



**TAILOR MADE  
AND  
PERSON  
CENTERED  
SERVICES**

**SOUTH CENTRAL LOS  
ANGELES REGIONAL  
CENTER**

**FY 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

## SCLARC CONSUMER SPOTLIGHT

Gabrielle Poveda was born and raised in Downey, California. She attended Rio San Gabriel Elementary School, East Downey Middle School, and Downey High. Currently, she is taking classes at Long Beach City College (LBCC) and plans to transfer to pursue a Bachelor's degree in the future. Gabby, as she is called by her friends, realized she liked the arts at an early age.

"I liked to color, so I tried drawing. Then I got into Japanese anime," she said.

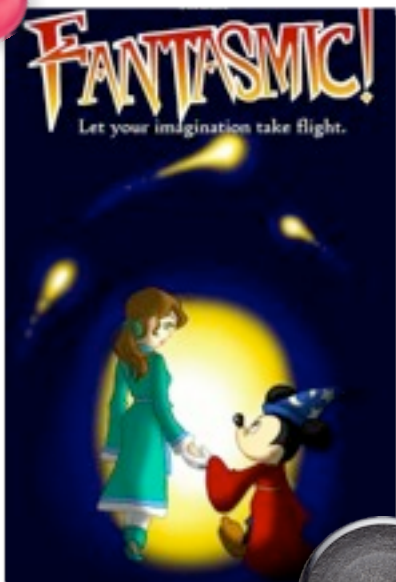
She not only had an affinity for drawing, but she has a talent for it as well. She uses a light pen and draws free hand using computer software. What is even more amazing is the fact that Gabby also taught herself the Japanese language.

"I started teaching myself Japanese when I was in seventh grade." the artist stated. "I find the Japanese language beautiful."

Gabby has taken Japanese language classes while at LBCC. She is also honing her love of singing and acting; and has performed in many musical productions. Her living room is filled with classic Disney musical videotapes because they combine her three favorite things—art, music and dance.

—By MARC ALEXANDER, SCLARC SERVICE COORDINATOR

Pictured left is an example of Gabrielle's work and how she combines her love of anime and all things Disney.



# SCLARC Families

**SCLARC Board Member Claudia Hernandez decided to join the regional center's board of directors to share her expertise and passion for working with children who have been diagnosed with special needs. She is currently a Child Development Specialist for LEAP for Infants and community organization. "My ultimate goal is to continue my education and go onto graduate school to obtain a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy or Psychology.**

**Ms. Hernandez graduated in 2011 from California State University, Dominguez Hills with a Bachelor's degree in Child Development.**

**"My work on SCLARC's Board of Directors will help me strengthen my knowledge of services available to children with developmental disabilities as well as allow me the opportunity to provide assistance to families who need it."**

**Claudia says her 16-year-old sister Maria is her motivation and inspiration for wanting to make a difference as a SCLARC board member.**

**"I believe that growing up with a child with special needs has helped me learn to relate to other families."**

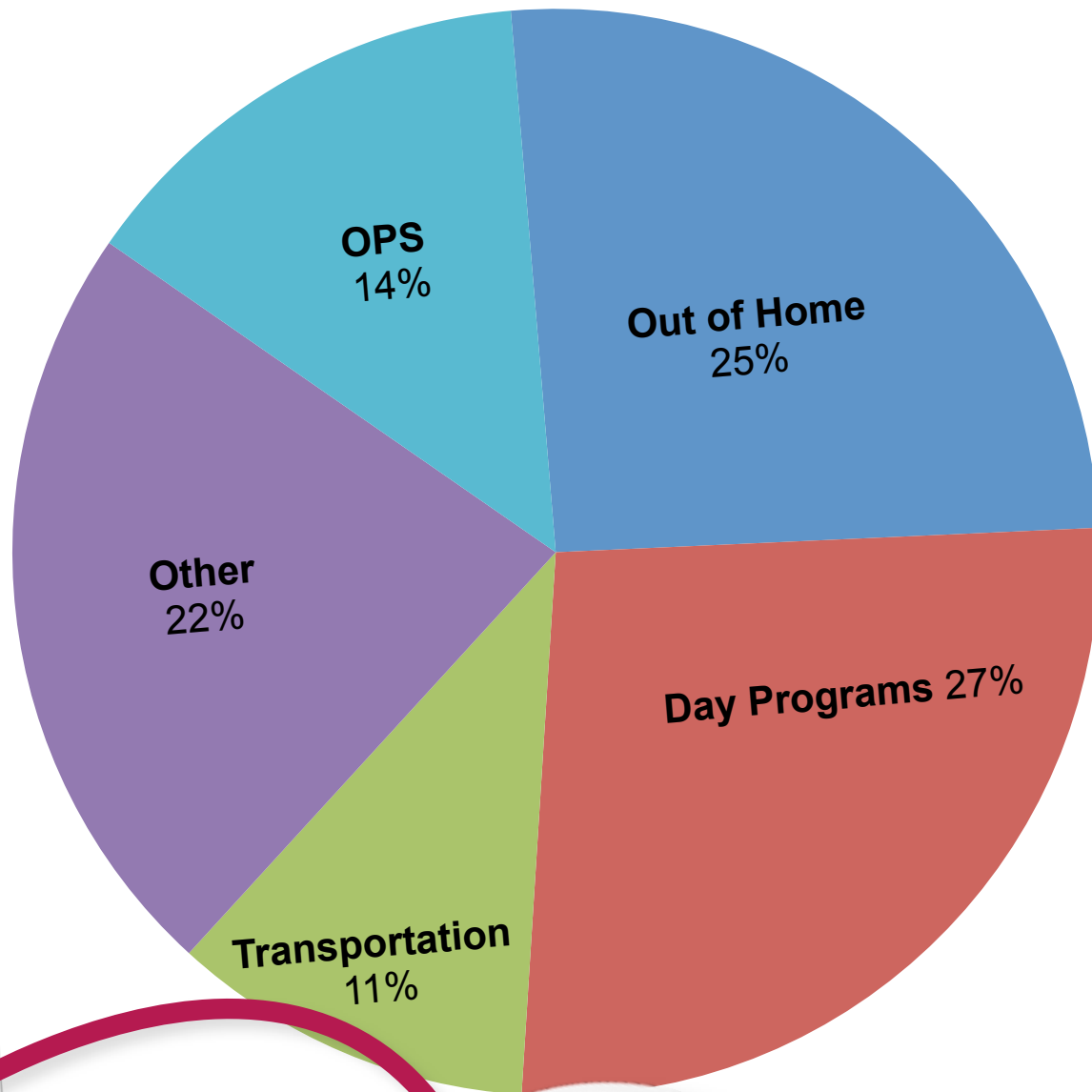


South Central Los Angeles Regional Center Board Member  
Claudia Hernandez and her sister Maria smile for the camera!



# SCLARC

## Expenditures for Fiscal Year 11-12



For almost 40 years, SCLARC has provided an array of community resources to empower and educate our stakeholders. SCLARC is committed to assisting its consumers and families through self-advocacy so they can make their voices heard.

With a staff of approximately 240 professionals, SCLARC offered services and supports to 9,852 consumers and their families in FY 11-12. That number is an increase from the 9,343 that were served in FY 10-11. Programmatic services and supports were delivered via SCLARC's staff and a network of more than 900 service providers on a budget of \$136,909,378. This included \$19,099,299 for SCLARC's Operations budget and \$117,810,079 in Purchases of Services.

# SCLARC's Outreach & Information Initiative

For more than a decade, SCLARC has diligently participated in an outreach and awareness campaign to ensure its community stakeholders are aware of the programs and supports available through the regional center system. In an effort to further broaden awareness, SCLARC launched a comprehensive advertising campaign during FY 11-12 using local community newspapers throughout its service area. Starting in January of 2012, community stakeholders began to see SCLARC info ads in LA Hoy, the Los Angeles Sentinel, the Paramount Journal, L.A. Focus and the Downey Patriot.

Additionally, SCLARC has developed an Information Kiosk which was unveiled at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza on October, 15, 2012. The touch screen kiosk gives specific info

about autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, epilepsy and intellectual disabilities. It also lists community resources and regional center contact information.

Signs of autism are usually visible before a child turns two. However, studies show that white children are diagnosed, on average, nearly two years before Black and Latino children. An effective awareness campaign could combat misinformation that results in negative attitudes towards developmental disability diagnoses. If stigmas regarding special needs can be reduced, parents may be more inclined to bring their children to the regional center for earlier assessments.

Early intervention is critical for more successful outcomes. SCLARC believes this next phase of its community outreach plan will help address the gaps in information in order to have a positive impact on the community.

"We couldn't be more excited," says Marsha D. Mitchell, Director of Community Services & Family Supports for SCLARC. "We have received very positive feedback about the kiosk in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza from our community members."



**SCLARC would like to thank U.S. Bank, Friends of SCLARC and Southern California Edison for their generosity and contributions to our outreach efforts, especially the Information Kiosk project.**

# SCLARC's Executive Director Celebrates 25 Years of Leadership



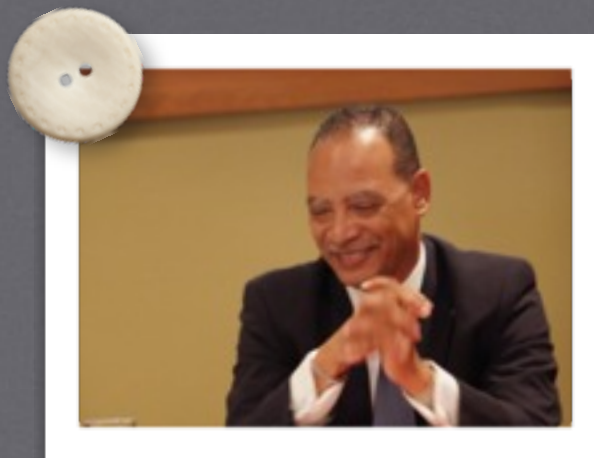
SCLARC's Board of Directors, Leadership Team and staff congratulate Executive Director/CEO Dexter A. Henderson on 25 years of leadership. October 26, 2012 marks the CEO's Silver Anniversary.

"SCLARC is charged with raising awareness about the challenges people diagnosed with developmental disabilities face," says Henderson. "Our goal is to provide quality services for our consumers and their families which will enable them to lead richer, fuller lives."

In 1987, Dexter A. Henderson became executive director. In Spring 1990, he and his staff applied for the Perinatal Substance Abuse grant, funded through the L.A. County Department of Health Services/Maternal and Child Health. The program provides comprehensive case management to alcohol and drug abusing women who are also pregnant or parenting. These services are a collaborative effort between residential,

outpatient and intensive drug/alcohol programs for women on the road to recovery. Today, it is one of SCLARC's longest running support programs.

Other important initiatives spearheaded by Mr. Henderson include SCLARC's Family Resource Center which was opened on June 19, 1993. Each year,



the FRC staff serves 1,000 families via orientation, family support group meetings, workshops, and mailings.

In 1998, in collaboration with the University of Southern California, University Affiliated program & Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, SCLARC developed a video and a companion guide to generate an awareness of the importance of nutrition

and feeding in the residential setting. Expressions of Wellness II: Nutrition Wellness in the Residential Setting" provided vital information regarding nutrition guides, mealtime behavior and gastrointestinal issues. This product was selected by the Department of Developmental Services as a resource for the Statewide DSP required training.

In February 20, 2003, L.A. Care granted SCLARC \$122,000 to help improve access to dental services for persons with developmental disabilities. In 2005, they gave SCLARC continuation grant funding to assist with treatment costs for general anesthesia and sedation. The "Early Start Oral Health Web Based Project" was created in 2007 through a \$151,000 grant from the Department of Developmental Services. The training materials were disseminated statewide and promoted oral health for children ages 0 to 5.

These are just a few of the initiatives Mr. Henderson created to develop a more holistic service provision plan for individuals diagnosed with special needs living in South Los Angeles. He, along with his staff, continues to work tirelessly on behalf of all SCLARC stakeholders to increase the inherent strengths of our families.

# SCLARC Advocate of the Year

"Mrs. O. V. Smith is the perfect example of outstanding community service. Not only in the State of California, but she is an example to be emulated throughout this country.

She has demonstrated commitment and dedication to developmentally disabled citizens while she continues to serve others at the age of 98 -years-old. We are proud of her contribution to society."

—Assemblyman Mike Davis

O.V. Smith is a longtime SCLARC advocate. She is also the President of Southern California Carehome Operators as well as the director of OV's Willing Workers Inc., a non-profit designed to help people diagnosed with developmental disabilities. For more than four decades, Mrs. Smith has been committed to quality care. A licensed residential provider for South Central Los Angeles Regional Center, O.V.'s Willing Workers is one of the oldest adult day program's in the state. The program encourages and supports participants in acquiring motor, communicative, emotional, social, cognitive, vocational and independent living skills in order to foster greater independence.

As a non-profit "work, activity, behavioral, and educational center" serving SCLARC consumers for more than 30 years, Willing Workers subscribes to the principle that all people have the right to self-determination and capacity-building opportunities.

Smith was honored in 2008 as Woman of the Year for her outstanding community efforts by

SCLARC political representatives Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Diane Watson, Senator Rod Wright, as well as Councilmembers Bernard Parks and Janice Hahn. In 2010, Assemblyman Mike Davis bestowed Woman of the Year honors on Mrs. Smith. Most recently, the Los Angeles County Democratic Club highlighted the spry 98-year-old's incredible career.

Among her many accomplishments, Mrs. Smith was instrumental in creating legislation that called for home care operators to maintain continuing education credits in order to become licensed providers. With the support of then state official Maxine Waters, she was instrumental in writing AB 2701 which was the first bill of its kind.



SCLARC staff members pose with Ovarie Smith as the Los Angeles Democratic Club honored her as their Woman of the Year. Back row, standing Lisa Holcomb, Ida Dacus, Dexter A. Henderson, O.V. Smith, (sitting) Beverly Morgan and Fezem Shabaf.



**ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12**