



south central los angeles regional center

sclarc scene



The Ideal Services Foursome

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friends of sclarc raises \$86k at 6th annual golf tourney

On September 25, 2011, more than 30 sponsors, 99 golfers, and 120 dinner guests helped raise \$86K at Friends of SCLARC's 6th Annual Golf Tournament & Dinner. The annual "friendraiser," touted as "a day of fun and fundraising," was hosted at Downey's Rio Hondo Golf Center. The day began with a golf clinic for novice enthusiasts, followed by lunch and Tee time for the serious golfers. After 18 holes, it was time to celebrate with a sumptuous barbeque dinner that featured a welcome address from Board Member and Friends of SCLARC Secretary Glenda Lang, raffle prizes, medal presentations to SCLARC's 15 consumers who participated in the tournament, sponsor awards and trophy presentations to the winning foursomes.

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the Board of Directors of Friends of SCLARC for another great year of fundraising. We would also like to thank each participant, donor and golfer at the Friends Tourney & Dinner. SCLARC consumers will continue to have a resource to help with food, shelter and clothing emergencies because of the continuous and generous support of Friends of SCLARC. This kind of support is extremely important and is critical if our stakeholders are going to have access to a safety net as others continue to be cut away. The charitable donations provided to SCLARC have a major and profound impact on the quality of life afforded to our most vulnerable consumers and families. For this, and much, much more, we say, "Thank you for being a Friend!"

--Marsha Mitchell, SCENE Editor

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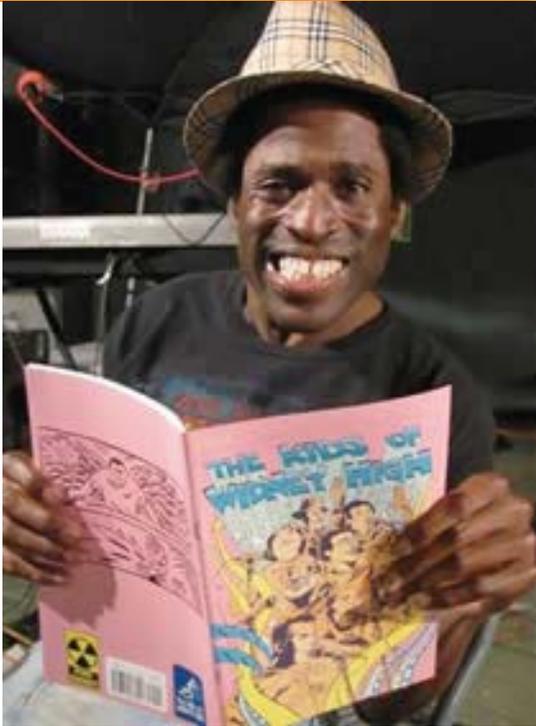
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Anthony “Tony” Whitfield sits on the couch in his small apartment. The walls are covered with framed autographed pictures of his favorite Rock n’ Roll band, KISS. If his crutches weren’t leaning against the couch, you’d have a hard time guessing this 44 year-old man has Cerebral Palsy or a mild mental disability. From his enthusiastic, wry and comedic approach to life, you can easily understand why Tony says, “I have CP, but it does not have me!”

While attending Widney High School, a school for disabled students in South Los Angeles, Tony was ridiculed for being different. Wearing a long jheri curl, Van Halen t-shirts and listening to rock made Tony an easy target for slurs like “oreo” and “sell out.” Tony’s foster mother, Cassie Jones, became weary as she watched her son struggle to exert his identity. Dave Kinnoin, Tony’s conservator, who he calls his “big brother and my helper with words,” learned about the abuse and resolved to help him.

sclarc consumer tony whitfield flexes his artistic and music muscles

BY NIMAT JONES

Scene Contributing Writer

Tony discovered his musical talent in 1988 when he was brought on stage at a club called Chain Reaction with The Kids of Widney High School (KOWH) band. The group started as a song writing class at Widney High School and Tony became a singer with the band. It has since evolved into a revolving band made up of current students and alumni. Initially, some snicker and doubt the ability of a rock band made up of disabled adults. But by the end of KOWH performances, the naysayers usually have a different perspective. Listening to the band and watching the motley crew of adults with various disabilities, one feels a sense of humanness. They may not all clap to the same beat, but their songs convey a sense of harmony regardless of their limitations.

The Kids of Widney High have produced several CDs including “Act your Age”, “Live at the Key Club” and “Special Music from Special Kids.” After live performances at The Key Club, The Knitting Factory and Amoeba Music, KOWH have gained a following that includes Marilyn Manson, the Beastie Boys, Nirvana and Smokey

Robinson. While brainstorming ways to promote The Kids of Widney High with Gene Simmons, legendary front man for KISS, Tony mentioned the idea of creating a comic book based on members of the band as superheroes. Soon everyone came together to share ideas and write their stories. After 15 months of planning with a team of renowned artists, “The Kid’s of Widney High: Beyond the Sky’s the Limit” was born.

Tony’s character is a secret agent with crutches that shoots lightning bolts. In the graphic novel, Tony joins forces with his superhero friends to subdue a villain who wants to rid the world of inspiring music. The comic also imparts the message that all people--black, white, hispanic, women or disabled--have obstacles to overcome. Diamond Distributor, one of the largest comic book distributors in the industry, distributed the first printing. Due to Tony’s extensive Internet promotion, the group paid their distributor fully and all of The Kids of Widney High received \$200 each. Tony wants to sell enough copies to do a second printing and he also wants to write another comic book.

Currently, the group is working on a version of audio books to put on YouTube. You can purchase copies of the Kids of Widney High’s CD or comic book at www.kidsofwidneyhigh.com or send an email to: KOWH@earthlink.net.

sclarc says goodbye to its clinical chief



clinical chief
marilyn kostry to
retire 11-11-11

Ms. Kostry says farewell to the agency. Longtime colleagues say:

"Marilyn enjoy your retirement! Remember, the #1 challenge will be to spend time without spending money shopping!"

--Reuben Lee, Director
Consumer Program Services

"Mother Teresa said, 'Let no one come to you without leaving better and happier.' SCLARC is better and happier because Ms. Kostry crossed our path & embraced our mission. She takes with her the very fabric of SCLARC which is to serve."

-Shirley Day, Consultant
& former SCLARC Director

As Chief of Clinical Services, Marilyn Kostry, LCSW brought 32 years of experience in social services to South Central Los Angeles Regional Center. Having worked with culturally diverse populations for three decades, she has an expansive knowledge of case management, developmental disabilities, mental health, program management, research, day program monitoring, intake, diagnosis, assessment, discharge planning, community organization and the coordination of multidisciplinary teams and task forces.

"I have always been committed to the vision of providing state of the art clinical services and supports to south central los angeles regional center consumers."

—Marilyn Kostry

During her tenure as Chief of Clinical Services, Ms. Kostry was responsible for the oversight of the assessment and eligibility process, administration of wellness activities, coordination of clinical consultation to staff and the community and served as liaison to an allied team of health care professionals at SCLARC and in the community. Ms. Kostry began her journey with SCLARC in 1980 and worked in many departments including Consumer and Program Services as well as Children and Adult Services.

Before her tenure as Clinical Chief, Marilyn was the program manager for the Intake/Community Living Options unit and was responsible for staff training and development, statistical reporting, and monitoring of the day-to-day operations of the unit. She served as chair of the multidisciplinary core staffing team, and it should be noted that as grants administrator for the clinical department, Ms. Kostry was successful in securing hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funds for SCLARC wellness programs.

She was instrumental in enrolling SCLARC consumers on the Medicaid Waiver and was also on various committees such as the Communications Design, Risk Management and Mitigation Teams as well as the Criminal Justice Task Force Committee.



ALL SMILES—Ms. Kostry posed recently with South Central LA Regional Center consultants and Lanterman Developmental Center (LDC) staff at the grand opening of LDC's Outpatient Clinic. (see page 7 for story)



friends of sclarc 6th annual golf tournament started off with sclarc volunteers greeting golfers, registration and warming up



sclarc consumers, vendors and staff all participated in the annual "friendraiser" which is always about fun and fundraising



golfing enthusiasts of all skill levels are welcomed and the friends of sclarc tournament had four consumer foursomes this year





after 18 holes of golf, participants always enjoy the barbeque dinner for which rio hondo golf course is famous



the awarding of consumer medals, thank you plaques to friends' sponsors and trophy presentations is always fun



the best part of the evening for the golfers is the announcing of who gets bragging rights for the year!



1st Place-The Grace 4some

2nd Place-Birth & Family

3rd Place-We Are Family



arc trains sclarc consumers to be job ready

By **CRYSTAL SMITH**
Scene Staff Writer

Arc of LA and OC Counties serves more than 350 consumers with the majority residing in Downey,

Bell Gardens and South Gate. They offer a multitude of services such as Community Integration Programs, Day Training Activity Centers, Supported Living, Adult Education and Independent Living Classes. They also have an array of employment services and training programs. New referrals to The Arc LA and OC receive a full tour of the facility and are able to choose from the many program options available.

Their Food Service Training Program enables consumers to learn simple cooking skills, facility cleaning and the various jobs available in a food service facility. The ARC trainers provide hands on experience in the organization's wonderful and newly remodeled banquet center, The Reagan Banquet and Conference Center. Not only do the clients of Arc gain their hands on food service training here, they also work at each and every Arc and private event hosted by the conference center.

This state-of-the-art banquet center is named after Bennie and Anne Reagan who were instrumental in the creation of the event center that serves as a training ground for SCALRC consumers. After consumers complete their training, Arc assists with job placement by linking program participants with restaurants and hotels in need of employees. But it doesn't stop there! Once a consumer is hired, the Arc teams each new employee with a job coach who helps them to learn their job duties, and also assists the employer and additional staff in getting to know our consumer in order to maximize a positive work experience and environment.

The Arc of LA and Orange Counties does a multitude of good for SCLARC consumers and the community, but it's not without some struggle. The current economic climate has impacted The Arc, but they do not let this deter them. The Arc holds multiple fundraising events throughout the year in order to keep their doors open and our consumers active. In fact, they have an upcoming Golf Tournament hosted by the Downey Rotary Club on November 4th and the 15th Annual Arc Walk for Independence will take place in March of 2012.

The Reagan Conference Center's privately booked events and the Southeast Industries Packaging and Assembly Company (which is also staffed by SCLARC consumers) generates funds for the innovative organization. For more info, go to http://www.arcelac.org/contact_us.html. For info on Banquet Center bookings, call Jeffrey Stephens at (562) 803-1556 Ext. 262.



fun arc of la facts

The Arc of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, formerly known as The Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County, has been in business for 55 years. Their mission is simple yet vital--they provide services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The ARC also actively supports full inclusion and participation in all aspects of the community while promoting the principles of self-determination, dignity and high quality of life for those they serve.

This Downey community staple was originally established in 1956 in Lynwood by resourceful and dedicated families of children with special needs in order to ensure their sons and daughters would have opportunities for education and employment. These determined parents were able to set up the first special education center in Southern California. In 1963, the organization relocated to Downey and they have been a champion of services ever since.

FUN FACT: One of the founding parents of the Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County, Mr. Patrick Grover, was also an original board member on SCLARC's Board of Directors. Now how's that for a history lesson!

-Crystal Smith

Lanterman Developmental Center Celebrates Grand Opening of Outpatient Services Clinic



IT'S OFFICIAL--Ms. Cheryl Bright, Executive Director of Lanterman Developmental Center and Dr. Hao Nguyen, LDC's Medical Director cut the ribbon and officially open LDC's Outpatient Services Clinic. Immediately following the ceremony, refreshments were served and several tours were given.

BY SHIRLEY DAY

Scene Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, August 23, 2011 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Lanterman Developmental Center (LDC) in honor of the grand opening of their Outpatient Services Clinic located at 3530 W. Pomona Blvd. P.O. Box 100 Pomona, Ca. 91768. During the ceremony, Ms. Cheryl Bright, Executive Director of LDC welcomed the participants and briefly spoke about the opening of the clinic. Dr. Hao Nguyen, Medical Director, also spoke and assisted with the cutting of the ribbon. Immediately following the ceremony, refreshments were served and several tours were organized for all of the participants to view the various clinics.

Lanterman Outpatient Services will provide outpatient services to all regional center consumers who have transitioned from Lanterman Developmental Center into the community and are unable to access services within their own community and/or unable to purchase services from a qualified provider. Services offered will include consultation and evaluation.

The services that will be offered are as follows:

- *Audiology*
- *Behavior Services*
- *Bone Density*
- *Cardiology*
- *Clinical Lab*
- *Conscious Sedation*
- *Dental*
- *Dermatology*
- *EEG*
- *Endocrinology*
- *EKG*
- *Gynecology*
- *Mammogram*
- *Ultra Sound*
- *Neurology*
- *Neuro-Metabolic*
- *Occupational Therapy*
- *Ophthalmology*
- *Orthopedic*
- *Physical Therapy*
- *Podiatry*
- *Psychiatry*
- *Radiology*
- *Rehab Engineering*
- *Respiratory Therapy*
- *Urology*

These services may include, but will not be limited to, a complete physical examination, assessment of health status, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic health problems, psychological services, health and education to consumer and provider and consultation with medical specialist and rehabilitative therapists. Consumers will be evaluated for assistive technology when needed and the fabrication of custom equipment will be made, when essential, to help promote independence, health and well-being for the consumer.

The Outpatient Services Clinic is committed to becoming a clinic of "excellence" with a focus on the health and medical needs of the consumers served! Referrals can be made to Sonjia Walter, Appointment Coordinator, Monday through Friday 8:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at (909) 444-7136.

sclarc unveils new autism ad

Every 11 minutes a child is born who will be diagnosed with autism. Nationally, one in every 91 children has autism. On average, children of color are diagnosed 1½ half years later than their mainstream counterparts. One study demonstrated that specialists diagnosed Caucasian children in four visits over a four-month period (between the initial visit and the moment they were diagnosed with autism). The same process required African American and Latino children 13 visits over 10 months before being diagnosed.

Families facing the challenges of autism rejoiced on October 7, 2011 as Governor Jerry Brown signed bill SB496 into law--mandating health insurance companies cover treatments for autism and other developmental disorders. Health insurance companies have been notorious when denying coverage to thousands of children in the state of California; claiming the types of therapy offered were educational, not medical. But now that SB496 (which will take effect in July 2012) is law, communities of color must continue to do all we can in promoting autism awareness so that our children receive the early intervention they deserve.

Next month, SCLARC will begin running its new autism awareness ads to be printed in community newspapers throughout its catchment area. The ad has been developed for English and Spanish language publications.

If we don't talk about it and we don't hear about it ... how will we ever learn to recognize autism?



Do you know a child who may have a developmental disability or is at-risk for developing one? If so, please contact SCLARC at 213.744.8872 and ask to speak to an Intake Coordinator.



For more info, visit us @ www.sclarc.org

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