

Project Self-Sufficiency

City of Huntington Beach

SECOND QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

Speed Resource Fair:

In March 2010, Project Self-Sufficiency held a resource fair for participant families. Resources, information and camaraderie filled the event room. Exit surveys from the participants indicated their appreciation for the evening's providers. Comments included "awesome", "informative", "learned", "resources", "voice can be heard", "motivational".

The PS-S family wishes to thank all the providers who presented such great informa-

tion during this event. We were fortunate to have representatives from a wide variety of partnerships in the community.

The Huntington Beach Assistance League provided detailed information about how participants can utilize the clothing resources they offer; financial consultants from Citibank explained ways in which participants can repair their credit; representatives from Coastline Community College, Goldenwest College and Orange Coast College answered questions about

budget cuts and ways to keep education a viable option; the Project Self-Sufficiency Foundation generously gave out words of support and encouragement.

Thank you to the National Charity League who provided the childcare.

Future events of this type will be held as we move toward providing useful resources and assistance for the single parent families as they journey toward their self-sufficiency.

Thank You All

UPCOMING EVENTS

June Recognition Program:

We will celebrate the accomplishments of our single parents at Edison Community Center, 21377 Magnolia Street, Huntington Beach, on Tuesday, June 15th from 5-7:30 PM.

Michele Hart, PS-S Foundation Chair, will open the event and Huntington Beach Mayor, Cathy Green, will offer congratulations and encouragement to everyone. Vickie Hay, CalWorks Coordinator from Orange Coast College, will be the keynote speaker.

The PS-S Foundation will present scholarships, and dignitaries from local government agencies

will present Certificates of Achievement to participants.

We are very fortunate to have Erika's Catering cater the dinner again this year.

Do not miss out on this exciting event. PS-S participants and children will also be providing entertainment.

All PS-S participants are invited and encouraged to attend with their children. What a wonderful evening watching parents being honored for their hard work.

Child care will be provided by National Charity League for the younger ones.



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

I've now been in Huntington Beach for about four months and the Program Coordinator for Project Self-Sufficiency for a little over two months. In that time, I've gotten to meet all of our participants, meet my new City of HB family, and many others who are deeply committed to this program.

It's remarkable when one realizes that this small but mighty program is one of only two in the nation that are still in business. Because of the dedication of a small but mighty group of people, we are still here.

This is a wonderful parallel for the dedication and fortitude of our parents. I know the saying has been overused in recent years, but it really does take a village. Not just to bring the children along, but for the parents as well who struggle daily to put food on the table and keep a roof over their family's head while doing extraordinary things in school.

As I've said before, this feels like a

full circle moment for me. As a single parent myself, struggling to survive with two small boys, someone put the idea in my head that I could go to school. Really? Me? I was at the Tacoma Community College assessment office to get a high school diploma or a GED. I'd quit high school many years before and I always carried that shame around that I was a high school dropout.

I fibbed on job applications so I could get decent jobs to feed my babies. Or I was on public assistance and working under the table. No one ever checked to see if I really did have that diploma. But I knew.

So, I showed up that day to take an assessment test at TCC. The woman called me in her office and said, "Forget the high school diploma; you need to go to college. You have what it takes to go to college. Don't limit yourself."

This was after years of being told that

I wasn't going to amount to anything, and a big part of me believed that. Suddenly, a whole new world of opportunity presented itself. I had lots of doubts. How would I pay for it? Was I too old? Surely I will be the oldest person in the classroom! What did I want to be when I grew up? Could I finally finish something?

With the help of this wonderful person in the assessment office, a few good friends and family support, I embarked on a new journey. My four year plan took six years. I graduated with honors and two degrees from Tacoma Community College and then my BA from the University of Washington.

Now I get to sit across from our participants and say, "you can do this! Yes, it's hard, but so worth it." I applaud each of our clients for showing up everyday for themselves and their children and for embracing the challenge to become self sufficient!

EVENTS TO CELEBRATE DURING QUARTER 2

May: Mother's Day Sunday May 9, 2010



A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word Mother- *Unknown*

May 9 & June 16, 2010:

HB Art Walk - culture & fun for the whole family (begins at 538 Main St.)

June: Father's Day Sunday June 20, 2010



Any man can be a father, but it takes a special person to be a dad - *Proverb*

June 19 & 20, 2010:

Chili at the Beach. Non-profit chili cook-off benefitting CHOC. Stroll through downtown HB enjoying restaurant fare, kids activities & vote for your favorite chili. (301 Main St.)



Summer officially begins June 21st.

June 29, 2010:

Festival of Folktales. Storytellers present stories from around the world - international music, marionettes, dancers, crafts and children's theater. (HB Library, 7111 Talbert.)



July: Independence Day Sunday July 4, 2010:

106th Annual HB 4th of July Parade (Main St. between PCH & Yorktown.)

Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day to all Project Self-Sufficiency Single Parents



2010 JUNE RECOGNITION PROGRAM HONOREES



Shauna A.	Completed 1st semester with 4.0 GPA	12/09	CSULB
Giovana C.	Teacher permit	1/10	Santa Ana College
Christina C.	Completed & passed Anatomy & Physiology	12/09	Cypress College
Sarai C.	Completed 2nd to last semester to receive AS & SLPA certification	5/10	OCC/SAC
Athene D.	AA	5/10	OCC
Brenna D.	AA	5/10	OCC
Jessica D.	BA - Business Administration	8/10	CSUF
Shannon F.	AA & accepted to CSUDH	5/10	GWC
Tom F.	Completed 34.5 units; elected president of EOPS/Care Club	12/09	GWC
Teneen F.	Criminal Justice Certificate	5/10	GWC
Linda F.	Finished pre-reqs & started application process for RN program	12/09	GWC & CCC
Dawnn H.	Completed 6 units	7/09	Santa Ana College
Catherine H.	Applied to GWC nursing program to obtain BSN	2/10	OCC
Darcy J.	4.0 GPA	5/09	CSULB
Keriann Q.	Completed pre-reqs for nursing program	6/10	SCC & SAC
Nicole S.	Completed all lower div. classes to trans. to university for nursing	12/09	GWC
Shannin T.	AA	5/10	OCC
Katie U.	Dean's list 4 As, 1 B	12/09	OCC



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It is great to welcome new participant families to PS-S. We look forward to helping with their journeys to self-sufficiency.

Amaris B. & daughter; **Athene D.** & son;
Patricia E. & son; **Karama P.** & children;
and **Natalie W.** & son

Thank You to a Generous Community



Families in Project Self-Sufficiency were treated to a wonderful Easter by many individuals, groups and businesses through the Adopt-a-Family event. Project Self-Sufficiency staff wants to thank all of you who participated and made the Easter holiday so special for the single parent families in PS-S.



Thank You! Happy Spring to Everyone!

Information for Project Self-Sufficiency Participants

“Life is too deep for words,
so don't try to describe it,
just live it.”

~ C. S. Lewis



ACHIEVING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Funding for children's summer programs will be available starting May 3, 2010. On a first come - first served basis, the funds will be allocated for reimbursement to participants for enrollment of their eligible children in summer activities. Please contact the PS-S office for more information: 714-536-5263/5439.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION:

Participants who have not yet been in to sign the new program forms, need to call and take care of this requirement as soon as possible. Without these forms, there may be some instances where help that you want to receive will not be available for you.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE:

Housing case management continues for participant families, and some have already been qualified to receive housing assistance and case management. If you have not been in to discuss this new program benefit, please call to schedule your appointment. (714-536-5439)

LOGO CONTEST:



Current Logo



New Logo

Submissions for the new Project Self-Sufficiency logo need to be in the PS-S office by May 31, 2010. Refer to information flyer that was sent to you March 18, 2010.

