

together, we broaden our reach





Dear Friends,

Just by linking hands and wrists, two people can carry another who needs help. Perhaps you learned this in Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

In a similar way, by joining with others, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services weaves a strong and wide safety net for thousands of children, adults and seniors. Our partners include our public schools, senior centers, places of worship, local businesses, police departments, other non-profits, and so many more—including our clients.

All of us are more effective and also more fulfilled through our connectedness, especially when it flows both ways. A truly whole person can both give and receive. Persons with mental illness and substance abuse disorders have unique talents and much to contribute. The professionals who help have much to learn from those they serve. And, sometimes the two roles overlap.

To illustrate the power of both giving and receiving, in this Annual Report we highlight four special connections between Didi Hirsch and the community. There are so many more we could share—from the 23 year-old with bipolar disorder who inspires high school students to seek help by sharing his story, to the mother who testified in Sacramento on behalf of services that might have prevented her 13 year-old son's suicide.

You also have lent a hand. Your in-kind gifts, donations and volunteer work have helped those who have lost so much hold onto their hope. We are deeply grateful to you for contributing to our network of care. We hope your life has been enriched as well.

STANLEY D. LELEWER Chair, Board of Directors

KITA S. CURRY, PH.D President/CEO

or Kta S. Cung









giving back

Satisfaction in life can come from many sources. It may come from our work or a favorite hobby; from our friends, our families or a pet. A common misconception is that life's simple pleasures are beyond the reach of those with a mental illness. Such stereotypes are deadening and isolating. The members of Didi Hirsch's Clubhouse and Wellness Centers are breaking those stereotypes all the time. Throughout the year, they look for ways to give back and support their community. From picking up flotsam with Heal the Bay to joining United Way's Walk to End Homelessness, throughout the year they give back to their community. These photos show some of our clients with ownerless pets from a local "no kill shelter." Every week they faithfully walk and nurture them while these abandoned pets wait patiently for a home. The result of their work is joy, satisfaction and a sense of being needed. All the things that all of us need.

sharing

In our society, self esteem and pride are formed not only by what we do, but also by what we have. Having little to call your own is especially humiliating for children. In families that cannot afford to exchange gifts, this can make the holidays a time of shame and sorrow instead of joy. Luckily there are people like the teachers, children and parents at Echo Horizons School who think of others who are less fortunate over the holidays. For many years, the Echo Horizons community has pooled savings and allowances to purchase gifts for the families at our Mar Vista Center. These gifts make a huge difference at Mar Vista where poverty is but one of the children's challenges, which range from anxiety and depression to a history of abuse and neglect. The children and parents at Mar Vista were so grateful that they made a thank-you scrapbook, which a student from Echo Horizons is holding in the accompanying photo. Among the many heartwarming messages and drawings inside was this note: "I am a single mother working part time. This is a blessing because I had already had a talk with my kids telling them I couldn't get them anything but thanks to you they'll have something to open Xmas day." In this holiday exchange, the children at both Didi Hirsch and Echo Horizons learned a priceless life lesson—that generosity is "twice blest, blessing him that gives and him that receives."





making choices

Most of us take the simple act of choosing our clothes for granted, but the impoverished and homeless rarely have that luxury. They often are forced to wear what they find or are given, not what they have chosen. This can erode ones dignity and identity. The men and women at our Crisis Residential program, Jump Street, arrive in the midst of an acute episode of mental illness. Often they come straight from the streets or a psychiatric hospital with only the clothes on their back; some even have arrived in hospital gowns. Through a special partnership with the Jewish Women's Council Thrift Store, which is down the street from Jump Street, residents have the opportunity to make their own choices while getting a new wardrobe. They take great pride in selecting clothes that suit them — in size, color and style. They are able to do this because the Jewish Women's Council gives a \$50 voucher to each person who needs clothes at Jump Street. They may use it to select clothes just as if it were their own cash. With quality merchandise and most prices under \$5.00, the money goes a long way. The chance to select ones own clothes goes even further in restoring clients' dignity and hope.

moving forward

Approaching a new person can be daunting in the best of circumstances. Approaching a new life after years of substance abuse is downright frightening. One of the few residential treatment programs in the County where women may live with their young children or even give birth, Via Avanta serves women whose lives are far more complex than our stereotypes. Although each woman has a unique story to tell, it often includes childhood trauma and poverty, domestic violence and victimization on the streets, as well as depression and other mental illnesses for which they have self-medicated with drugs and alcohol. For this reason, Via Avanta uses a supportive, communal model developed specifically for women rather than an in-your-face model developed for men. This approach meshes perfectly with the mission of the non-profit Moving Up — which builds women up by teaching them life-skills rather than tearing them down. As the photo illustrates, Moving Up helps women find work by teaching them everything from computer skills and resume preparation to how to start off an interview and how to dress to impress. Whether it's a reassuring pat on the shoulder as a woman dons a donated suit or a handshake to kick off a mock interview, Moving Up's program exemplifies the theme of this Annual Report, "helping hands."



Family of Services

Adult Services

SUPPORT GROUPS

We offer a wide variety of support groups for adults including Mindfulness Meditation, Management of Anxiety and Panic, Grief and Loss, Depression, and Socialization. In addition, we offer support groups for caregivers of older adults with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia as well as people caring for frail elderly family members.

CRISIS RESIDENTIAL CARE

Jump Street and Excelsior House are crisis residential treatment centers, providing a 28-day program for adults experiencing serious problems due to mental illnesses. Residents may have been homeless or at risk of homelessness. The program gets them stabilized, provides treatment for their mental illnesses, finds long-term housing and connects them to on-going treatment programs.

Intensive Mental Health Services/Full Service Partnerships

To make accessing care as simple as possible for clients with severe mental illnesses, we offer Drop-in Centers at our Culver and Inglewood sites. At the Drop-in Centers, individuals can receive a mental health assessment, socialize. connect with other services, and more. The program also partners with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, whose peer advocates are onsite providing support and inspiration. Our Drop-in Centers also feature a newly created Wellness Center that offers an array of classes, groups and service projects, which foster physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Members regain old

skills and develop new ones, breaking down the barriers that have isolated them from the community. With greater confidence and improved physical and mental health, they develop relationships outside the Agency, including volunteering for local community groups and returning to work. The Wellness Center is self-governed by its members, but supported by nursing and mental health staff members, who also conduct groups for participants.

OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FOR ADULTS

Programs at our headquarters and Inglewood Center provide outpatient mental health services to adults with serious mental illnesses, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and severe depression. Our trained mental health staff provides individual and group therapy, case management, and psychiatric medication management.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Our employment services help adults with chronic mental illness find a job. Clients learn computer skills, resume building, and interview strategies, such as how to dress appropriately for job interviews. After finding employment, clients continue to receive supportive services to help hem be successful in the work place.

Child & Family Services

ASSISTANCE TO ABDUCTED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES Didi Hirsch is a founding member of the Los Angeles Child Abduction Task Force, a multidisciplinary

team that includes the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Los Angeles City District Attorney's Office, local law enforcement bureaus, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The task force works to find, reunite, and counsel children and families that have been affected by abduction.

CALWORKS

We provide assessment and mental health treatment for people on public assistance, through a state program that helps reduce the barriers to employment and increase self-sufficiency.

CHILD ALERT

The Child Alert program offers specialized mental health services for children who have experienced or are at risk of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect. It helps children and families cope with the resulting problems, and also helps prevent further instances of abuse. Outpatient services include assessment, individual, group, and family psychotherapy, parenting education groups, psychiatric medication management, and case management for children and parents.

Intensive Mental Health Services for Children

We provide in-home and community based services to children and families who have demonstrated a need for temporary, intensive mental health services. A therapist /case manager team works closely with families to develop their strengths, identify new ways of functioning as a family, and connect with needed resources to provide stability to the family.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Programs at our Metro, Inglewood, Mar Vista and S. Mark Taper Foundation Centers provide outpatient mental health services to children and youth experiencing depression, anxiety, psychosis, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, abuse, delinquency, and/or other issues. Our trained mental health staff provides individual, group, and family therapy, as well as case management and medication management.

PARENTING EDUCATION

We offer parenting classes to the community, particularly to monolingual Spanish-speaking parents, that incorporate information on positive and effective discipline techniques, child development, anger management, and supportive resources.

SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

We provide mental health services to children and teens in approximately 30 schools across all of the Los Angeles County Service areas where we are located. Therapists work closely with teachers to provide early intervention, prevent the development of further emotional and behavioral problems, and help increase a child's chance of success in the classroom.

Substance Abuse Services

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING PROGRAMS

The Driving Under the Influence (DUI) 'First Offender' Program at our Metro Center is designed

for those mandated to participate in a DUI program. It focuses on heightening awareness of the consequences of alcohol and other drug impairment, and preventing further incidents of driving under the influence, through education and counseling groups. The Drug Diversion Program, also at our Metro Center, serves court-referred individuals with a substance abuse problem, who gain awareness about the negative effects of substance abuse as well as healthy coping skills to prevent future incidents leading to arrest and incarceration.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND SERVICES CENTER (CASC)

The CASC assesses the mental health and substance abuse treatment needs of CalWORKs, General Relief and Proposition 36 (The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act). It connects clients to local treatment providers and serves as a resource center for alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs in the western area of Los Angeles County.

COMMUNITY PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Using a broad range of public education, skill-building and community intervention activities, this program seeks to increase individual, family and community resiliency factors that will help prevent alcohol and drug related problems in young people and their families. One of the strategies used is Beyond Bias: Think Peace, a program which teaches prejudice reduction, conflict resolution, and peer mediation.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment for Adolescents and Adults

We provide individual, family, and group outpatient drug, alcohol, and other substance abuse counseling at our Culver-Palms, Mar Vista, and Metro Centers. At Mar Vista, specialized services are provided to adolescents, with a particular

focus on family intervention. At our Culver-Palms and Metro Centers, we provide drug and alcohol treatment for adults. At Berendo Middle School, which partners with Metro Center, we provide students with drug, alcohol and other substance abuse counseling in a group environment. Social skills coaching, anger management, and goal setting are just some of the tools used to help students address their substance abuse problems.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT (VIA AVANTA)

We offer long-term substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence treatment to women in a safe, supportive, communal living environment. Children up to age six can live with their mothers while the women are in treatment. The children participate in developmentally appropriate activities, while mothers attend gender specific alcohol and drug abuse counseling sessions, parenting classes, and other activities to improve life and job skills, as well as overall health.

Emergency Services

SHORT-TERM CRISIS COUNSELING AND CRISIS INTERVENTION

We provide immediate short-term counseling for individuals and families experiencing a crisis following a life-changing event, such as the death of a *loved* one, loss of a job, assault, or life-threatening illness. We also provide short-term counseling for those overcome with thoughts, feelings, or habits that were once manageable and now seem out of control. These thoughts or feelings can range from excessive worry, to phobias, to an inability to cope with a loss.

24-HOUR SUICIDE PREVENTION CRISIS LINE

We operate Los Angeles and Orange County's only 24-hour suicide prevention crisis line for people of all ages at risk of suicide. Our Crisis Line is also a resource for callers concerned that someone they know may be suicidal, as well as for law enforcement agencies requesting crisis response training from our suicide prevention experts.

SUICIDE PREVENTION OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Staff and volunteers provide suicide education, awareness, and prevention in Los Angeles and Orange Counties through presentations to schools, churches, community groups, businesses, and law enforcement agencies, as well as to hospitals, counseling centers, and other clinical environments. We also teach those already working in these settings to train their staff about the warning signs of suicide and how to respond if someone needs help.

SURVIVORS AFTER SUICIDE PROGRAM

This program offers support for people who have lost a loved one to suicide, including eight-week groups, monthly drop-in groups, and telephone counseling. In addition, the program's Suicide Response Team works closely with the Crisis Response Team of the Los Angeles City Mayor's Office to offer immediate crisis counseling at the scene of a suicide. These trained members comfort families and connect them to community resources that will help them when loneliness and despair seem overwhelming.

Best Practices

OUTCOMES

To assure that our services remain on the forefront of the mental health and substance abuse fields, our Outcomes Department continually reviews current treatment models and developments. It gathers outcome data, which is used to evaluate our effectiveness, adjust our practices, and set future goals. Additionally, in the face of our ever-changing society, it assures that our programs are culturally-sensitive, providing the best care to our diverse community.

TRAINING

The Center's commitment to quality mental health services is supported by an excellent continuing education seminar series offered by our Training Department. Held twice a month from October through July, mental health professionals within the agency and from the community are invited to present a variety of topics to staff. Common themes in these seminars are diagnostic issues, exposure to new treatment models, professional ethics, special issues in working with culturally diverse populations, and mental health policy.

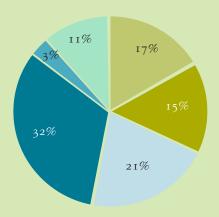
Each year, we provide approximately 25 future social workers, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, nurses, and psychiatrists with practicum and work experience opportunities through our comprehensive training program. Our psychology internship program is accredited by the American Psychological Association and our master's level internships follow regulations and standards set forth by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Because we believe that the quality of clinical documentation reflects the quality of treatment, our Quality Assurance
Department trains and provides support in documenting the work of our clinicals. We also audit our clinical documentation to ensure that we comply with all legal and contractual requirements and that our programs provide cost-effective treatment.

Who We Helped

44,642 CLIENTS



CLIENT ETHNICITY

- African-American 17%
- Asian/Pacific Islander 15%
- Caucasian 21%
- Latino 32%
- Native American/Indian 3%
- Other 11%



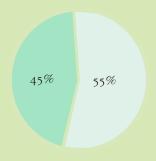
CLIENT AGE

- Older Adult 4%
- Children 28%
- Adult 68%



CLIENT BY PROGRAM

- Substance Abuse 9%
- Mental Health 35%
- Emergency Services
 and Suicide Prevention 56%



CLIENT BY GENDER

- Female 55%
- Male 45%

Mission Statement

Didi Hirsch transforms lives by providing quality mental health and substance abuse services in communities where stigma or poverty limit access.

Accessible	We offer services at our centers and in neighborhood settings that are welcoming, culturally respectful and responsive to underserved communities.
Comprehensive	We provide a continuum of prevention, early intervention and treatment services for individuals, families and the community.
Collaborative	We partner with clients, families and community groups to set goals, identify priorities and evaluate results.
Innovative	We train staff and future professionals to use state-of-the-art principles in a culture of learning and team excellence.
ACCOUNTABLE	We produce measurable clinical and fiscal outcomes, seek opportunities for growth, and evolve as needs change to ensure our long-term viability and value.
Committed	We are dedicated to erasing the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness and substance abuse and advocating for access to care.

Donors

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services would like to extend its appreciation to all those who generously supported us during 2007-2008: individuals, groups, businesses, foundations, and those who gave through United Hostesses' Charities, United Way, and other designated giving programs. We also thank the future mental health professionals who interned at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services and all of our dedicated volunteers. Volunteers and interns contributed 16,679 hours of service in 2007-2008.

We Are Funded By

Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
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Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
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United Hostesses' Charities
United Way of Greater Los Angeles

LEGACY LEADERS

Didi Hirsch thanks the following supporters for including the agency in their estate plans. Their generosity will ensure the continuation of crucial mental health and substance abuse treatment to people in need.

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RAISING AWARENESS

Erasing the Stigma 2008



From top left: Awards Chairs Beatrice Stern and Andrew E Rubin; Thomas Whiteside, and Leadership Honorees Chuck Dean, Bridget Cantrell, Ph.D., emcee Christine Devine with President/CEO Kita Curry, Ph.D. and presenter Major Ray Kimball; Legacy Honoree Jilliene F. Schenkel and Patrice Hirsch Feinstein; Thomas Whiteside and Major Ray Kimball; The New Directions Choir, a veterans performing group; John Head, past honoree with Immediate Past Chair Cheri Renfroe Yousem and Treasurer Martin Frank

Thirteen years ago, Didi Hirsch launched the *Erasing the Stigma Leadership Awards* to honor advocates who have increased our understanding, compassion and hope for those with mental illness. Our 2008 awards focused on mental health in the military. Without attention to the needs of today's returning veterans, our service people will end up homeless, or victims of suicide like far too many veterans of past wars. Dr. Bridget Cantrell, the daughter of a Korean War vet and Chuck Dean, a Vietnam vet, accepted *Leadership Awards* for counseling and authoring books that have helped thousands of vets and their families prepare for and adjust to the ravages of war. *The Beatrice Stern Media Award* went to *Washington Post* columnists Anne Hull and Dana Priest for their exposé of the appalling neglect and abuse of returning veterans at Walter Reed Hospital. Accepting on their behalf, Tom Whiteside shared the story of his daughter Elizabeth, who faced a court martial and prison after attempting suicide while in Iraq. Philanthropist Jilliene Schenkel was honored with a *Legacy Award* for serving as the first Chair of these Awards and for her steadfast support of mental health services

Alive and Running 2008



From top left: Nina Gutin, Ph.D. and daughter Jamie; Stan Lelewer Executive Vice Chair, Leah Shapiro Throckmorton, Kita Curry Ph.D. President/Ceo, and David Ryu Deputy to Supervisor Yvonne Burke; The Grand Starting Entrance; Julianne Grossman, race emcee with Andrew E Rubin Board and Race Chair; Some of the 3000 teen participants; The Memory Quilts

The 10th anniversary of the *Alive and Running Suicide Prevention 5K* walk/run found the event bigger and healthier than ever. Over 4,000 participants joined together to raise awareness and funding for suicide prevention services. This was the first race of the season for more than 3,000 teens from Students Run LA, a program that teaches youth to set and achieve goals by training for the LA Marathon. In an age group with one of the highest rates of suicide attempts, each received a blue wristband featuring the Suicide Prevention Center's hotline number. In memory of her teenaged daughter, Marilyn Nobori brought out the Taiko drum team, *Chikara Daiko*, from the Centenary United Methodist Church in Little Tokyo to energize runners at the start and finish line. Marilyn also put together a team of 61, the largest in the race. With classic Didi Hirsch team spirit, our Clubhouse members came to volunteer at dawn and raised almost \$1,500 in gratitude for the help they received during times of unbearable emotional pain.

Summary Financial Information

FEDERAL TAX ID# 95-1816023

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	fy 07/08	fy 06/07
Revenue Government Contracts	# 20 02 4 000	¢ + 0 969 000
Contributions and Grants	\$20,924,000	\$19,868,000
	376,000	332,000
United Way	203,000	348,000
Special Events (Net)	244,000	304,000
Patient Fees	145,000	172,000
Donated Goods and Services	564,000	426,000
Other	172,000	234,000
Total Revenue	\$22,628,000	\$21,684,000
Expenses		
Personnel	17,314,000	16,499,000
Operating	2,444,000	2,294,000
Occupancy	1,672,000	1,582,000
Depreciation	594,000	594,000
Donated Goods and Services	564,000	426,000
Total Expenses	\$22,588,000	\$21,395,000
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 40,000	\$ 289,000
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,921,000	3,517,000
Accounts Receivable/Prepaid	1,608,000	2,192,000
Property and Equipment (Net)	4,590,000	4,649,000
Total Assets	\$10,119,000	\$10,358,000
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable/Accrued	3,785,000	3,963,000
Notes Payable	1,044,000	1,145,000
Total Liabilities	\$ 4,829,000	\$ 5,108,000
Net Assets	\$ 5,289,000	\$ 5,250,000
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$10,118,000	\$10,358,000

Audited financial statements are available upon request

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111 North La Brea Avenue 5th and 7th Floors Inglewood, CA 90301 (310) 846-2100 5th Floor (310) 677-7808 7th Floor

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1233 South La Cienega Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90035 (310)855-0031

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672 South La Fayette Park Place Suite 6 Los Angeles, CA 90057 (213) 381-3626

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1328 West Manchester Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90044 (323)778-9593

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Transforming Lives Since 1942

Since 1942, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services has treated more than half a million people, promoting a better quality of life for residents throughout Los Angeles County. As the first non-profit mental health outpatient clinic in Los Angeles, Didi Hirsch was initially founded to help adults cope with the aftermath of the Great Depression. Over the years, Didi Hirsch has evolved in response to the needs of our increasingly complex community.

Through the leadership and generosity of Mrs. I Kingdon (Didi) Hirsch, in 1974 the agency became one of the first comprehensive community mental health centers in Los Angeles County. The agency was subsequently renamed to honor Didi Hirsch.

Today, we offer a broad array of mental health and substance abuse programs, serving more than 44,000 children, adults and families at our nine locations each year. The Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center and Crisis Line was the nation's first and has helped those in need since 1958.