

Grand Opening of VIP Community-Based Assessment and Treatment Center

Many CARES members, Los Angeles County dignitaries, and hundreds of well wishers came together on April 26 to celebrate the grand opening of the Violence Intervention Program (VIP) Forensic Center and Community-Based Assessment and Treatment Center and Plaza at LAC+USC Medical Center. The VIP treats victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. Hospital leaders envision opportunities for a larger medical village that will provide a single stop for continuity care across the life cycle. Recognizing the need to provide continuous comprehensive care to children in a safe environment, **Pete Delgado**, CEO, LAC+USC, applauded the kid-friendly and efficient consolidation of four separate clinics into one.

A leading authority on child sexual abuse, the VIP program's founder and executive director, **Dr. Astrid Heger**, was praised as a visionary and determined practitioner. "What we do in public service is magic," said **Bill Fujioka**, CEO, "Every part of this facility speaks to Dr. Heger's heart and represents the very best of public service by bringing to those with no options the very best." The newly renovated 20,000 sq. ft. building has natural light, an outdoor park converted from a parking lot, and a stunning collection of artwork acquired through collaboration with the County Arts Committee. The facility also includes a premature infant clinic, sexual assault center, exam rooms, and a childcare center. There are also offices for law enforcement personnel and staff from the Department of Children and Family Services.

The facility is funded with support from philanthropic foundations and private donors. CARES has worked with Dr. Heger over the past year to ensure that additional services for



L.A. County dignitaries applaud Dr. Heger.

children can be offered in the previous location of the Outpatient CARES Childcare Center. CARES applauds Dr. Heger's lifetime of committed service to victims of violence and this, her latest achievement.

Excerpts in this article were taken from DHS "Fast Facts" contributed by Michael Wilson.

Save the Date: Saturday, August 18th, 2 pm

Piano Concert: A Charitable Event to support CARES and Angel Interfaith Network (AIN)
Mary Jane Tashiro, Composer

Free-will donation at the door
Proceeds to benefit patients in crisis
1st Presbyterian Church, 2775 Lincoln Ave., Altadena
Call the CARES Office (323) 226-6941 for more information.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY / USC
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1200 N. State St., Room 1900
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Attention: Membership Donation Request Enclosed



Newsletter



Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center
By Richard Dominguez, Medical Photography

Greetings from Mindy & Weta:



Dear Members and Friends of CARES,

CARES Annual Meeting was a great success. Thanks to all those who donated to the meeting and for the 100 reservations received: CARES largest turn out yet! Our wonderful speaker, **Robert Gupta**, violinist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and fellow musician, violist **Zack Dellinger**, performed a duet which was enjoyed by the entire audience. Mr. Gupta's presentation of his experiences and research to discover more about how music affects neuronal plasticity, especially in early education and neurological disorders, was very interesting. Though it has been thought for many years that the ARTS may improve both mental and physical wellbeing, Mr. Gupta's experience with both the founding of and performing in The Street Symphony appears to substantiate those ideas.

Over the last year, CARES has finalized its two capital projects, the CARES playgrounds, and is continuing to move forward to expand services while maintaining the already important services that it provides. We would like to encourage each of you to continue your financial support of CARES. **Don't forget to send in your membership donation in the enclosed envelope. Only with your help can CARES continue to be a valuable asset to the LAC+USC Medical Center patients.**

Grand Opening: April 24, 2012
CARES Inpatient Tower Childcare Center Playground

Weta Mathies, CARES Co-Vice President of Childcare, was master of ceremonies. **Mindy Halls**, President of CARES, and CARES Board members also attended.

After many years of planning, fund raising, designing, getting authorizations to build, and then its actual construction—the playground is complete. Building a playground on a rooftop of a hospital is no easy accomplishment, but CARES succeeded! On April 24, 2012, CARES celebrated with the LAC+USC Medical Center Playground Open House. (The Open House for the Clinic Tower Childcare Center was held on October 6, 2011.) These playgrounds will serve hundreds, even thousands of children over many years. The patients' children will have a place to be comforted, if only for a day, from the stress of having loved ones ill and in need of medical care. This long-awaited major achievement strengthens CARES' mission "to benefit the patients by adding comfort to their hospital stay and by providing services that help the patients access quality healthcare." CARES' professional and nurturing staff ensures that each child has a meaningful experience in a safe environment.

CARES is proud to be in partnership with the staff of the LAC+USC Medical



Mr. Delgado, along with CARES Board members, had the honor of cutting the ribbon for the new playground with **John Shubin**, **Julieta Moncado** and **Geri Fineroff**. All watched as the children rushed enthusiastically into the playground for the very first time.

Center, as well as with the many donors who contributed to the building of the playgrounds and to the day-to-day staffing of the operation.

CARES is very grateful to the following people, without their expertise and genuine interest in CARES and its mission, this project, as well as others, would never have been accomplished:

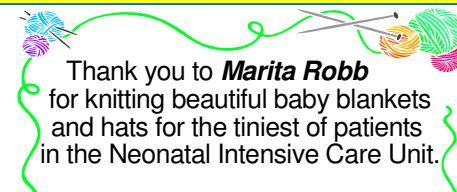
John Shubin, and **Julieta Moncado**, Architects, DHS Capital Projects.

Geri Fineroff, Grounds for Play, for extraordinary and continual support over the years necessary to complete the project.

Pete Delgado, CEO, for his positive words and actions and his understanding and appreciation of the value of CARES' contributions to the patients at the Medical Center.

Accolades to CARES Volunteers for all their hard work!

Many thanks to **Cynthia Berne**, **Toby Horn** and **Norma Zagorsky** for assisting in setting up the event and greeting former patients at the successful Annual Trauma Survivor Reunion on Saturday, May 12th.



Thank you to **Marita Robb** for knitting beautiful baby blankets and hats for the tiniest of patients in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

CARES Thrift Shop "Treasure Trove" could not have completed inventory this year without the dedicated help of **Agnes Chaney**, **Camille Ortiz-Marroquin**, **Christine Rufolo**, **Cecelia Stimson** and **Linda Esparza**, who spent many days on a big project!

CARES appreciates you all!

CARES Congratulates Award Winners



Agnes Chaney: CARES Volunteer of the Year

Pete Delgado, CEO of the Medical Center, wanted to personally present **Agnes Chaney** with her award on May 4, 2012, at the CARES Annual Meeting. Family members, friends and over 100 guests attended the event and celebrated her achievements.

She began her life long commitment to the patients at the LAC+USC Medical Center as a teen volunteer. Soon after becoming employed through DHS, she came to work at the Medical Center to assist top level management for the next 30 plus years. Her last position before retiring from the Medical Center was

Executive Secretary for Pete Delgado, CEO. After retiring, she became a member of the CARES Board of Directors and has served for the past seven years. She is one of those individuals who says little and does much. No task is too small and no task is too great. She is a friend to all. Though her talents are many and her intellect is great, she handles those

traits with grace and ease. She held the Board position of Recording Secretary for many years, and now volunteers in the operation of the CARES Thrift Shop "Treasure Trove." She operates the cash register, manages and prices the jewelry, finds clothing for patients who are being discharged, and provides much needed support to the CARES Thrift Shop "Treasure Trove" manager. For her latest contribution, she has taken a jewelry class and is designing and making jewelry that she donates to CARES to be sold to go toward programs that benefit the patients.



Mireya A. Jones, CARES Board Member, presents CARES Special Service Award to **Emily Boyle**, Attorney at Law, at the CARES Annual Meeting

Emily Boyle, attorney, mediator, and arbitrator, is a partner with the Law Offices of Jonathan Biddle, and her specialty in labor law has been invaluable to CARES. She provides CARES with pro bono counseling on issues that relate to employment opportunity and employee rights. It is essential that all businesses, whether small or large, must have knowledge of laws that pertain to the hiring of employees, including recruitment, interviewing, training, treatment of those employed, and terminations. Tomes of rules and regulations must be followed. It is imperative to keep up with current legislation as labor laws often change. Emily's advice is extremely important to the overall operation of CARES.



Michael Antonovich & Zev Yaroslavsky, County Supervisors, present Volunteer of the Year scroll to **Karen Long Santos**.

Karen Long Santos was honored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as the LAC+USC Medical Center 2012 Adult Volunteer of the Year at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Karen's first thought is always "how can I make a difference in the quality of life of others?" 25 years

ago, she was part of a team who organized over three hundred National Charity League mothers and daughters to make it their mission to ensure that families served by the Medical Center had toys and food during the December holidays.

Next, she joined CARES and started providing year round service. Her love of vintage 'everything' from furniture to clothing and her interest in 'recycling' for the good of the environment, encouraged her to accept the challenge of managing the CARES Thrift Shop and Clothing Program for Patients and their Families. Karen spends hours promoting the needs of the patients, recruiting and picking up donations, and sorting items for patients who need clothing for discharge from the hospital, or for their children who need clothing for school. The money raised from the sales in the Thrift Shop go directly to programs that benefit the patients. Using her compassion for people in need of a helping hand, her talents and Can-Do Attitude, she makes the world a better place.

CARES 2012 Outstanding Nurse of the Year: Todd Franklin, R.N.



CARES has always joined the Medical Center in its recognition of the LAC+USC Medical Center's "Nurse of the Year," but this year, he is also the DHS County Outstanding Nurse of the Year. Supervising Staff Nurse I in the Burn Complex, **Todd Franklin, R.N.**, also serves as an instructor for the Advanced Burn Life Support Program at the Medical Center and other Burn Centers in So. California. He has also received numerous commendations from the patients and families for the high quality patient care that he and his team deliver. CARES is proud of Nurse Franklin's accomplishments, and wishes to extend appreciation to the entire dedicated staff of the Nursing Department.

Valentine Mail Appeal

Heartfelt thanks to the following generous supporters who have donated between 7/1/11 and 6/30/12:

Thank You!



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