

County DIGEST



JULY 15, 1994

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



L to R: Chair of the Board Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Mary Sherman-Jones and Eddy Tanaka - Department of Public Social Services, and John Wyrough, Chairperson - Community Support Advisory Board.

Employees Raise Over \$2 Million

DPSS Honored as "Department of Distinction"

Leading the way in the 1993 Community Support Campaign, seven County Departments garnered nine awards June 7 for helping County employees raise more than \$2 million to be distributed to six agencies serving Los Angeles County residents. The agencies include Asian Pacific Community Fund, Brotherhood Crusade, Earth Share, Los Angeles Womens' Foundation, United Latino Fund and United Way.

The Department of Public Social Services was honored as the "1993 Department of Distinction," by Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke who said DPSS "best exemplifies the objectives of the County's Community Support Program." Supervisor Burke explained that to receive this honor, DPSS's program was identified as "very successful, highly organized and emphasized a coordinated ef-

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Melesa Fary Pursues a Balanced Approach to Good Health

The daily activities of Melesa Fary, a Diagnostic Ultrasound Technologist at High Desert Hospital, illustrate her commitment to the importance of good health in both mind and body.

A County employee for 17 years, Melesa has contributed consistently to improved patient service.

Examples abound. She is currently working to establish a bone marrow donor identification program and actively participated in the hospital's "free physical examination program." Her neighborhood outreach activities include teaching basic first aid to community

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Parks and Judges Create "A Winner"

Harriman and Hunt agree to design a winning program.

- Bob Harriman, a Parks and Recreation supervisor, was searching for a labor force to maintain and improve County parks;

- Judge Jack Hunt, Pomona Municipal Court, was frustrated by watching individuals sentenced to jail time released in a day or two because of overcrowding.

The solution: Bob Harriman now supervises the Marshall Canyon Work Release Program which takes adults who have committed traffic or misdemeanor offenses and has them substitute physical labor in parks for time in jail and fines. As a result, Los Angeles County received \$1.7 million in free labor in 1993.

Last year, Pomona Municipal Court Judges Hunt, Thomas A. Peterson, Reginald Yates and Commissioner Joel Hoffman sentenced adults convicted of certain misdemeanor offenses to a total of 76,504 hours of Marshall Canyon Tree Farm work. For eight hours a day, about 125 individuals dig ditches,

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Jose Aron, left, and Marion Leon repair fencing near an equestrian campground.

Melesa Fary - Employee of the Month

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football players. Through her initiative, used equipment was located at USC Medical Center, installed at High Desert Hospital, and now provides increased services to patients and community.

As president of the Employee Activity Committee for two years and a member for 14 years, Melesa has designed recreational programs for employees that encourage a cohesive work force: she started the softball team and initiated a variety of employee trips including white water rafting and camping as well as visits to Catalina Island and Dodger baseball games.

For Melesa, caring does not stop at the end of her shift. Recognizing that self-esteem can be improved through education, Melesa started a neighborhood learning group for homeless children, teaching them to read, enjoy learning and under-

stand that "there is a way out." She volunteers at her church soup kitchen to feed the needy and is now working to establish a "health watch" program for the elderly and chronically ill in her neighborhood.

Some say great achievement requires a clear vision. Melesa's vision unquestionably includes a strong balance of good health - physical, mental and emotional.



Melesa Fary

Scientists Seek Families With Diabetic Histories

Families that have diabetic histories are being asked by researchers at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center to volunteer for a nationwide study being conducted to determine which genes cause diabetes and to eventually develop ways to prevent the disease.

Participant families must be Caucasians and should have at least two brothers and/or sisters with non-insulin dependent (adult onset or type 2) diabetes and at least four other family members, preferably who live in Southern California. Monetary compensation is included. Contact study coordinator Jane Brown at (310) 855 - 8451.

Learn the Facts About AIDS

All county employees are invited to attend a free 4 to 8-hour HIV/AIDS course entitled "Learn the Facts about AIDS," a workshop conducted by AIDS Programs staff. This workshop will increase staff knowledge, understanding and sensitivity about HIV infection and AIDS, correct misconceptions and diminish fears. Participants will be better equipped to provide more effective services where necessary. Please pre-register early for the course location near your area.

To register, call Alisa Jones at (213) 351 - 8138. For information call Alan Wu at (213) 351 - 8010 or Teresa Level at (213) 351 - 8076.

Get a Bumper Sticker

A limited supply of Rideshare bumper stickers are available for ridesharing employees. Just call Nancy Eiser at (213) 974 - 2637.

Parks and Judges Create "A Winner"

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build fences, plant trees, and repair pipelines in County parks and facilities such as the Ford Theater and the Hollywood Bowl. Harriman believes supervision is the key to the program's success: correctional officers trained in landscape and maintenance carefully direct the work teams.

"It's a labor force that's unpar-

alleled," says Harriman. "They're doing something productive and society is getting retribution for their crime," says Judge Hunt.

A worker at the Marshall Canyon Tree Farm sees an additional benefit to improving park grounds, explaining "It makes me feel good doing something for the area."



Supervisor Ed Edelman (R) congratulates Velia Rosales, Regional Recreation Director for her outstanding efforts in helping organize the Ed Edelman Tennis Clinic, an annual celebrity exhibition match which kicks-off a course of summer tennis instruction for low-income residents offered by the Department of Parks and Recreation. A special thanks to Rod Cooper (L) Parks Director.

Telebusiness Centers Triple Work Space

Telecommuting is alive and well in the Antelope Valley.

Expanded to two locations offering a total of 60 work stations, the Antelope Valley Telebusiness Centers were 80% occupied in June. The goal is 100%.

"We tripled the work space," said Supervisor Mike Antonovich. "Of course, Mother Nature helped in this effort," referring to the 6.8 January 17 earthquake which preceded the opening of the first Telebusiness Center.

For County employees already telecommuting from home in the Antelope Valley, the Telebusiness Centers offer convenient support services including fax machines, copiers and printers. And there's more.

Thanks to a recent donation from IBM, one of the Telebusiness Center partners, there are 40 stand-alone PCs available at the Centers as well as 10 lap-top PCs which can be checked out daily by those who telecommute from home.

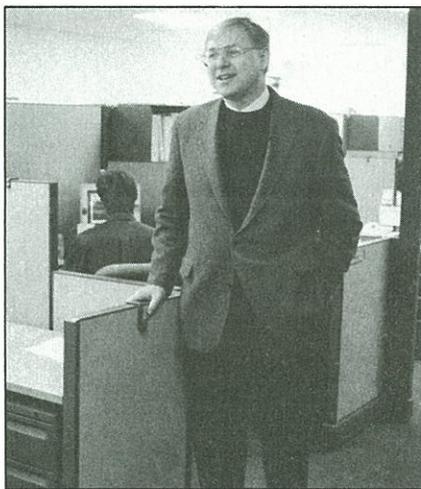
Utilizing grant monies from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and donations from private partners including IBM, Toshiba, and GTE, "this project is a shining example of a public-private partnership," said Supervisor Antonovich.

Those employees who use these Centers do more than add time and convenience to their lives. The Antelope Valley Telebusiness Center's telecommuters are estimated to eliminate more than 24,600 miles traveled, 576 hours of commuting time and 686 tons of pollutants per week.

Center One is located at 251 E. Avenue, K-6 Suite A, Center Two at 321 E. Avenue, K-4.

While Center Two is completely filled, space is still available at Center One. Participants can use the Centers one to five days a week.

If interested in finding out more about the Telebusiness Centers, contact (805) 726 - 7700 or (213) 974 - 2394.



Supervisor Mike Antonovich visits the Antelope Valley Telebusiness Centers.

Vacation This Summer? Remember These Safety Tips From Sheriff Block

The bags are packed; you're dashing out the door - VACATION!

WHOA partner! Before you say, "I'm outta here," remember these helpful hints for a happy homecoming:

1. Ask a neighbor or relative to collect your mail and newspaper on a daily basis.
2. Put your lights on timers so they go on and off at different hours of the day and night, both within your home and outside, too.
3. Make sure all doors and windows are locked and advise the person who is house sitting when you plan to return.
4. Leave a phone number and address where you can be reached in case of an emergency with the house sitter.
5. Notify your local police agency of your vacation plans.

"Remember, let's make this a memorable summer for you and your family and keep safety uppermost in our minds," urges Sheriff Sherman Block.

Project Good Neighbor

County employees in partnership with Brotherhood Crusade and Shell Oil volunteered on Saturday, May 14, to help serve a hot meal to the homeless and families in the downtown area recovering from the trauma of the recent earthquake. The "Friends Serving Friends" event was part of the County's Project Good Neighbor, a program approved in February by the Board of Supervisors allowing County employees to donate their time and talents in special volunteer projects to assist disaster recovery efforts.



Volunteers serve hot meals to the homeless and families recovering from the earthquake.

Employees Support Community

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fort among employees, management and labor" during a particularly difficult and challenging year.

Four departments earned 1993

campaign awards for the highest percentage of participation on payroll deduction.

- Group A (2,000 or more employees) Public Works, Harry

W. Stone, Acting Director.

- Group B (500 - 1,999 employees) Parks and Recreation, Rod Cooper, Director.
- Group C (100 - 499 employees) - Chief Administrative Office, Sally R. Reed, CAO.
- Group D (99 employees or less) - Military & Veterans Affairs, Joseph N. Smith, Director.

Four departments earned 1993 campaign awards for the highest cash contribution:

- Group A - Public Social Services, Eddy S. Tanaka, Director.
- Group B - Mental Health Department, Dr. Areta Crowell, Director.
- Group C - Chief Administrative Office, Sally R. Reed, CAO
- Group D - Museum of Natural History, Dr. Craig C. Black, Director.

Supervisor Burke thanked all departmental campaign chairs and coordinators for their dedication to this worthwhile fund-raising activity. County Labor Unions and Management Council cosponsored the campaign awards.



"Thank you, County employees" from six FDAs (Fund Distribution Agencies) L to R: Tony Espinoza, United Latino Fund; Jorge Bahamonde, United Way; Freda Hinsche Otto, L.A. Women's Foundation; Belinda Teitel, Earth Share; Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; Leo Gray, Brotherhood Crusade; and Jimmy Dichirico, Asian Pacific Community Fund.

Summer Fun: Jazz Award Films

During the summer months of July and August, the Museum of Art is featuring jazz and film retrospectives of actress Bette Davis and director John Ford.

FRIDAY NIGHT JAZZ (5:30 - 8:30 pm Museum Plaza, free)

July 22, 29, 22, Horace Tapscott Trio - Horace Tapscott, piano, Robert Miranda, bass, Fritz Wise, drums

August 5, 12, 19, 26, Bennie Maupin and Friends

SUNDAY BIG BAND JAZZ (afternoon, Times Mirror Central Court, free)

July 17, The Bill Holman Band
August 14, The Med Flory Band and the L.A. Voices

All films are \$4/each for members and \$6/each for non-members of the Museum:

BETTE DAVIS FILMS

Friday, July 22, 1 pm and 8 pm
The Corn is Green; Bordertown

Saturday, July 23, 8 pm Guest Appearance Rod Taylor; The Cattered Affair; Pocketful of Miracles

Friday, July 29, 1 pm and 8 pm
Hush, Hush...Sweet Charlotte; Dead Ringer

Saturday, July 30, 8 pm Death on the Nile; The Whales of August

JOHN FORD FILMS

John Ford programs screen on Fridays only at 1 and 8 pm, with a 10-minute intermission between films.

August 5, The Iron Horse; The Searchers

August 12, Mother Machree; Pilgrimage

August 19, Guest Appearance, June Lang; Wee Willie Winkie; Mary of Scotland; Screen Test of Katharine Hepburn

August 26, Guest Appearance Gloria Stuart; Young Mr. Lincoln; The Prisoner of Shark Island

For additional information, call (213) 857 - 6522.

County DIGEST

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