

NOVEMBER 2012



wesley  
Health Centers

## ON THE PULSE — EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF OUR CEO



Al Ballesteros, CEO

Dear Staff,

On October 16, 2012, 350 guests attended the JWCH Hand and Heart Gala at the Dorothy

Chandler Pavilion. The honorees were the Social Security Administration for our BEST (Benefits Entitlement Services Team), Libby Boyce, the homeless coordinator for the County of Los Angeles, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Dr. Dennis Bleakley. Dr. Dennis Bleakley a JWCH physician at the Center for Community Health was honored for his dedication and years of service to the homeless in Skid Row. The presentation to Dr. Bleakley was aided by several of our patients who are members of a writer and actor's group called the LAPD or Los Angeles Poverty Department. The group wrote a story and performed it about the rich history of JWCH Institute and Dr. Bleakley's work at the Center for Community Health.

Congratulations once again Dr. Bleakley and our BEST Program. Herb Schultz, Region Nine Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Obama Administration attended our event. Mr. Schultz praised

JWCH for its continued work on behalf of underserved, uninsured and homeless persons and said what we do will become ever more critical as healthcare reform continues to roll out. Mr. Schultz also congratulated JWCH Institute on receiving successful grants from the federal government for services and to renovate our clinic sites. I would like to acknowledge the work of Tricia Waite in organizing the event and to the members of the host committee and those volunteers that made the 2012 Gala memorable.

### **Mini 12 Step House Renovation:**

As many of you may know, JWCH Institute operates a residential treatment facility for women and women with children called the Mini 12 Step House. It is located at San Pedro and 52nd Street. It provides treatment services, shelter, meals and support for women and their children. The Mini 12 Step House location is comprised of a main building, with 2 floors that houses 32 women with their children. Next door to the main house, are six bungalows which are not occupied and JWCH will be renovating these buildings beginning this month. We will be creating living and treatment space for approximately 12 additional women and women with children.

### **Bell Gardens Renovations:**

We just began the process to improve the space at the Bell Gardens Clinic by enlarging the dispensary and accessing the additional space which was the old boiler room. This will add additional square footage to the clinic for offices which are greatly needed at that site.

**Norwalk Re-build:** Shortly, we will commence the rebuilding of the Norwalk Health Center. The site will be moved into temporary trailers on the parking lot while the clinic is rebuilt. These renovations will create five additional exam rooms, an x-ray suite and will greatly improve the flow.

Al Ballesteros, MBA  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
[Aballesteros@jwchinstitute.org](mailto:Aballesteros@jwchinstitute.org)

### *Special Thanks*

to the Executive Committee Team and all Clinic Administrators.

Al Ballesteros  
Chief Executive Officer  
Andy Irie  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Brenda Sandoval  
Director of Operations Improvement and nursing  
Frances Bernanbe  
Director of Operations  
Jeanne Lam  
Chief Finance Officer  
Paul Gregerson, MD  
Chief Medical Officer  
Sergio Avina  
HIV Division Director



Daniela Espinoza  
Newsletter Editor

## 2ND ANNUAL BINGO NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA



On Wednesday, June 27th, the HIV Prevention and Care Programs Department hosted their fun filled 2nd annual Bingo Night Extravaganza at the Hamburger Mary's in West Hollywood. Hosted by Willam Belli, an American film and television actor best known for his recurring role as transsexual Cherry Peck in Nip/Tuck and RuPaul Drag Race. He has been in numerous feature films including American Wedding and Because I Said So. Willam Belli entertained the night away with the live auction and great prizes given through out the bingo night extravaganza, with all proceeds benefiting HIV Prevention and Care Programs for JWCH. We would like to congratulate the HIV Staff for all the hard work and dedication put into National HIV testing week.

**Kenneth Varela**  
 Multiple Morbidity Testing Unit  
[kvarela@jwchinsitute.org](mailto:kvarela@jwchinsitute.org)  
 Office: 213-353-1115  
 Twitter: @JWCH\_MTU

## 2ND ANNUAL NATIONAL HIV TESTING WEEK HEALTH FAIR



*“Take the test, Know your Status, Make a change”*

HIV Department and Mini 12 Step Solutions Resource center in collaboration with AHF Pharmacy, held our 2nd Annual National Health Test Week Fair on Saturday, June 30th. Fun games and prizes including a “Gong Show,” guest speaker Merrill Crump spoke about her life experiences to live with HIV for 23 years. Food and music sponsored by Young Men’s Connection (SAMHSA), Comprehensive HIV Intervention Project (CDC) and the LODi Project (HRSA) Special thanks to all the numerous health and wellness booths available for the public.



## WELCOME TO JWCH NEW HIRES!

SALAZAR	CRISTINA	LVN	6/1/2012
SCOTT	SHERRINE R.	C.O.W.	6/1/2012
RUIZ	JENNIFER	CASE MANAGER/MA	6/4/2012
SANTO	JERRI L.	PROGRAM COORDINATOR	6/20/2012
MCLAUGHLIN JR.	LEONARD	SR.COMMUNITY HEALTH	6/22/2012
TOWNSEND	GLORIA JEAN	VAN DRIVER	6/27/2012
PIETERSZ	JUDITH DANIELLE	NURSE PRACTITIONER	7/16/2012
WADA	JONATHAN M.	PHYSICIAN SPECIALIST	7/16/2012
CRUZ	DAVID	M.A./FRONT OFFICE	7/18/2012
CABEZAS	ANGIE M.	BILLING CLERK	7/23/2012
RODRIGUEZ-PIMENTEL	MISLEIDHY	MEDICAL ASSISTANT	7/23/2012
BLUFORD	NATALIA RENISE	LVN	8/1/2012
GARCIA	ELIZABETH E.	MEDICAL ASSISTANT	8/1/2012
MORENO	ERIKA	MEDICAL ASSISTANT	8/1/2012
MORRIS	CHERYL	PEER FAMILY ADVOCATE	8/1/2012
VELASQUEZ	RAUL H.	ADMINISTRATIVE ASST	8/1/2012
GOMEZ-GONZALEZ	MILEIDYS	PHYSICIAN SPECIALIST	8/13/2012
AGUILAR	MONICA Y.	MEDICAL ASSISTANT	8/20/2012
GUTIERREZ	JUAN CARLOS	MEDICAL ASSISTANT	8/20/2012
LEWIS	EUGENIE M	DIR OF MENTAL HEALTH	8/27/2012
ZAMORA	ERIK T.	SR. CHW	8/28/2012
GALLEGOS	PRISCILLA A.	CUSTOMER CARE	8/29/2012
HARVIN	GEMA J.	CASE MANAGER	8/29/2012
RUBAL	SADA R.	CUSTOMER CARE	8/29/2012
FERNANDEZ	NWANEE	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT	8/31/2012
FLORES	MARIA T	MEDICAL ASSISTANT	8/31/2012
GALLEGOS	ELIZABETH	MEDICAL ASSISTANT	8/31/2012
JONES	JOHN K.	PHYSICIAN SPECIALIST	8/31/2012
LOPEZ	CYNTHIA	CPSP COORDINATOR	8/31/2012
MARQUEZ	SANDY	MA/FRONT OFFICE	8/31/2012
CASTELLO	MARIO G.	MEDICAL ASSISTANT	9/4/2012
SOLIS	ROSA	MAINTENANCE WORKER	9/4/2012
CROFFORD	BARBARA J.	CLINICAL THERAPIST	9/7/2012
BARRIOS	ANA M.	LVN	9/17/2012
BURBACH	JAMES S.	LVN	9/21/2012

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS SAFETY AWARENESS

As you may be aware, Day Light Saving Time ends Sunday November 4, 2012. Thus the days will start to become darker earlier. So we wanted to remind you to continue to work together with your clinic administrator (supervisor) on safety precautions. The Executive Committee Team is still aware of your safety. We continue to review various options with your safety as our concern. Your clinic administrator (supervisor) has implemented a system where you do not leave your site without another person. Ideally, we would like staff to leave together and walk as a group especially at the end of the shift. Basically, we would like everyone to go to the parking lot with at least one other person. Everyone needs to be diligent in being aware of their environment. Staff should not take any unnecessary risks. Please contact your clinic administrator (supervisor) if you have any concerns about your safety. Thank you for continued hard work, dedication, and cooperation.

*Andy Irie, MBA*

*Chief Administrative Officer*

**Office:** (213) 484-1186 Ext 3011

# JWCH GALA CELEBRATING 52 YEARS

On October 16, 2012, JWCH Institute, Inc. held their Hand and Heart Gala at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. It was a wonderful event celebrating 52 years of providing services to the underserved residents of Los Angeles County. The event also acknowledged the work of the Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky (Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors), Elizabeth "Libby" Boyce (Los Angeles County Homeless Services Coordinator), Social Security Administration/BEST Program, and Dr. Dennis Bleakley (JWCH Physician Specialist also known as the "Skid Row Doc"). The event was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Dorothy



Chandler Pavilion and attended by 350 people. There were many important individuals and



organizations who attended the gala. They include the JWCH Institute Board Members, Mr. Herb Schultz (Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), Mr. Bill Fujioka (Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer), Kaiser Permanente, Quest Diagnostics, St. Francis Medical Center and other Los Angeles County officials and community partners. Prior to the start of the program, there was a silent auction in the main lobby. All the guest was treated to hors d'oeuvres and wine as they perused and placed bids on various items and art work for many local artists. It was also a time for the guest to socialize and

reacquaint themselves. The event's Master of Ceremony was John J. Durán, Councilman, City of West Hollywood. This was his second year as MC at the Hand and Heart gala and his humor kept the program

moving. After Dr. Morris opening remarks, the first of three musical selections were performed. After dinner, the second of three musical selections were performed. Al Ballesteros introduced Mr. Herb Schultz who thanked the agency for the continued hard work in providing services to the underserved. Each of the

honorees received artwork which showed the first recipient of SSI benefits thru the BEST Program. The honorees were also drawn behind the individual. Since each of the honorees had a role in assisting the process, it was appropriate tribute to their hand work and dedication. The Los Angeles Poverty Department (AKA LAPD) also performed a skit emphasizing many of Dr. Bleakley's



contributions to JWCH Institute, Inc., its patients, and community. Dr. Christine Klasen and Dr. Paul Gregerson presented Dr. Bleakley with his award. Social Security Department / BEST Program thanked JWCH Institute, Inc. for their partnership to obtaining benefits for the most vulnerable



and underserved populations. Elizabeth Boyce thanked JWCH for the honor. She acknowledged many of her mentors including our Board Member Kathleen House. She also accepted the award on behalf of many other Los Angeles County employees who have worked with

JWCH. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky thanked JWCH for the honor. He discussed JWCH continued commitment to serving the underserved including BEST Program and



Project 50. Entertainment for the evening was performed by Philip James Gilberti, John Walz, and Ryan Gallagher. There were three musical selections. Each of their passionate performances moved the crowd. Even after the performance, many members of crowd stayed to talk to the performers. The gala was a rousing success. The crowd enjoyed a wonder program with great food and outstanding entertainment. The night was all for a great cause. Who could ask for anything more?

*"Building a healthier community for over fifty-two years"*

For More information please contact:

**Tricia Waite**

*Development Associate*

**Office: (213) 484-1186**

**Email: [twait@jwchinstitute.org](mailto:twait@jwchinstitute.org)**



IT'S BINGO NIGHT!



# Bingo Night

## Extravaganza

Benefiting JWCH's  
HIV Prevention & Care Programs

Join us

Sunday, November 18, 2012 @ 9 p.m.

Hamburger Mary's - West Hollywood

\$20.00 suggested donation at the door includes:

- 10 Regular Bingo Cards
- 2 Grand Prize Bingo Cards

Live Auction & Great Prizes  
Bring along family, friends and co-workers  
for a fun filled evening!



Hamburger Mary's  
8288 Santa Monica Blvd  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
(323) 654-3800

Full Menu Bar  
Valet parking in  
restaurant lot  
Arrive early (by 8:00 p.m.)  
or call to reserve  
your seats



For more information,  
please contact  
Ken Varela at  
213.353.1115 or

## THE EXTRAORDINARY HWLA TEAM

Congratulations to The Enrollment Department, you have doubled the HWLA enrolled members to 8,161.  
Congrats to CCH for having the most enrolled patients.

### Our HWLA Enrollment Team:

- Juan Rivera—  
Eligibility Enrollment Program Manager
- Alberto Moreno—Center for Community Health
- Aileen Ramirez—Wesley Health Centers (Bellflower)
- Carlos Gonzalez—JWCH Medical (PATH)
- Carolina Nieto—Norwalk Regional Health Center
- Christina Villa, Bell Gardens Community Health Center
- Fitz Rodrigo—Center for Community Health
- Olivia Vera—Wesley Health Centers (Lynwood)
- Wendy Triana—Recuperative Care

Great Job and Thank You for all your hard work!  
For more information please contact:

Juan R. Rivera  
Manager, Patient Enrollment & Eligibility  
[jrivera@jwchinstitute.org](mailto:jrivera@jwchinstitute.org)

### As of September 2012, JWCH has enrolled into HWLA the following:

Covenant House:	26
Bellflower:	153
St. George:	7
JWCH La CADA:	11
Downtown Women Center:	13
Abbey Apt.:	23
Bell Shelter:	72
Weingart Recup:	516
PATH:	388
Lynwood:	494
Bell Gardens:	793
CCH:	2,222
<u>Norwalk:</u>	<u>729</u>
HWLA Total:	5,447
<u>Medi-cal HMO Total:</u>	<u>2,714</u>
Total:	8,161

*In Recognition Of All Your Hard Work  
You Are Cordially Invited  
to attend JWCH Institute, Inc.*

## ***Holiday Awards and Dinner***

*Friday, December 14, 2012*

*6:00 P.M. to 11:30 P.M.*

*Arrive early for surprise guest and  
Special Performance by*

***Vilma Diaz***

*from the Original Sonora Dinamita*

***Luminarias***

*Grand Ball Room*

*3500 Ramona Blvd.*

*Monterey Park, CA 91754*

*(323) 268-4177*

***\*Please RSVP***

***Complimentary entry will be for you and one guest.***

*If you would like to bring an  
additional guest, the cost will be  
\$40.00 per guest.*

*Please fill out the RSVP form and FAX it to (213) 413-3443  
by Monday, December 3, 2012*