



President's Message

Dear Home of Guiding Hands Family,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I share some incredible news with you all. Home of Guiding Hands has been honored with the prestigious title of Best Non-profit Winner at the East County Honors! This recognition is a testament to the tireless dedication and unwavering commitment of our team, volunteers, and supporters like you. It is a validation of the impact we are making in our community, one life at a time.

This achievement fills our hearts with joy and reinforces our mission to empower individuals with developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. Each accolade reflects the trust and support you have bestowed upon us, and for that, we are immensely grateful. Together, we are creating a more inclusive and compassionate society where every individual is valued and cherished.

Amidst this celebration, I must also address an important matter that directly impacts our community. The Governor's budget proposal has significant implications for individuals with disabilities, and we

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Laugh, Love and Brunch Ball



Our clients had a BLAST at our Laugh, Love and Brunch Ball.

Our Laugh, Love and Brunch Ball at the Verbeck Resource Center was a hit! Put on by our Client Social Club, the event consisted of DJ Artistic playing jams for everyone to dance to, a brunch catered by Bekker's Catering, carnival games and more.

There was even a "Love Yourself Lane", where each person got to pick a positive self-affirmation to say to themselves in the mirror. We went above and beyond and surprised clients with two stretch limos to take them around the neighborhood, or even back to their house!

There were also awards presented, including "Best Dressed Man", "Best Dressed Woman" and "Best Dressed Couple"! Many residential homes were in attendance, as well as staff from all departments. Thanks again to the Client Social Club for putting on such a great event!

must advocate for their rights and well-being. While there are promising initiatives aimed at enhancing services and support, there are also concerning cuts that threaten the progress we have made.

Now, more than ever, we need your support. Your generosity and advocacy can make a profound difference in the lives of those we serve. Imagine the impact of your contribution—providing essential resources, fostering independence, and nurturing hope for a brighter future. Together, we can ensure that no individual is left behind and that every person has the opportunity to thrive and realize their full potential.

As we embark on this journey together, let us hold onto the vision of a community where empathy triumphs over indifference, where inclusion reigns supreme, and where every individual is celebrated for their unique gifts and talents. Your support is not just a donation; it is a lifeline for those who need it most.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication to our cause. Together, we are a beacon of hope, lighting the way towards a brighter tomorrow.

With heartfelt thanks,
Edward Hershey

Governor's Budget and How It Affects Our Community



It was announced in December 2023 that the Governor decided to delay the implementation of the Service Provider Rate Reform until July 1, 2025, as opposed to the original plan of implementing in July 2024. This delay has far-reaching consequences, with potential adverse effects on organizations like Home of Guiding Hands, which support individuals with IDD.

The impact is particularly troubling, considering the challenges in retaining, attracting, and compensating competitive wages for quality staff, a struggle not unique to this sector but resonating across various industries. The delay not only impacts the financial health of service providers, but also jeopardizes the well-being of those dependent on these essential services. It is crucial for policymakers and stakeholders to recognize the urgency of addressing these challenges and work towards ensuring the timely implementation of reforms to safeguard the interests of the IDD population and the organizations dedicated to their care.

Many organizations are defending the right to funding, including the Lanterman Coalition, a community that represents tens of thousands of stakeholders in California's intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) community. The Lanterman Coalition, Home of Guiding Hands and the IDD community are united by one common goal: to ensure a viable and sustainable IDD support system that is inclusive, equitable, and just.

If you would like to assist in advocacy action, you can find your California state legislator and start the conversation with their office about why this delay would be devastating for the individuals we serve. Your voice matters, and your proactive engagement can make a substantial impact on the decisions that will shape the future of those we support. Let's work together to ensure the well-being and progress of our community.

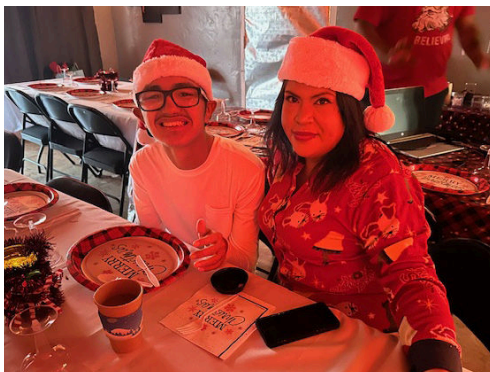
Best Non-Profit Winner at East County Honors

The East County Honors were held on Saturday, February 24th at the beautiful Sycuan Casino & Resort, put on by the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce. Home of Guiding Hands was lucky to be nominated for Best Non-Profit by the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce, and was later announced the winner in the category! The event had a 20's theme and an amazing silent auction, as well as food galore. We are truly grateful to be recognized and thankful to the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce for allowing us to be a part of your wonderful organization!



Holiday Celebrations at Home Of Guiding Hands

We had such an awesome time celebrating the holidays this year! We had a plethora of holiday parties, including a couple at the Verbeck Resource Center, as well as at a few homes. At the holiday party for our Community Living Programs, there were ornament making and cookie decorating! For three of our residential homes (Castillo Verde, Greencastle & LRW) there was an appearance from Santa and Mrs. Clause, elves and even grinchers came to try and steal the show! Attendees had a great time enjoying their catered dinner and presents from the jolly man himself. We definitely celebrated the holidays in style, and with tons of cheer!



David and Franchesca enjoying a delicious holiday meal together



Essie with Santa and Mrs. Clause



Santa and Alex

HGH Cause Shop

At the HGH Cause Shop, every purchase tells a story of compassion, support, and community. Join us in making a difference for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities when shopping from our retail and restaurant partners. To participate, please visit the shop online at www.guidinghands.org and click on the *Ways to Help* tab.

Are you a business interested in partnering with us? Contact Frances Burnett at fburnett@guidinghands.org or (619) 938-2856 to learn more!





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Milestone Staff Anniversaries (Dec-Feb)

Thank you for your years of dedication!

5 YEARS

Catherine Aceves
Maribel Aldama
Marie Arredondo
Ivanna Avalos
Clarissa Del Angel
Maria Diaz
Roberto Diaz
James Fennikoh
Beatriz Garcia
Jennifer Goins
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10 YEARS

Tracie Arellano
Alan Kana
Adela Ledesma
Cristina Vidal

15 YEARS

Lisbeth Christensen
Auror Cortez
Zaman Dawood
Aimee Morrison

42 YEARS

Steve Grieger



Please Donate

When you give to HGH, 85.9 cents of every dollar you give 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.