



President's Message

Dear Home of Guiding Hands Family,

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. I am writing to share my heartfelt gratitude and to reflect on the incredible power of coming together for a common purpose. At Home of Guiding Hands, we have always believed in the strength of community, and recent events have beautifully illustrated how collective efforts can create profound impacts.

Our recent Glitz & Glam Gala and "Keep the Promise" rally were resounding successes, demonstrating what we can achieve when united for a shared cause. Our 50th annual gala, held in April, was not just an evening of celebration, but a powerful reminder of our community's commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. The enthusiasm and generosity displayed were overwhelming. From the inspiring video to the lively paddle raise, every moment was a testament to your belief in our mission.

The funds raised at our gala will directly support our programs, providing essential resources and

continued

"Keep the Promise" Rally



On Friday, May 31st, hundreds of individuals, including staff, clients, other service providers and advocates, rallied in front of the San Diego State Building to make their voices heard regarding Governor Newsom's recent proposed \$1 billion budget cut to the IDD community.



The "Keep the Promise" rally had speakers from many of the San Diego based organizations that support individuals with disabilities, including Home of Guiding Hands, the San Diego Regional Center, Arc San Diego, TERI Inc., Noah Homes, Adjoin, ARCA, A Better Life Together, Inc., DDPN San Diego, CDSA and CCLN.



After the rally, Governor Newsom released a statement saying he wasn't cutting the program but doing a "temporary one-year delay to help close the state's budget shortfall". He noted that the legislator has brought forth a different budget proposal and the budget must be finalized by June 15th.



To keep advocating for our community needs, please visit the Lanterman Coalition's website (www.thelantermancoalition.org) and sign the petition letter and write to your local legislator.

We will not accept another delay and need the funding now for our community. **KEEP THE PROMISE!**

services that make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve. Your contributions are symbols of hope and compassion that will resonate throughout our community.

Similarly, the "Keep the Promise" rally held in May in front of the San Diego State Building in Downtown San Diego, showcased the power of solidarity and advocacy. Hundreds of supporters gathered to raise awareness and advocate for the rights and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. The collective voice of our community was heard loud and clear, driving forward the conversation on disability rights.

These events exemplify what we can achieve when we come together. They remind us that while individual efforts are important, our greatest strength lies in our unity. Each of you, through your participation and support, has played a crucial role in advancing our mission. Together, we are building a more inclusive and supportive community, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

As we move forward, let us continue to harness this collective energy and spirit. There are many challenges ahead, but I am confident that with your ongoing support, we can overcome them and create lasting, positive change. As Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to Home of Guiding Hands. Together, we are making a difference.

With heartfelt thanks,
Edward Hershey

50th Annual Glitz & Glam Gala!

We had a phenomenal time at our 50th annual gala, "Glitz & Glam", at the Pendry Hotel in Downtown San Diego! Emceed by Fox 5's wonderful Shally Zomorodi, the event consisted of a cocktail hour at the exclusive Oxford Social Club and moved to the ballroom, where there was dinner, drinks and dancing. We had the fantastic Mighty Untouchables band provide awesome music throughout the night. There were fun and fabulous auction items, too! Because of the generosity of more than 300 guests, we were able to raise over \$500,000 to support our important programs and services! We want to give a big shout out to all our sponsors for this event, including our Dazzling Diamond sponsors, the Bloom Family & the Heramb Family, as well as our other sponsor levels, including Golden Glam, Silver Sparkle and Bronze Band. Save the date for May 3rd, 2025 for next year's gala. We can't wait for you to join us!



52 guests at the Glitz & Glam Gala pledged \$1,000 during our Fund-A-Cause segment. Thank you for your support!



Seated from left to right: Amy Papathanasis, Jaime Rook, Brian Buchan. Standing from left to right: John Papathanasis, Dave Walker.



Members of the Ratzlaff and Bloom families enjoy the photobooth.



HGH Board Chair & this year's Gala Committee Chair, Cindi Harris



From left to right, Ben & Sheila Trovaten, Jane Moore & Drum Macomber



Shally Zomorodi from Fox 5 was the emcee for the evening and did a wonderful job!

Client Social Club's Spring Fling

Our exceptional Client Social Club (CSC), which is a group within our organization run by staff and clients, put on a festive Spring Fling event at Santee Lakes in May! Many clients attended and took part in t-shirt coloring, limbo, face painting and pinatas. There was delicious Mexican food from Big Boyz Tacos and sweet treats from Dilly's Ice Cream! The clients, and staff, had such a great time mingling and having fun on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. We want to give a huge shout out to the Foundation for Developmental Disabilities (FDD) for donating a \$10,000 grant to help fund our Client Social Club (CSC)! The FDD's mission is to generate and distribute funds to innovative programs that enhance the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Thank you again for your support. We can't wait for the next event!



HGH client, Karen gets her face painted by staff member, PJ Thacker



Two of HGH's beloved and long-time staff members, Derek McQuien and Aimee Morrison.



Bob and Lauren were just two of the HGH clients who enjoyed the beautiful day out at Santee Lakes.

Sip, Sip, Hooray!

We are going for the GOLD with an Olympics theme at the Home of Guiding Hands' 2024 Pub Crawl!

Saturday, August 10th in North Park
1:00pm - 5:00pm



Join the fun as we gather at North Park Beer Co. and follow our TORCH BEARERS to The Original 40 Brewing Company and Mike Hess Brewing to raise a glass, raise awareness, and raise funds to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities!

Participants are encouraged to sport their favorite Olympics Event Attire for an attempt to win the GOLD, SILVER, or BRONZE in the costume contest!

Space is limited, register today! NORTHPARKPUBCRAWL.ORG



Follow us @homeofguidinghands

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

Cares Club

We're excited to announce the launch of the Cares Club, our monthly giving program, at the end of June! By joining the Cares Club, you become a vital part of our mission to advocate for and support those with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Your regular contribution ensures that we can offer high-quality programs and support for those we serve. Stay tuned for more details!

Board of Directors (as of Aug 2023)

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Cindi Harris
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Lara Hoefer-Moir

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Ben Trovaten

Milestone Staff Anniversaries (Mar-May)

Thank you for your years of dedication!

5 YEARS

Sarah Barba
Carmen Blackwood
Kaila Castellanos
Rachel Crowner
Deanna Garcia
Maritza Garcia
Diana Gonzalez
Kasumy Lara
Hilda Marron
Lynn Matchke
Barbara McDonald
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Maria Santillano Munoz
Joesfina Williams
Dayanara Zamudio De Gonzales
Maribel Zavala

10 YEARS

Hermina Enriquez
Concepcion Protestante

15 YEARS

Stacy Franey

20 YEARS

Terri Andricci

30 YEARS

Betty Hughes



Please Donate

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

Our 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 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.