



President's Message

Dear Friends,

As we near the end of another year, I want to express my sincere thanks to our many supporters and volunteers. You have made a difference in the lives of the children, adolescents, adults, and families that count on HGH daily. We are now serving over 4,200 people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and we could not accomplish this without your continued help.

For Halloween, our clients were able to once again walk through our Verbeck Resource Center in costume and trick-or-treat at the offices around the building. It is always a pleasure to see our clients getting dressed up, often in house-themed costumes, and enjoying their time together outside of their homes. It's also a joy for those of us who can't make it out to the houses as much as we would like. The joy with which our clients walked through the building with their trick-or-treat bags full of candy, was endearing and memorable for all who participated.

On November 10th, the Executive Team and I had the

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Spooky Halloween!



Windmill house loves Halloween!



Tiffany Long, Windmill House Manager, became one of Freddy Krueger's victims!

Halloween is a big holiday for our residents at HGH with the usual fan fair of fun costumes, games, and decorations.

The gentlemen at Windmill home absolutely love Halloween. They go all out every year with their costumes and decor.

This year was no different as the guys dressed up as a scary nun, Freddy Krueger, a scarecrow and Jason Voorhees.

Staff members Tiffany Long and Maria Delgado also joined in on the fun acting as their victims.



The gentlemen of Windmill house ready to hand out candy to neighborhood trick-or-treaters.

It was a great time celebrating all things Halloween, candy and spooky!

Life Planning



Wendy Smith, Life Planning program manager and her son, Jacob.

HGH has restarted the Life Planning program! Life Planning is a workshop series to help people develop a life plan for a family member with a disability. We educate families about available resources to ensure quality of life throughout an individual's lifetime.

Why create a plan?

Families gain reassurance and peace of mind from knowing they have plans to ensure the best life possible for their loved ones. We help identify future needs and consider what should be in place when families can no longer provide care.

Workshop participants report feeling a sense of relief after learning about the options and creating a plan.

The workshops help to identify skills and abilities, support systems and relationships, work and leisure, housing options, and financial matters, including conservatorships, supported decision-making, and Special Needs Trusts.

Workshops are held virtually over Zoom. To register, visit www.lifeplanninghelp.org.

If you would like more information please contact, Wendy Smith, at (619) 938-3160 or wendy@guidinghands.org.

Licensing at Laughery

For the SEVENTH straight year, Laughery home passed the CCL license survey with zero deficiencies. We could not be prouder of the amazing team at Laughery who continually deliver premier quality service for the clients who live there. Congratulations, Laughery staff!



The Laughery staff from left to right: Franchesca Moore, Blake Miller, Jackie Fisher, Shonda Simmons, Eddrian Jones, Juan Herrera, Alan Kana, Marla Williams, Diana Moore, and Tiyaiah Burton. April Warren was absent from this photo.

President's Message *continued*

privilege of recognizing a handful of our dedicated staff... those that are members of the HGH 25-Year Club. To be eligible for membership, an employee must have a minimum of 25 years of service to our organization and our clients. Celebrating these individuals and hearing about their stories was truly a highlight for me.

One of the members of the 25-Year Club, of CFO Jan Adams, will be retiring at the end of this calendar year. Her 26 years of service to the organization has allowed HGH to grow into the successful and highly recognized organization that it is today. We would not be where we are today without her, and she will be dearly missed by myself and the rest of our staff.

I am inspired daily by our employees' dedication, creativity, and collaborative spirit. Ours is a rewarding yet, oftentimes, challenging business. Our staff go through each day providing the best level of care that our clients need in order to live a full and happy life.

Yours In Service,
Edward Hershey

Staff Enhancing Our Residents' Lives

In November, two staff members from our Jack Close home, Brittany Allen and Cendi Rodriguez, planned an excellent outing for two of our residents. They took them to participate in the Bubble Run. The two gentlemen had an absolute

blast! The staff members started planning this outing in July, which goes to show how they go out of their way to look for new and exciting opportunities for our residents to enjoy life by participating in fun activities.



Peter and Laki loved the feel of the bubbles!



Staff members Brittany Allen and Cendi Rodriguez help to roll out some of those bubbles.



Everyone was all smiles after the event.



The group getting ready for the Bubble Run!



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Save the Date!

Saturday, February 11th
North Park
www.northparkpubcrawl.org

Milestone Staff Anniversaries (Sept-Nov)

Thank you for your years of dedication!

5 YEARS

Danitza Aguirre
Brttany Allen
Paula Barnard
Rosa Benavides
Wendy Brinkman
Valerie Bush
Martina Espinoza
Carmeliz Fritz
Ally Garcia
Kristell Gonzalez
Kadeem Jones
Colleen McNish
Sandra Monreal
Merry Nguyen
Fernanda Reynoso
Sylvia Ruiz
Bobby Tellez
Candace Temple
Ryan-Christophe Thun

10 YEARS

Jennifer Camposeo
Gudrun Cox
Jesus Delgado
Janice Gonzalez
Mireya Gonzalez
Andrea Hernandez
Sharon Hobbs

15 YEARS

Moji Afcari
Channel Walker

41 YEARS

Ray Arcon

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Please Donate

When you give to HGH, 85.9 cents of every dollar you goes directly back to our programs and services.

HGH programs and services support more than 4,200 individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities each year. Be our partner in honoring, advocating for, and empowering these amazing individuals.

Make a donation at www.guidinghands.org

Our Mission:

To improve the lives of those we serve.

Our Vision:

To be recognized as the premier provider of a dynamic spectrum of individualized services supporting persons with special needs.