

# HSA Connection

JULY 2008 A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency



**Louise Lecklitner** received the Valuing Diversity Award from the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California.

## Recognized by Her Peers

Louise Lecklitner's professional and personal commitment to treatment and recovery services for more than 20 years was recognized by the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California. Lecklitner is the recipient of the organization's Valuing Diversity Award for 2008.

She was nominated by her colleagues at Behavioral Health Services and Alcohol and Drug Services.

Lecklitner participated in the development of the first social model alcohol detoxification program in San Diego. She is actively involved and widely known as a resource in various communities throughout San Diego.

She has helped to establish treatment and recovery services in Native American communities and has developed and facilitated Finding Common Ground, an event for community and treatment providers. Lecklitner has also been instrumental in ensuring that the County provides appropriate and culturally sensitive treatment services for individuals from different ethnic and economic backgrounds.

## Agency Duo Honored as 'TWINS'

They work side-by-side in the Health and Human Services Agency Director's office, but you wouldn't know from looking at them that Director of Operations **Paula Landau-Cox** and **Terry Hogan**, Finance Director, were 'twins'. Until now, that is.

Landau-Cox and Hogan are among 80 San Diego County women honored this year with the YWCA's annual Tribute to Women & Industry (TWIN) award. They are among five County employees chosen for the honor this year. The awards were presented June 27 at the San Diego Convention Center.

This is the 29th annual TWIN awards. Over the years, the YWCA has honored 2,348 local businesswomen. 10News Live co-anchor Kimberly Hunt hosted the ceremony, which included a keynote address by Sarah M. Buel, a nationally recognized expert on domestic violence.



*Paula Landau-Cox*



*Terry Hogan*



San Diego Charger Igor Olshansky makes 4-year-old Nury laugh as he autographs the back of his shirt following their photo shoot for the 2009 Leap of Faith calendar.

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## Dr. Cureg Receives Prestigious Honor

**Amethyst Cureg**, M.D., M.P.H. Medical Director, Maternal Child and Family Health Services, was selected as the recipient of the 2008 Martin Gersham, M.D. Advocacy Award. This prestigious award is given annually by the California District of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to honor a California pediatrician whose long established commitment to advocacy for children has been demonstrated through community, state or private-sector activities.

Dr. Cureg was nominated by fellow pediatricians and selected by the AAP Selection Committee. The award will be presented to Dr. Cureg at the groups' Annual Joint District Meeting on July 18th in Marina del Ray.



## From the Director's Desk Nick Macchione

After ten years as the Deputy Director of the Agency's North regions, I have the honor to serve as your Agency Director. With a great sense of enthusiasm and eagerness, I will continue the remarkable work and progress achieved by the leaders who held the position before me. I look forward to getting to know each other and discussing the future for our organization. Our conversations will focus on the significance of integrity, honesty, loyalty and a results-driven work environment, as guiding principles that govern our "everyday behavior" in relationships with colleagues, customers and community partners. As many of you know, I place great value in public/private partnerships and the role of these collaborations in the evolution of the Agency. I am eager to hear about your real world examples of how we create public value within the county.



Nick Macchione

Together we are a resourceful, inventive group of 5,700 strong whose qualities will be called to action in the coming years. Even as we enter into this turbulent time of economic slowdown and state budget shortfalls, I am confident of your ability to develop creative solutions in serving our customers. By staying focused on results-driven work and engaging the community in innovative joint ventures, we will achieve our Board of Supervisor's strategic objectives in helping children, families and seniors stay healthy, safe and self-sufficient.

It has only just begun – this journey of ours together – and already I have learned so much. During this fiscal year I will spend much of my time getting to know you. I will meet with agency staff and community partners to hear your ideas, priorities, and perspectives. I appreciate your warm welcome and I look forward to working as a team to advance our agency's mission to "make people's lives safer, healthier and self-sufficient by managing essential services."

## Employee Spotlight

As much as **Victor Malof** loves his job, it should be no surprise that those he works with express strong admiration for him. "There is no equal," said **Patty Madison**, an Administrative Analyst III and Malof's supervisor. "He's it."



Victor Malof

"He always goes above and beyond in ensuring everyone has what they need," said **Sabrina Marshall**, Behavioral Health Services Strategic Planning and Administration manager. "I think Victor is a real superstar."

Malof has worked for the County 20 years, starting when it was just the Social Services Agency. He is currently the Behavioral Health Services IT Coordinator.

Malof has been working lately on two major projects for his department. Malof coordinated the planning, selection and installation of all the necessary equipment and furniture to give Behavioral Health a training and video conferencing center in the administration building. He did the same with annex offices across the street - a location where more than 3,000 people will be trained each year.

Malof has advanced the Agency mission and principles by ensuring that essential IT services are available in times of crisis. "He took the initiative to establish emergency priority service with AT&T, so that during the wildfires in October 2007, Mental Health Services executive staff was able to communicate via BlackBerry or cell phone even if all circuits were busy," said Madison.

"I love working here," said Malof. "It's been very rewarding and it's been a good journey. I have seen myself grow a lot."

### Director's Call-In

Share your ideas and concerns with

HHSA Director  
Nick Macchione

Director of Operations  
Paula Landau-Cox

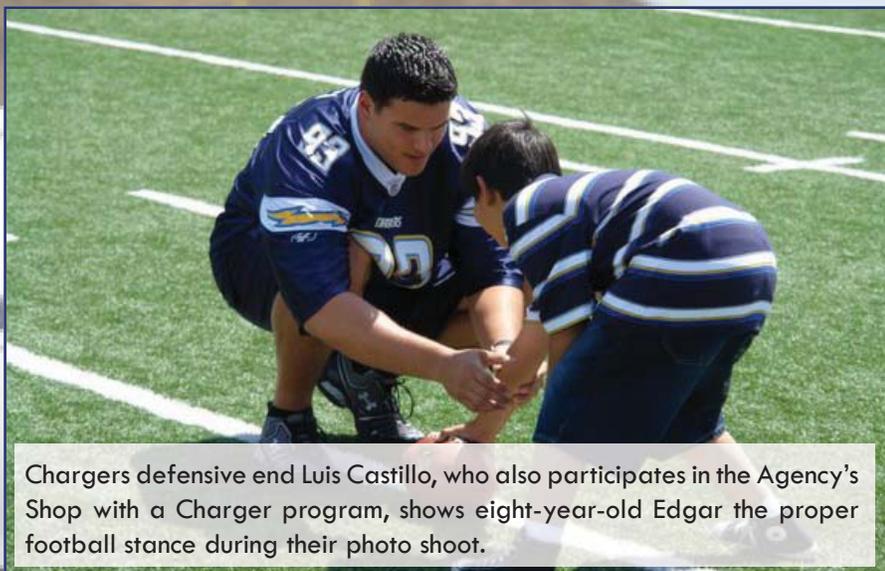
First Friday of each month 8 a.m. - noon  
(619) 515-6555



## Adoptions Teams up with Chargers on Calendar



Nury (left) and Estevan (right) are hoisted on the bulging biceps of 6'6", 309-lb Chargers defensive end Igor Olshansky for their calendar photo.



Chargers defensive end Luis Castillo, who also participates in the Agency's Shop with a Charger program, shows eight-year-old Edgar the proper football stance during their photo shoot.



Nury, 4, (left) and Estevan, 6, (right) are all smiles when they see the football tossed their way.



Edgar hugs the football and is all smiles after meeting Luis Castillo. Edgar is posing with his social worker **Jennifer Hancock**.

The transformation is instant. The minute one of the children from San Diego County Adoptions sets foot on the San Diego Chargers practice field, the shy, quiet, often distant child is replaced by a smiling, giggling youth who can hardly control his enthusiasm. "The kids light up and it makes your day," said **Nicole Champagne**, Adoptions Supervisor.

This is the fifth year for the Leap of Faith calendar and the second year featuring the Chargers. "It feels good," said Igor Olshansky. Olshansky is a 6-foot-6, 309-lb defensive end for the Chargers. It's his second year participating in the calendar. "I've gotten feedback and it really does make a difference."

"To see how the players react to the kids, it's just so sweet," said Lisa Peirce, the photographer for the calendar. Peirce first volunteered her time and talents seven years ago. "I went to San Diego County Adoptions and said, 'I'm a photographer and I'd like to use my time to give back to you guys.' I thought kids, kids, kids and a light bulb went off!"

The Leap of Faith calendar has always been a heart-warming success, but partnering with the Chargers has been a tremendous boost to the project. "We had a huge bump in interest in January and we attribute that to the calendar," said Champagne. Most of the children featured are adopted, and demand for the calendars has doubled since teaming with the Chargers.



## Human Resources Opens Doors to San Diego City Schools

A new community partnership is allowing the Agency's Human Resources Department to give several San Diego students the experience of working for the Health and Human Services Agency.

A San Diego High School biology class of 17 students were the first to benefit from the partnership. The group took a field trip to the Rosecrans facility, enjoying tours and presentations by a variety of programs. The Public Health lab, vital records, HIV mobile unit, medical records, pharmacy and Tuberculosis Control each had representatives speak to the students about their programs, why they work for the county, and the experience and education needed to get their jobs.

Human Resources recently signed an agreement with San Diego City Schools District for the 2008-2009 school year. In addition to facilitating a field trip, the department hopes to get involved in making presentations at high schools and participating in their job fairs. Additionally, they are providing job internship and job shadow opportunities for the students. This summer, six interns from San Diego High School will be placed at various County locations.



*Tanya Roome from Tuberculosis Control speaks to a biology class from San Diego High School and tells the group about going out into the community and doing presentations.*

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**Chief Administrative Officer - Walter F. Ekard**

**Health & Human Services Agency Director - Nick Macchione**



*Ruth Cooksey, Human Services Specialist, provides information to shoppers at the City Heights Farmers' Market. The market is the first in San Diego County to allow food stamp purchases.*

## Taking it to the Streets: Food Stamps Debut at First Farmers' Market

Finding fresh, quality, locally grown foods is now easier for the 78,000 residents of City Heights. A new farmers' market, in one of the county's most ethnically diverse neighborhoods, is the first in San Diego to allow Food Stamp recipients to use Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local growers.

"The City Heights Farmers' Market answers the 'Call to Action: Childhood Obesity Action Plan' for San Diego County," said Supervisor **Ron Roberts**. "We hope that communities throughout the county will follow City Heights' example and make affordable, high quality fresh fruits and vegetables available."

Market organizers hope that an EBT accessible farmers' market will increase Food Stamp Program participation. Ten shoppers filled out applications and many more took information on the program during the first day.

The expansion of healthy and affordable food options are integral parts of the San Diego County Childhood Obesity Action Plan. Developing environments that support healthy choices by asking residents to be a key driving force for change is one means to ending childhood obesity in San Diego County.

## Thank You Poll Workers

Nearly 700 County employees worked the polls for the June 3rd primary. The Agency contributed greatly to this effort.

By percentage, 28 percent of the Director's office and 20 percent of HHSA Information Technology participated. Child Welfare Services, with 32 employees, and North Central Region, with 31, had the most employees working the polls.

It's not too early to sign up for the November presidential election. Make sure you fill out a poll worker application today! You must indicate on the form that you are an HHSA employee.

County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency

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### Section Editors

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Financial & Support Services: Donna Matta

Mental Health: Sabrena Marshall  
North Central Region, North Coastal Region,  
North Inland Region: Nina Constantino  
Public Health: Wilma Wooten  
South Region: Jayne Reinhardt



*Pictured from left to right: René Santiago, Deputy Director, Central & South Regions; Ronald Wicks, Internal Revenue Service, and Greg Cox, Chairman, San Diego County Board of Supervisors.*

## Central Region Celebrates... Taxes?

The month of May marked Community Action Month and to celebrate, Chairman **Greg Cox** joined Community Action Partnership of Central Region to honor the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign partners and volunteers at a recognition event. More than 100 volunteers and campaign partners attended. Twenty volunteers were recognized with the Spirit of Community Action Award for going above and beyond the call of duty during this past tax season.

This tax season, more than 300 volunteers helped County residents file state and federal income tax returns at over 75 tax preparation sites during the 2008 EITC campaign. According to Ronald Wicks of the Internal Revenue Service, the savings to taxpayers who had their taxes prepared at the County's EITC tax preparation sites totaled more than \$5.8 million dollars. Though final numbers have not been received, preliminary numbers indicate that more than 29,500 state and federal returns were filed with over \$6.5 million in refunds from the Earned-Income Tax Credit.

### Renew Friendships at Decaders Lunch

Current and retired employees of the Agency with 10 or more years of service are invited to the Decaders' annual luncheon scheduled for Friday, October 3rd at Tom Ham's Lighthouse.

The lunch provides an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. Decaders was first organized in 1942.

The cost is \$25 per person. Please contact Decaders president DeLores Krenz at (858) 278-1462 for further information or send an email to Marge Rach at MRach77918@aol.com

## Spring Fling Fun for Families

The Adoption Spring Fling is an event that brings together children in need of a permanent family with families who have been approved to adopt. This year, the 7th annual Adoption Spring Fling brought together 35 children and 98 families in a picnic environment with a variety of carnival games, a clown, the Padre Friar, a fire truck and a police car that provided rides. Future adoptive families helped run the games, as well as participated with the children in various activities.

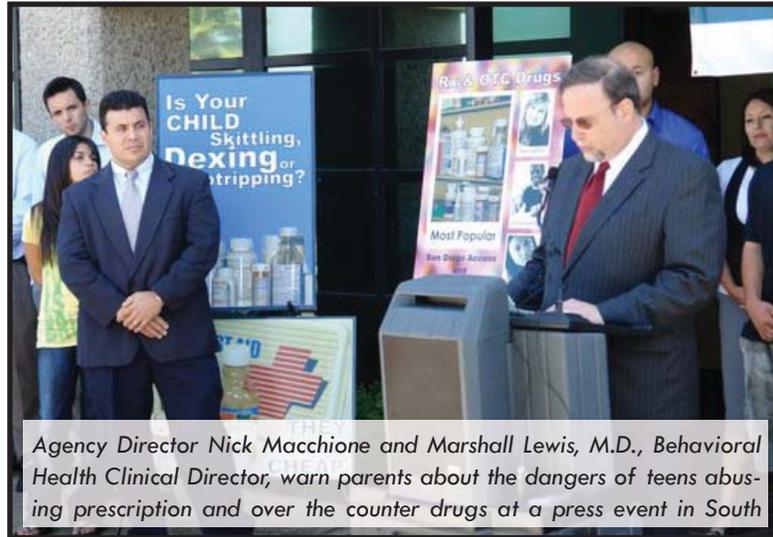
The Spring Fling has been highly successful in making the dream of a permanent home a reality for many waiting children.

## North Regions Honor Foster Families

Foster families enjoyed a fun-filled day June 21st with a barbeque picnic, live entertainment, a health and resource fair, and activities for children of all ages at Green Oak Ranch in Vista.

Agency Director **Nick Macchione** hosted the special awards ceremony honoring outstanding North County foster and kinship families and community members. The picnic was a partnership between HHSA; New Alternatives, Inc.; Straight from the Heart; and Connected Through Kids. It was sponsored by Supervisor **Bill Horn**, whose generosity made the event possible.

More than 800 North County children are in foster care and on any given day at least 50 children are awaiting placement into foster homes. Without the dedication and support of foster parents, kinship families and community members, many North County children would be placed far from their schools, activities and most importantly, the relationships with friends and family. These connections are crucial to a child's well being. In addition to keeping children in their communities, foster parents are dedicated caregivers providing love and support to a child when it is needed most.



*Agency Director Nick Macchione and Marshall Lewis, M.D., Behavioral Health Clinical Director, warn parents about the dangers of teens abusing prescription and over the counter drugs at a press event in South*

## San Pasqual Academy Neighbors Wins National Intergenerational Award

The San Pasqual Academy Neighbors (SPAN) intergenerational mentoring program won the first Intergenerational Shared Site Best Practices Award from Generations United and the MetLife Foundation. The program received a \$2,500 award and was highlighted in a report released at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. on June 5th. The application was a joint venture between the SPAN Program and the Agency's Aging & Independence Services and Child Welfare Services. New Alternatives now has two award-winning intergenerational programs: Legacy Corps and SPAN.

