



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

April 17, 2014

To the Honorable City Council
of the City of Pasadena

Mayor and Councilmembers:

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

1. Housing Hall of Fame:

On May 22, 2014, William Huang, Director of Housing and Career Services will be inducted into the California Housing Consortium's Housing Hall of Fame. He will be the 17th inductee in the Public Sector category which includes six members from the State Legislature, a Governor and State Treasurer. This award, though honoring Mr. Huang's individual affordable housing achievements, is also a testament to the commitment and expertise of Pasadena's entire outstanding housing staff. The California Housing Consortium is the statewide 'big tent' housing organization representing the development, building, financial, and public sectors united in a non-partisan effort to advance affordable housing and community development across California.

Please join me in congratulating Bill on receiving this distinguished award.

2. Pacific Oaks College Honors Graduates from the Human Services and Recreation Department's Staff:

April 15, 2014, was a very special evening for a dozen staff members of the Human Services and Recreation Department who were honored with a dinner and graduation celebration at Pacific Oaks College and Children's School in Pasadena. Through collaboration initiated two years ago between Mercy Santoro, Director of Human Services and Recreation and Dr. Ezat Parnia, President of Pacific Oaks, staff members were able to take college level courses in early childhood development at no cost to them.

The program was sponsored by Human Services and Recreation Department with support from Pacific Oaks College. Students were required to attend classes and perform all study requirements on their own time. Students who completed 12 units were awarded a certificate of completion and students who attended some of the classes were given a

certificate of participation. The attached memorandum from Ms. Santoro provides additional information about this After School Adventure Program.

Congratulations to our employees receiving this honor and for your commitment to continued higher learning.

3. City Needs Volunteers to Help People with Disabilities at Disaster Shelters:

The City of Pasadena is building a new cadre of volunteers who have experience assessing the needs of people with disabilities and who also want to help during disasters at designated shelters. If you're interested in learning more, or know others who might want to join the Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST), start by attending a free, two-day training and informational seminar May 28-29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the First Church of the Nazarene, 3700 Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena.

The FAST training is part of a State effort to help a community create a pool of local volunteers with expertise in disability and knowledge of local disability resources. When Pasadena opens a disaster shelter, the City will ask local FAST members to visit the shelter, assess the functional needs of people with disabilities, and advise shelter staff on how best to meet those needs. I have attached a memorandum from Mercy Santoro, Director of Human Services and Recreation which provides additional information on this voluntary training program.

4. "Ball at City Hall" Benefit Gala April 19, 2014:

Tickets are still available for Dena Magazine's "Ball at City Hall" 6-10 p.m. this Saturday, April 19, in the Pasadena City Hall Courtyard, 100 N. Garfield Ave. This red carpet gala, along with a special edition of DENA Magazine, www.thedenamagazine.com, will benefit the Pasadena Idol teen singing competition produced by the City's Human Services and Recreation Department. Advance tickets are \$25.00; available at the Victory Park Recreation Center, 2575 Paloma St. Tickets also can be purchased at the door the day of the event for \$30.00. The attached memorandum from Mercy Santoro, Director of Human Services and Recreation provides additional information on this event.

Respectfully submitted,



JULIE A. GUTIERREZ
Assistant City Manager

JAG/dc
/attachment



MEMORANDUM – CITY OF PASADENA
Human Services and Recreation Department

DATE: April 16, 2014

TO: Michael Beck, City Manager

FROM: Mercy Santoro, Director – Human Services & Recreation

**SUBJECT: PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE HONORS GRADUATES FROM
THE HUMAN SERVICES AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT'S STAFF**

April 15, 2014, was a very special evening for a dozen staff members of the Human Services and Recreation Department who were honored with a dinner and graduation celebration at Pacific Oaks College and Children's School in Pasadena. Through collaboration initiated two years ago between Mercy Santoro, Director, and Dr. Ezat Parnia, President of Pacific Oaks, staff members were able to take college level courses in early childhood development at no cost to them. Dr. Parnia remarked at the event:



“Education is the great equalizer in this society. I am an immigrant and learned that important lesson 40 year ago.” The program was sponsored by Human Services and Recreation Department with support from Pacific Oaks College. Students were required to attend classes and perform all study requirements on their own time. Students who completed 12 units were awarded a certificate of completion and students who attended some of the classes were given a certificate of participation. The 12 units can also be applied toward a teaching permit from the State of California.

The Pacific Oaks education experience is unique in that it uses the life experience of the students to make the coursework meaningful. According to Mercy Santoro, “The goal in bringing this transformative learning experience was to encourage a stronger child centered focus in our after school program.” This emphasis on early childhood

development also aligns with the goals and targets of the City/School/Community Workplan in preparing Pasadena's young children for success in school and beyond. Many of the students attending classes were Site Coordinators from the After School Adventure Program. The change in focus for the program came from the staff and the parent feedback of the students served. This additional course work is now a requirement for Site Coordinators.

Also on hand to congratulate the graduates and participants were Steve Mermell, Assistant City Manager, Mercy Santoro, Director, Human Services and Recreation, Dr. Ezat Parnia, President Pacific Oaks College and Children's School, Dr. Patricia Breen, provost School Provost, and Jayanti Tambe, Assistant Professor, School of Education.

For more information about the City's After School Adventure Program please contact Darrell Walker at dwalker@cityofpasadena.net. For more information about the City of Pasadena, please visit www.cityofpasadena.net/humanservices.



MEMORANDUM – CITY OF PASADENA
Human Services and Recreation Department

DATE: April 16, 2014

TO: Michael Beck, City Manager

FROM: Mercy Santoro, Director – Human Services & Recreation

SUBJECT: City Needs Volunteers to Help People with Disabilities at Disaster Shelters

Do you have experience assessing the needs of people with disabilities? Are you interested in using your skills to help during disasters or emergencies?

The City of Pasadena is building a new cadre of volunteers who have experience assessing the needs of people with disabilities and who also want to help during disasters at designated shelters. If you're interested in learning more, or know others who might want to join our team, start by attending a free, two-day training and informational seminar May 28-29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the First Church of the Nazarene, 3700 Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena.

Volunteers who complete the two-day training will be eligible to join Pasadena's new FAST team-- **Functional Assessment Service Team** -- who will be called upon during times of emergencies or disasters to help the City assess the needs of people with disabilities who come to shelters.

The training is open to individuals who have at least two years' experience working with and assessing the needs of people with disabilities. The City expects those who take the training to make at least a two-year commitment to volunteer at disaster shelters.

The FAST training is part of a State effort to help a community create a pool of local volunteers with expertise in disability and knowledge of local disability resources. When Pasadena opens a disaster shelter, the City will ask local FAST members to visit the shelter, assess the functional needs of people with disabilities, and advise shelter staff on how best to meet those needs.

The City believes FAST will be critical for effective sheltering and support for people with disabilities, who sometimes have unique assistance needs and may require material resources with which shelter staff are unfamiliar.

According to Dolores Gibbs, Chair of the Accessibility and Disability Commission, "The Commission supports this training program because it will help insure that Pasadena's emergency and shelter sites meet the diverse needs of our community."

Training on May 28th and May 29th lasts from 9 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m. each day, and will feature presentations, discussion, and table top exercises.

Topics include:

- Aging and disability issues
- Shelter operation
- Resource ordering
- Emergency management
- Personal assistant services

To attend the FAST training, complete the attached application and return it to Robert Gorski by e-mail rgorski@cityofpasadena.net or by fax 626-798-5834 by **MAY 7, 2014**.

Also attached are a flyer about the FAST program and a document with responses to Frequently Asked Questions.

Further information is available from either Lisa Derderian or Robert Gorski or (contact information listed below), and from the state web site:
www.dss.cahwnet.gov/dis/PG1909.htm .

Lisa Derderian, Emergency Management Coordinator
Fire Department
lderderian@cityofpasadena.net ; 626-744-7267

Robert Gorski, Accessibility and Disability Coordinator
Human Services and Recreation
rgorski@cityofpasadena.net; 626-744-4782



**MEMORANDUM – CITY OF PASADENA
Human Services and Recreation Department**

DATE: April 16, 2014
TO: Michael Beck, City Manager
FROM: Mercy Santoro, Director – Human Services & Recreation
**SUBJECT: PUBLIC INVITED TO ‘BALL AT CITY HALL’ BENEFIT
GALA APRIL 19, 2014**

Tickets are still available for Dena Magazine’s “Ball at City Hall” 6-10 p.m. this Saturday, April 19, in the Pasadena City Hall Courtyard, 100 N. Garfield Ave. This red carpet gala, along with a special edition of DENA Magazine, www.thedenamagazine.com, will benefit the Pasadena Idol teen singing competition produced by the City’s Human Services and Recreation Department.

Advance tickets are \$25.00; available at the Victory Park Recreation Center, 2575 Paloma St. Tickets also can be purchased at the door the day of the event for \$30.00. Guests will enjoy delicious appetizers provided by Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, desserts from Kettle Corn & Stuff, live musical performances and the chance to bid on a variety of gifts.

Headlining the event will be DENA Magazine’s featured artist and renowned songstress, Allisone Crawford. Ms. Crawford has wowed many audiences, performing everywhere from the Olympic trials to Pasadena’s very own Rose Bowl Stadium. She has also performed for Mayor Bill Bogaard and starred in the musical “The Sound of Motown.” Also performing will be producer/recording artist Paco Swartz, singer/songwriter Brian “Laskey B” Laskey and Pasadena Idol 2013 winner Tori Harvey.

“Ball at City Hall” is sponsored by the City of Pasadena, The Label Records, Paco Swartz Music, S:Claz Productions, Hardway Enterprise LLC, Paseo Colorado, Los Angeles College of Music and Dolphin Party Rentals.

Event proceeds will go toward the 8th annual Pasadena Idol. The competition gives teens an opportunity to work with music professionals to develop their performing skills and vocal techniques.

For more information about "Ball at City Hall," contact Dolores Mendoza at (626) 744-7507. Stay connected to the City of Pasadena! Visit us online at www.cityofpasadena.net;