



President's Message

Dear Valued Stakeholders,

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed to the tremendous success of our recent Gala event. It was truly a night to remember, filled with joy, celebration, and a strong sense of community. The generosity and enthusiasm displayed by our stakeholders, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees were truly inspiring. Thanks to your unwavering commitment, we were able to raise significant funds that will directly benefit the individuals we serve at Home of Guiding Hands (HGH).

I am delighted to address you as we celebrate DSP Recognition Week HGH. This annual occasion holds profound significance for us as it allows us to spotlight the incredible individuals team of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who are, without a doubt, the lifeblood of our organization.

Our DSPs are the heart and soul of HGH, bridging the gap between our vision and its realization. They serve as the cornerstone of our organization, providing essential care and creating nurturing environments that foster personal

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Lemonade Out Of Lemons



Laughery Administrator, Alan, and Joshua.

One can always make lemonade out of lemons, right? That is certainly true when it came to Laughery, one of HGH's youth homes.

Laughery home, consisting of four boys between the ages of 15 and 21, David, Ashton, Joshua and Aaron, decided they wanted to pursue a goal this year; they wanted to go to Universal Studios! They came up with the idea to set up a lemonade

stand where they made fresh squeezed lemonade and had sweet treats to sell to the community.

On Friday, August 25th at 12pm they began setting up their stand at the Verbeck Resource Center, filled with lots of tables, a tent and even a chalk menu that had the items they were selling. Staff, including the home's administrator, Alan, and others, Shonda, Eddrian, Sarah, Tiyaiah, Diana and Jacquelyn, helped arrange the ingredients and set up the stand properly.



Board Member, Lara Hoefer-Moir (left) and friends stopped by for some tasty treats!



The amazing Laughery staff were there to assist the boys and helped make the day a HUGE success!

Guests, like Donnette, Sara and Lara, started piling in and ordering a plethora of items off the menu. Even guests from surrounding businesses, such as Jonathan and Jose from Suncoast Pest Management, stopped by to try an ice-cold lemonade. The most sold items were the strawberry lemonade, chocolate chip cookie and cinnamon cookie. The boys did a great job taking orders and putting the items together quickly to give to customers. They greeted the customers with smiles and provided excellent customer service.

In the end, the boys at Laughery raised \$971 to put towards their trip to Universal Studios! Congrats Laughery! You make HGH proud!

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independence. Beyond their job descriptions, DSPs often go above and beyond, innovating person-centered solutions that elevate the quality of life for those they serve. Their collaborative spirit and compassionate approach underscore their commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities.

Every day, DSPs demonstrate resilience, empathy, and unwavering support, profoundly impacting the lives of those under our care. They exemplify the core values that drive HGH, and we sincerely appreciate their exceptional contributions. Our DSPs are necessary to fulfill our mission, and we commend their extraordinary dedication.

Consequently, I want to convey our profound gratitude. These dedicated professionals inspire us with their boundless compassion, unwavering dedication, and relentless pursuit of excellence.

I invite you to join us in celebrating the remarkable DSPs of HGH during this week and in the following days and weeks. Their noteworthy work deserves ongoing recognition, and we are immensely proud to have them as integral members of our HGH family.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve, hand in hand with our outstanding DSPs.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Edward Hershey

2023 Annual Meeting



Sam McGovern

At Home of Guiding Hands, we work side by side with a dedicated group of Board Members, community partners, and volunteers who have devoted countless hours in support of our organization. In recognition of their outstanding contributions, these individuals were honored at the 2023 HGH Annual Meeting in August.

Sam McGovern, current Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, was awarded Board Member of the Year. Jan Adams, former HGH CFO, was given the Humanitarian of the Year award. Jill Thomas received the Volunteer of the Year award, and the Community Partner of the Year award went to Cindy and Frank Hilliker, owners and operators of Hilliker's Ranch Fresh Eggs.

Last year, we added two new awards to the lineup: the ICARE Superstar and the Milestone Award. Melani Bradford, Office Manager and Executive Assistant, and Kassie Carranza, Independent Living Program participant, won the ICARE Superstar and Milestone Award, respectively.



Jan Adams

Finally, our Client of the Year recipient was Nina Gosek, a participant in our Independent Living Program. A small committee, comprised of donors and community members, had the honor of reviewing the heartfelt nominations. Every submission highlighted goals achieved, positive attitudes, and daily tasks

A Bootlegger's Ball

On June 10th, we hosted our 49th Annual Gala at the US Grant Hotel. The hotel's timeless, art deco theme perfectly fit this year's theme, "A Bootlegger's Ball." The theme added a touch of glamour and nostalgia to the night, and guests arrived dressed to the nines in 1920s outfits, feathers, and pearls.

The excitement and engaging personalities of our emcees, John and Tammy from KSON, and our auctioneer, Sean Kelly, contributed to our attendees' memorable and enjoyable atmosphere.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised a record-breaking \$250,000 for our clients and programs at the event, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. Those funds will make a significant impact on the initiatives and services we provide.

2023 Annual Meeting *continued*

accomplished. Sharon wrote, “Nina’s ability to be the back bone and rock for her family is inspiring. They have had some challenges over the last few years, but she has become the person her family goes to for guidance, strength, or simple words of wisdom. Nina is an amazing individual with such a bright future. Anyone who is lucky enough to be in her presence will quickly see what an inspirational and caring young woman she is.” At HGH, we believe that all clients are special and deserving of recognition. The Client of the Year award is simply another opportunity for others outside of the agency to see why.



Jill Thomas



Cindy and Frank Hilliker



Melani Bradford



Kassie Carranza and her fiancé, Nick.



Nina Gosek

A Bootlegger's Ball *continued*



The champagne and chocolate cigar girls were a huge hit with attendees.

Thank you to the members of our Gala Committee, staff, volunteers, donors, and attendees for helping make this year's Gala our most successful yet!

Join us next year on April 27, 2024 for our 50th Annual Gala at the Pendry Hotel!



The Mighty Untouchables had guests dancing the night away!



Gala committee chair, Ralleen Ratzlaff, and Gala honoree, Yvonne Bloom.



KSON's own morning show celebs, Tammy and John, doing their thing as the night's emcees.



Our incredible Gala Committee members!



Michael and Taylor Logsdon



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Twitter Handle: @GuidingHands_
Instagram handle: homeofguidinghands

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Prefer to get the newsletter via email? Sign up for and/or view our digital newsletter through our website, guidinghands.org.



Friday, October 27, 2023
**Sponsorships and
player spots still
available!**
**Visit hghgolfclassic.org
for more information.**
**We hope to see you
there!**

Board of Directors (as of Aug 2023)

Officers:

Cindi Harris
Chair

Sam McGovern
Vice Chair

Paul Botte
Secretary/Second V.P.

Michael Harris
Treasurer

Trevor Yates
Immediate Past President

Members:

Rachelle Domingo-Rogers

Lara Hoefer-Moir

Debby McNeil

Ben Trovaten

Milestone Staff Anniversaries (Jun-Aug)

Thank you for your years of dedication!

5 YEARS

Susan Marie Aimalefoa
Melissa Garcia
Naomi Hernandez
Jessica Perez
Laurie Purcell
Lorena Rendon
Imelda Sierra
Dalila Singh Stevenson
Rosario Gamboa Torres
Lauren Ashley Washington

Ligia Carle
Charisse Mendoza
Geovanna Soto

20 YEARS

Mesobework Adler

35 YEARS

Maria Rhoan

10 YEARS

Alberto Ayon
Ruby Fontanez
Michelle Loibl
Alejandra Rodarte

15 YEARS

Barbara Benawa



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.