Board President Robert W. "Bob" Sennett to San Diego from his home town of Herkimer, New York. Bob joined the military in 1951 during the height of the Korean War, a testimony to his belief in the Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment. These values not only directed his three-years of military service, but became personal edicts by which he would live his life.

Bob's commitment to his extended family – his community – has benefited Home of Guiding Hands (HGH) and the San Diego community at-large. Bob has served on HGH's Board since 2000 and for the past two years (2004-07) as Vice President. He was elected President of HGH's Board of Directors for the 2007-08 Fiscal Year this June and began serving July 1.



Bob and Barbara Sennett

Bob said he is anxious to begin achieving new milestones for the organization. "It's upward and onward," he said. "I will continue the good work that has been done." According to Executive Director Carol Fitzgibbons, Bob is a seasoned member of HGH's governance team and well-equipped to assume his presidential duties. "We are excited about our future and pleased to have Bob as the leader of our Board," she added.

Bob's commitment to his community extends far beyond his service at HGH. He is a longtime member of the Kiwanis Club of Lake Murray, a former member and President of the Optimist Club of Bonita, past Lt. Gov. of Division 31 Kiwanis Club, and past Commandant of the Marine Corps League Department of California.

Additionally, Bob and his wife of 54 years, Barbara, have provided love and care for more than 300 needy San Diego children over the past 38 years as licensed foster care providers. "We've cared for children of all ages, from newborns to pregnant teenage mothers," said Barbara.

The Sennetts were not always able to relinquish their foster children; they had a particular fondness and compassion for children with special needs. The natural parents of two daughters (Debbie and Linda) and a son (Scott), they adopted a third daughter, Kari, now 24, who has Down Syndrome, and became the legal guardians of another foster child, Kyle, who passed away from complications related to his severe disabilities in 1994.

According to Bob, having a child with Down Syndrome opened his eyes to the San Diego community of people with disabilities and their needs. "It became apparent to me that there was work out there to be done," he said. Bob has continued to serve his community courageously, with honor and commitment and says he will continue to do so as long as "there is still a need for my service."

Bob holds a business degree from National University and is a retired (1995) landscape architect. The last 16 and a-half years of his professional career were spent working as the "City Landscape Architect" for the city of Chula Vista.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM BRINGS ANNUAL JOY

HGH's residents and Community Living Program participants celebrate the winter holidays each year in style thanks to the generosity of community donors, sponsors, family and neighbors. Last year (2006) HGH celebrated a joyous holiday season with house parties held throughout the month of December that came complete with gifts, food, games and visits from Santa Claus.

"We were really fortunate last year to receive cash donations totaling more than 4,200 dollars to help our residents celebrate the holidays," said HGH Events Coordinator Marcy Blumberg. "It is such a special time of year for everyone and these donations and sponsorships ensure that it is special for our residents, as well."

The Hair It Is salon of Santee has been sponsoring a holiday party at HGH's Germon House for nine years. Hair stylists Debbie Whittaker and Kelly Patterson have made it holiday ritual for the salon and their clients, who contribute gifts and cash for the occasion. The Germon House party usually features dinner, singing, dancing, Santa and cookie decorating – all hosted by Hair It Is. "We



Employees of Commonwealth Title Company of Mission Valley and family enjoy the 2006 Ray House party. Pictured are (left to right): Steve and Bailey Stokes; Joleen Langston; and Chanelle and Jeff McGregor.



Kim Youhouse (left) of the San Diego County Credit Union (SDCCU) – Santee Branch helps Danny Morales frost a cookie at the 2006 Pine House Holiday Party. Also pictured is SDCCU volunteer Solyda Heng.

can't leave without decorating cookies. It's kind of a tradition," Whittaker said. "We bring the cookies and

all the decorations and that's dessert." Whittaker and Patterson have also involved their husbands, children, and now grandchildren (for Whittaker). "It's a great thing for kids to learn that Christmas isn't all about me," Whittaker said. "It brings us back to what Christmas is all about, giving and sharing."

Major sponsors for the 2006 *Holiday Program* included: Knights of Columbus Chapter No. 11127; Confident Care Staffing; Volunteers of America; United Commercial Travelers; Dick and Jill Marrs; Lucy Caballero and the Santee Post Office; Brett and Christine Berg; Chris Nesthus and Family; Roger and Margaret Hueppchen and Family; Delsen and Blumberg Families; Lakeside Post Office; Hair It Is; HGH Nursing Department; Bob and Dottie Carne and Family; Women's Insolvency Network; Marc and Mary Darr and Family; East County Professionals Association; San Diego Alumnae Association of Alpha Delta Pi; Debbye Parcel and Family; Thomas and Mary Lou Dunning and Family; San Diego County Credit Union – Santee Branch; Steve Manley and Associates; Commonwealth Title Company; Telecom Pioneers De Anza Chapter No. 68; Bill and Norma Verbeck; Bill and Judi Shaplin; and Dr. H. Glenn and Ellie Kellogg.

HGH's *Holiday Program* welcomes donations of all kinds. "You can sponsor a whole house, or just contribute gifts, money or food to a holiday party. Even donating your time to help shop and wrap gifts is appreciated," said Blumberg. **Please contact Blumberg at (619) 938-2854; or via email: Marcy@guidinghands.org**, for information about HGH home/resident holiday needs and wishes, and to coordinate your desired contribution to the 2007 *Holiday Program*.

HOME OF GUIDING HANDS 2007-08 Board of Governors

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SPECIAL EVENTS BOOST REVENUE

Longtime friends and newcomers generously supported several recent fundraising events, boosting operational dollars for Home of Guiding Hands' (HGH) valuable services.

On February 10th, guests at the 33rd Annual Heart & Hand Ball, "Yesterday's Memories - Tomorrow's Dreams," generated net revenue of \$95,000. The event was held at the Town and Country Resort and kicked-off a year-long celebration of HGH's 40-year history in San Diego (1967 to 2007). The Visionary Sponsor was longtime supporter Grossmont Healthcare District. Other major sponsors included the San Diego Scottish Rite Community Foundation; Union Bank of California; Barona Band of Mission Indians; and Phil Thalheimer and Jennifer Isaac.



Heart & Hand Ball Honorees Dottie and Bob Carne and family celebrate at the 2007 Ball.



Members of The Country Friends and Mistress of Ceremonies Kimberly Hunt, KUSI News, at the 47th Annual Day at the Races. Pictured (left to right) are: Judy Burer, Hunt and Jane Butcher.

HGH was fortunate to partner with The Country Friends on July 19th at their 47th Annual Day at the Races event held at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. Net proceeds from the event are yet to be determined; however, they have been dedicated to benefit HGH's Life Planning Assistance program. "We are so grateful to this wonderful group of people for their support through the years," said HGH Executive Director Carol Fitzgibbons.

More than 150 people attended the 2nd Annual Arts & Tea Celebration on May 19, at the Ronald Reagan Community Center in El Cajon. The event, which featured gourmet coffees and teas, specialty desserts, a fashion show by Act II, and a host of vendors selling one-of-a-kind works of art, produced a \$10,000 net profit. Top sponsors included Grossmont Healthcare District, The Verbeck Foundation, Barona Band of Mission Indians and Town & Country Printers, Inc.

40th Anniversary Luncheon

On November 7th, HGH will celebrate its past, present and future with a **40th Anniversary Luncheon**, which will be held from 12 Noon to 1:30 p.m., at the Hilton San Diego Resort at Mission Bay. Our Celebration Sponsor is Grossmont Healthcare District. Due to generous underwriting of this event, **tickets are only \$20 per person**. Join us as we commemorate *40 years in your community* (1967-2007) with an elegant luncheon and program.

EMPLOYEE EARNS ACCOLADES

HGH prides itself upon the high caliber of its employees from the top down, and their willingness to go above and beyond on-the-job and in the community at-large. Residential Supervisor Mary Darr was recently recognized for her outstanding service and is a prime example of HGH's valuable human resources.

“*I love the people I work with.
I love the people I support.*”

This past March, Darr was named ANCOR's (American Network of Community Options and Resources) California Direct Support Professional for 2007 at ANCOR's Annual Management Practices Conference held at the Westin Horton Plaza in San Diego. ANCOR is a nonprofit trade association representing private providers that assist people with disabilities.

Darr began her career at HGH 14 years ago (1993) as a Residential Service Technician. She was promoted in June of 1999 to Residential Supervisor, and began managing one of HGH's 27 homes.

HGH Qualified Mental Retardation Professional Teresa Bertram said Darr is definitely deserving of the honor and cited her supervisory skills, giving and caring spirit as characteristics that earned her this award. “In all of her contributions as a supervisor and as part of the Interdisciplinary Team, Mary's focus is to improve the lives of those she supports,” said Bertram.



Mary Darr (right) helps Stephanie Leeman make fruit salad.

Darr said witnessing the accomplishments of HGH's residents inspires her. “It makes me happy to come to work. I love the people I work with. I love the people I support,” she said. “I have always liked helping people and HGH has given me the opportunity to not only help people, but to make a difference in people's lives.”



HGH Executive Director Carol Fitzgibbons is honored with the 2007 United Way of San Diego County Ben Polak Award for Excellence on June 27th. Pictured are (left to right): United Way President/CEO Douglas Sawyer, Fitzgibbons, and 2006-07 United Way Board Chair David Stecher. The Ben Polak Award is given annually to a chief administrative officer of a certified United Way agency who has made an exemplary contribution and/or provided exceptional creative leadership in the human care field in San Diego County.

HOUSE HOPES

**New Items Needed
for HGH's 27 Homes:**

Gas Barbecues (4 homes)
 Coffee Maker (12 cup size)
 Computer Games
 Cooking & Baking Pans (4 homes)
 Couches/Love Seats (leather or vinyl)
 Craft Sets and Art Supplies
 Dining Tables/Chairs for 8
 (3 homes)
 Dishes - Sets of 8 (2 homes)
 Dog Food/Petco Gift Certificates
 (7 homes)
 DVD Players (7 homes)
 DVD's
 (Disney, animals, musicals, adventure)
 Electric Can Opener
 Electric Treadmill
 Flatware - Service for 12 (3 homes)
 Gift Cards (restaurants, movies,
 Wal-Mart, Zoo, Sea World)
 Games
 (Deluxe Scrabble, other board games)
 Lamps
 Kitchen Towels (2 homes)
 Microwave
 Outdoor Games
 (tether ball, badminton, croquet)
 Pancake Griddle
 Patio Furniture with Umbrella
 (11 homes)
 Patio Swing/Glider (3 homes)
 Pots and Pans (7 homes)
 Recliner
 Rugs (large area)
 Silverware for 12 (3 homes)
 Toaster Oven
 Towels/Wash Cloths
 TV's - 32-inch (12 homes)
 Wall Art (pictures, picture frames)

Please call first before delivering items.
 For more information, contact Jane
 Moore at (619) 938-2856; or
 email Jane@guidinghands.org.

A SALUTE TO OUR GRANT MAKERS

HGH is grateful to the following grant makers who partnered with us from June 28, 2006 to August 15, 2007, for the benefit of San Diegans with developmental disabilities and their families.

Citigroup Foundation - Citibank Financial Center Impact Grant
 Community Service Association (CSA) of San Diego City Schools
 David M. and Alice K. Miller Family Fund

Give Something Back

Hervey Family Fund & Weingart-Price Fund

Rotary Club of La Mesa

Samuel H. French & Katherine

Weaver French Foundation

Samuel I. & John Henry Foundation

The Country Friends - 2007 Day
 at the Races

The Heller Foundation

The Marx Foundation

San Diego County Bar Foundation

The Parker Foundation

United Way of San Diego County

 *The San Diego Foundation*



Karina Reid uses a new computer touch screen funded by the Citigroup Foundation.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

remain at home," said Executive Director Carol Fitzgibbons. Presently, all of HGH's residents are adults and range in age from 18 to 76. HGH continues to assist children through its In-Home Respite program.

In 2004, HGH completed an Institutional Downsizing Project that concluded with the sale of the 14-acre Lakeside campus. Since the late-90s, HGH had been assisting its residents to move from the campus to single-family homes accommodating up to six people. Today, HGH supports nearly 400 children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families through 27 neighborhood homes, In-Home Respite, Community Living, and Life Planning Assistance programs.

"The whole philosophy is to give everybody the opportunity to develop their full potential. Everyone (at HGH) is dedicated to that principle," said Dr. Kellogg.

Please join us on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, for a luncheon celebrating HGH's 40 Years in Your Community at the Hilton San Diego Resort at Mission Bay. Contact Jane Moore at (619) 938-2856; or Jane@guidinghands.org for reservations.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS KEY TO SUCCESS

Community and employee-based organizations have been active partners with Home of Guiding Hands (HGH) throughout its 40-year history, contributing time, labor, materials and items to assist the organization in its mission.



Rotarians use heavy equipment to remove Yucca from the front yard at Anja House.

“Community support is really key to our success,” said Executive Director Carol Fitzgibbons. “We are proud to be a good neighbor, friend and partner to our community and are grateful to the many allies who have empowered HGH to provide the highest quality services from 1967 to present. They are an integral part of who we are as an organization and what we have been able to achieve for San Diegans with disabilities.”

Community generosity and partnership comes in a variety of shapes and sizes. Following are some examples of recent projects that have benefited HGH:

- Members of the **El Cajon Rotary Club** convened at two homes on April 28th to perform beautification and maintenance projects. The group contributed \$1,000 to landscape the yards at Anja Home. This included fertilizing the front lawn, eliminating a patch of stubborn Yucca plants, adding planters and a tree to the backyard. They also did interior painting at Windmill View Home.

- Volunteers from the **Home Depot, El Cajon - Team Depot One Day Projects** visited LRW Home on July 12th to perform a variety of minor repairs. The team repaired a wheelchair ramp and patio covering; added more storage space to a cupboard located in the garage; and did some interior painting to the garage, as well. Partnering with Team Depot to make the day a success were **Subway** restaurant of Lakeside, **Coco's Family Restaurant** of El Cajon, and **Taco Bell** of Lakeside. Home Depot provided \$250 worth of supplies for the repairs, and **Behr Paint**, represented by Danny Shipman, contributed the paint for the project.



Members of the Home Depot of El Cajon - Team Depot volunteer group.

- **United Commercial Travelers of America (UCT)** helped HGH residents celebrate the summer season with a contribution of five gas grills. According to Teresa Bertram, Qualified Mental Retardation Professional, “The donation gave everyone a chance to get out of the ‘dinner routine’ and have a special outing, even though they were only going 20 steps into the backyard.”
- **Bed, Bath & Beyond of Chula Vista** via *Gifts in Kind International's Retail Donation Partner Program* provides new linens and other household items on a monthly basis for HGH's 27 homes. “It's not just basic towels and sheets that they donate,” said HGH Development and Marketing Coordinator Jane Moore. “It's all the little things that make a house a home, like decorative wall art, patio furniture, cake decorating kits, cupcake holders, and more.” She added, “The staff at Bed, Bath & Beyond are so friendly and helpful. We appreciate them so much.”

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News About Home of Guiding Hands;
Advocates for People with
Developmental Disabilities

Editors: Sara Withrow, Carol Fitzgibbons
Send questions/comments to:
Sara@guidinghands.org

SAVE THE DATE

"40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR"

- ◆ **October 18, 2007** — *25th Annual Golf Classic - Pro-Am Tournament* at Sycuan Resort & Casino's championship Willow Glen course. Southern California PGA professionals will join each foursome. **Presenting Sponsor: Grossmont Healthcare District.** Registration begins at 10 a.m.; shotgun start is at 12 Noon. Foursomes are \$1,200; sponsorships and teams are still available.
- ◆ **November 7, 2007** — *The 40th Anniversary Luncheon* will celebrate HGH's past, present and future in the San Diego community. This landmark event will be held from 12 Noon to 1:30 p.m., at the Hilton San Diego Resort at Mission Bay. **Celebration Sponsor: Grossmont Healthcare District.** Due to the generous underwriting of this event, tickets are only \$20 per person. Contact Jane Moore for reservations and sponsorship information at (619) 938-2856; or Jane@guidinghands.org.

- ◆ **February 9, 2008** — *34th Annual Heart & Hand Ball - "An Evening in Paris"* - will be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. Sponsorships are available. **Tickets are \$200 per person, or \$1,900 for a table of 10.**

HGH residents and staff partner with the San Diego community for the benefit of people with autism. On March 24th, a group participated in the San Diego Race for Autism.



To purchase tickets or to volunteer at our events, call (619) 938-2854; or email: Marcy@guidinghands.org