



President's Message

Dear Valued Stakeholders,

I am delighted to share exciting news about a recent development at our organization that reflects our commitment to enhancing the lives of those we serve. Because of your donations, we are pleased to announce the formation of the Client Social Club. This club is a dedicated initiative aimed at providing our clients with opportunities to lead experiences, creating more joy and fun in life, such as this year's successful Monster Mash celebration.

At Home of Guiding Hands, we believe that every individual deserves to live an enriched life, filled with meaningful experiences and moments of happiness. The Client Social Club is a testament to our dedication to this belief. By engaging our clients and giving them a voice to help plan events, we aim to create an environment where they can explore, connect, and thrive.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the exceptional staff members who have dedicated their time and energy to make the Client Social Club a reality. Your commitment to enriching the lives of our clients

continued

Direct Support Professionals Week



We were more than happy to surprise our DSP's in the homes with some delicious pizza and treats as a small token of our gratitude!

This year, we joyously marked DSP Recognition Week, a dedicated time to express our profound gratitude for our invaluable Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). These compassionate individuals play a crucial role in directly supporting those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Originating in 2008 through the United States Congress, DSP Recognition Week aims to spotlight the indispensable contributions DSPs make to the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Within our organization, these dedicated professionals extend their services across various departments, encompassing residential, respite, transportation, and more. Their unwavering commitment is fundamental to our organization's enduring success, and we were thrilled to take a moment to honor their exceptional efforts.

Throughout DSP Recognition Week, we crafted special daily acknowledgments to highlight the outstanding work of these professionals. Gestures of appreciation included delivering pizza, hot chocolate, donuts and candy to each residential home and transportation team, arranging for a snow cone truck to recognize our respite workers in Imperial Valley, embellishing residential homes with signs of gratitude, sending personalized appreciation notes from families and clients, appreciation water bottles, and more.

The celebrations underscored our genuine appreciation for the significant impact DSPs have on the lives of our clients. Moving forward, we remain committed to recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contributions of these dedicated individuals.

is truly commendable, and I am grateful for your tireless efforts in fostering a sense of joy and fulfillment within our community.

To our clients, we are excited about the journey ahead. The activities planned by the club are designed with your well-being and enjoyment in mind. We look forward to creating memorable experiences that bring smiles to your faces and a sense of fulfillment to your hearts.

On another note, I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in Giving Tuesday and embraced the spirit of giving around the holidays. Your generosity has a profound impact on our ability to provide essential services and support to those in need. Your contributions go beyond financial assistance; they are a symbol of the compassion and empathy that make our community strong.

As we approach the end of 2023, let us continue to embody the spirit of giving, kindness, and joy. Together, we can make a positive difference in the lives of our clients and foster a sense of community that truly embodies the Home of Guiding Hands spirit.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our mission. I am honored to lead an organization with such a dedicated and compassionate community.

Wishing you and your loved ones a bright and prosperous New Year.

Warm Regards,
Edward Hershey

Fall Fling

The Fall Fling this year was hosted at Santee Lakes on September 24th. This gathering provided a fantastic opportunity for participants from various programs—such as residential, AFHA families, and Independent Living Skills—to unite and relish outdoor activities together. We had a variety of activities for the clients to participate in including face painting, carnival games, a professional juggler and more! The event was catered by Picnic People, where they served hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, potato salad, fruit and baked beans. The event included our clients' favorite music where they danced and let loose together with each other and staff.

2023 Golf Classic

We're thrilled to share the joyous highlights from our recent 41st Annual HGH Charity Golf Tournament—held on October 27, 2023, it was a day filled with camaraderie, support, and endless smiles on the course. Under the warm San Diego sun, our generous supporters came together for a beautiful and fun-filled day, showcasing their commitment to the IDD community. The green expanse transformed into a space of compassion, where the spirit of giving was as palpable as the gentle breeze.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible sponsors whose unwavering support made this event possible. It's partners like them that make our mission a reality. A special shoutout to our Presenting Sponsor, The Kerr Family Foundation, whose generosity set the tone for an extraordinary day on the course.

Thank you to our event sponsors:

Aguirre & Associates - Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. - Beck Ellman Heald Media - Ben & Sheila Trovaten - Chris Hinman - Corient - Dale & Julie Yahnke - EC Constructor's Inc. - Edward & Jessica Hershey - Grossmont Escrow - HUB International - Imperial Valley Respite - J.S. Tucker Insurance Services - Jim & Jean O'Grady - Melani Bradford - PharMerica - Jesse & Rachel Wood - Rick & Mary Doremus - Robert Bird - RSVP Events - San Diego Automotive Museum - The Law Office of Isaac Blumberg - The Niki Group - Torrey Pines Bank - Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati



A golfer at the Golf Classic tees off on a gorgeous San Diego day.



Staff and players of the Seals Lacrosse team had a great time playing to support our clients.

Giving Tuesday

This year's Giving Tuesday proved to be a resounding success! Giving Tuesday was on November 28th this year.; embraced globally as a "generosity movement", it helps raise money and awareness for non-profits. Home of Guiding Hands supporters banded together to raise funds for our residential homes in this year's #GivingTuesday campaign. We are grateful to have had a match donation of \$10,000 from The Fletsch Family in memory of Andrew Fletsch III. Our campaign received widespread promotion, earning Home of Guiding Hands a feature in the San Diego Union-Tribune. The article caught the attention of a donor who, inspired by our cause, contributed a remarkable \$25,000. By the end of the campaign, we raised more than \$46,000!



Monster Mash!

The Halloween Monster Mash was the event of the fall season! Clients from all over the organization, as well as staff, gathered at the Verbeck Resource Center for a spooky and fun time! Our clients came in costumes ready to dance to the beats of DJ Artistic. There was a haunted hallway where attendees could walk down and be scared by monster inside. Employees in the Verbeck Center set up a trick-or-treat trail where clients could get candy for different individuals' offices. There was even a costume contest and delicious Italian food provided by Bekker's catering, which included ravioli, salad and rolls.



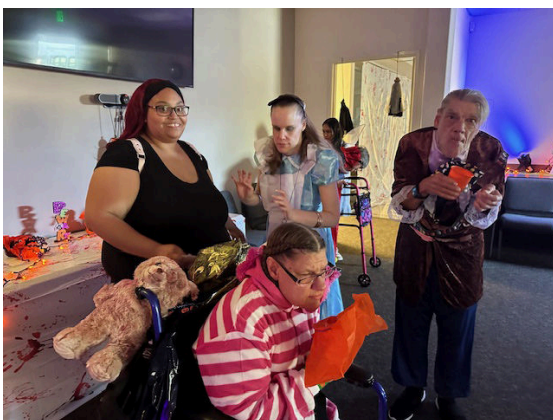
Members of the Development staff, dressed as Winne the Pooh characters, hand out candy to clients as they pass their office.



From left to right, Jill Thomas, Jessica and Edward Hershey.



From left to right, Laurie, Esli, Wendy, Jill and Tamara, themed as different Barbies.



Danielle and clients from Bisby Lake home enjoying the Halloween festivities and treats.



Rachel and Jill dancing the day away!



The clients from Bisby Lake home came themed as characters from Alice in Wonderland.



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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.

Supporting Those Who Serve!

Join us in spreading holiday cheer! Support Home of Guiding Hands' direct service personnel by contributing to our gift card campaign. Your donation, big or small, makes a difference. Scan the QR code or visit <https://give.guidinghands.org/EGC23> to donate. Let's show our gratitude to those making a selfless impact. Every bit counts in making this season special for those who serve. Thank you for being part of this meaningful cause!



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Milestone Staff Anniversaries (Sept-Nov)

Thank you for your years of dedication!

5 YEARS

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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 4,500 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.