



President's Message

In my last message to you in January, I outlined my concerns regarding the impact the State minimum wage and the local San Diego Minimum Wage Ordinance would have on HGH and others. These ordinances forge a significant challenge for HGH and, more importantly, the 2,500 children, adolescents and adults we support.

Since that time, Governor Brown released his proposed budget to the California Legislature. Unfortunately, the Governor's proposal failed to address the above issue. He included nothing in terms of rate increases to address this issue or how to adequately compensate the hundreds of Direct Care Professionals (DSP's) who truly have a positive

continued

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.



Charlie gives a gentle hello to Carolyn

Pizza and Pets Event: Therapy Dogs From Love On A Leash Bring Big Smiles

It was the first of its kind! On March 8th, **in honor of Disability Awareness Month**, HGH partnered with Love on a Leash for a pets & pizza event. This likeminded organization is known to bring comfort, happiness, and healing through meaningful and productive animal assisted therapy.

Therapy dogs from the San Diego Central Chapter (lead by Sue Subkow) greeted clients and staff with paw shakes, kisses and an abundance of affection.

These furry guests and their handlers are volunteers dedicated to providing comfort and stress relief to people of all ages in a variety of settings such as schools, hospitals and nursing homes.



Brutus taking a break

impact on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The low reimbursement has a dramatic impact on how agencies like HGH struggle to make ends meet.

A recent study, conducted by Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-41), found that 90% of providers are experiencing increased labor costs; 46% have closed or downsized programs and 60% are considering closing or downsizing programs.

I have made numerous trips to Sacramento to meet with legislators and policy staff, and to testify in legislative hearings to heighten the awareness of this issue. Locally, I have visited legislators, made calls, submitted editorials to the media and worked with the San Diego Regional Center and my colleagues to right this wrong! Our committed, well-qualified and dedicated staff deserve more than minimum wage.

With appreciation for all that you do for HGH,

Mark Klaus

President/CEO

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A Day For A Day

Aaron, Robert, Kevin and Ron, residents of Windmill House, took part in a beach clean-up day sponsored by San Diego Whale Watch. In return for their time and hard work, they received free passes for a whale watching excursion.

Although they were unable to spot any whales, they were entertained by a number of dolphins.

The guys truly enjoyed it and are anxious to participate again.



They Divided and Conquered



Visit sdcc.edu to learn more about San Diego Christian College

Students from the San Diego Christian College came ready to work.

Eight volunteers divided their efforts at our Grossmont Healthcare House in El Cajon. One group sanded, primed and painted the trim on the house while the others dedicated their time beautifying the backyard landscape.

These students worked hard on much needed repairs and with such a great attitude. We are truly grateful for their help.

Therapy Dogs *continued*

Their primary function is to “brighten someone’s day,” and that’s exactly what they did for the clients at HGH!

Clients from our Independent Living and Residential Programs enjoyed pizza and snacks before making their way to these lovable dogs.

A special thank you to Councilman Steve Goble of El Cajon and Community Liaison, Zach Bunshaft, from Congresswoman Susan Davis’s office, for taking part in such a special evening.

We look forward to next year’s event with the amazing teams from Love on a Leash.



Sigi loving the attention from Janis



Asher enjoying a back scratch from John

The 8th Annual Randy Jones Run/Walk Was An Outright Success!

We exceeded our goal! Thanks to our many supporters and partnerships formed along the way, we raised more than \$42,000.

It was a beautiful day at Crown Point Park with a record breaking crowd of 425 participants, 100 volunteers, former Padre's Pitcher Randy Jones, Friar and the Pad Squad, 15 vendors and several HGH clients.

Thank you to our top sponsors: The Arc of San Diego, Barona Casino, Jerry & Mary Ellen Harris, Marvin Arnold & Irene Jaquetta Heye Community Enrichment Fund at The San Diego Foundation, Gail & Doug Hutcheson, Quick Dry Flood Services, Dr. Elahe Toulouie, MD, and Bill & Norma Verbeck.

A special thank you goes out to our radio sponsors KSON, ALT 949 and the Padres Radio Network.



Congratulations To Our Top Five

HGH 8th Annual
**Randy Jones Run/Walk for
INDEPENDENCE**
5K Run, Walk & Roll

Sally Cohenour	00:23:50
Chiara Gelinas	00:24:30
Fernando Perez	00:24:31
Kayden Cragle	00:24:35
Christopher Pena	00:24:44



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For the HGH 44th Annual Gala **SUPER HERO SOIRÉE**

Saturday, June 9th
at The US Grant Hotel from 5:30pm-11:00pm

Purchase Tickets at hghgala.org

For more information contact Jessica Brandon at jessica@guidinghands.org

Our Programs & Services

AFHA - Adult Family Home Agency
Counseling
CLP - Community Living Program
ECD - Early Childhood Development
Life Planning
Residential
Respite
Transportation

Milestone Staff Anniversaries (Jan-Mar)

Thank you for your years of dedication

5 YEARS

Carole Boyce
Jose Nunez
Raadeen Peterson
Mary Ruvalcaba
Guillermo Sanchez
Maritza Marroquin-Sanders

10 YEARS

Mario Guevara
15 YEARS
Howard Davis

30 YEARS

Wendy Hernandez

Career Opportunities

Join our team! We are hiring for a variety of positions and offer perks and benefits that include health coverage, accrued paid time off, 403b retirement plan, and discounted service at Verizon or Sprint. Apply online at www.guidinghands.org/careers.

Volunteer Opportunities

You can **play a valuable role in helping HGH** meet the needs of the people we serve. We are seeking individuals, groups, and service organizations to lend a helping hand with special events, small maintenance/repair projects for the homes, and/or in-office mailings.

For more information:

*Jessica Brandon, Events Manager,
619-938-2854 or jessica@guidinghands.org*



Out of every dollar you give, .89 cents goes directly back to our programs and services.

HGH programs and services support more than 2,500 individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities each year. Be our partner in honoring, advocating for, and empowering these amazing individuals.

Make your donation at www.guidinghands.org