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.
Dear Friends,

As you may remember, our old logo was a stylized rendering of our initials—static letters that represented our name but not what we do. We transform lives.

So a few years ago we created an image that evokes growth and hope, like the future in the seeds of a dandelion.

Growth is just as important to Didi Hirsch as it is to our clients. In 2010, a dream we had nurtured for several years took root. We were awarded Mental Health Services Act funds to expand our suicide prevention services to Orange County.

Now, families grieving a loved one’s suicide won’t have to travel to L.A. for a support group. And, with the help of our community partners, we are training counselors who speak Arabic, Farsi, Korean and Vietnamese. This also was the year that our suicide hotline expanded its Spanish language coverage to 24-hours a day.

We are growing in Los Angeles County, too. From MacArthur Park to South Los Angeles to Venice, we now have therapists in 45 schools. It’s an ideal collaboration. On campus, we can advise teachers, while also helping students cope with their impulses and fears. With half of all mental illnesses emerging by the age of 14, nurturing healthy minds can make all the difference.

When it comes to disseminating knowledge, the media reaches farthest and fastest. With study after study confirming that Americans—young and old—are more stressed since the economy bottomed out, interest in mental health has burgeoned. Because our mission includes erasing stigma, reporters frequently turn to us for tips on recognizing and coping with anxiety and depression. From the Los Angeles Times and The Wall Street Journal to Aol.News and the E! Channel, in 2010 Didi Hirsch staff and volunteers joined me in giving 50 interviews—the most ever.

Hope is so vital to good health. We have plenty of that at Didi Hirsch because of friends like you. Whether you volunteered time, donated supplies or contributed money, thank you for helping our garden grow.

Kita S. Curry, Ph.D.
President/CEO
Dr. Kristine Santoro knows firsthand about fragile families. When Kristine was a child, her mother opened their home to abused and neglected children who had been removed from their family’s care.

Today, the Didi Hirsch psychologist is part of a team that works with families and children who have been placed in foster care.

“Because my mother cared for children in need, my family often included foster siblings,” says Kristine, who has been with Didi Hirsch for nearly a decade. “That’s why working with foster children is a particular interest of mine.”

Emotions run high when children are removed from their home. The future feels uncertain and children and their families experience enormous stress.

When a child arrives at a foster home, Kristine travels to meet them in their new home – from Inglewood to as far as Riverside County. She goes there to listen to the child’s and family’s concerns and to figure out what everyone needs. Later, she sits down with social workers, foster parents, mental health experts, other family members and even probation officers to work out a plan for the child’s future while linking family members to resources that can get them back on track. With intervention and support, many families can be successfully reunited with their children.

Kristine finds the work deeply gratifying: “I feel like we are having a strong positive impact on the outcome of these children’s lives.”
When a family enters her toy-filled office in our Inglewood Center, child psychologist Terry Nestel asks the parents to join her on the floor, so they can be at eye-level with their children, who are often under the age of five.

The Didi Hirsch therapist acts as the parents’ “guide by the side,” coaching them in the art of giving firm directions while offering praise to sons and daughters bent intently over puzzle pieces or toy trucks.

With many years of playtime behind her, Terry says these sessions are a “game changer” for children: “Many parents don’t realize how much time they spend scolding and how little they spend reading and playing with their children. If you start early, you can help create a different future for a child.”

And many more children are getting a chance at a better future now that our Inglewood Center is partnering with Venice Family Clinic’s Early Head Start program, which recently moved into the building.

Early Head Start helps toddlers develop age-appropriate skills, but sometimes children and families need more. Because we are neighbors, when teachers uncover significant challenges in family dynamics, such as mental illness in an older sibling or difficult relationships between parents and children, they have a direct link with Didi Hirsch’s therapists. Families almost always follow through, because someone they trust made the introduction.

“Head Start is an early education program while we address emotional issues,” Terry says. “Working together as a team, we can help keep families strong.”
As a child in Guadalajara, Jose Martin Medina dreamed of leaving the tin roofed building he called home and creating a bright future for himself in the United States.

The first in his family to graduate from high school, Jose moved to Los Angeles, married and started a family. Eventually, he found so much success working in the booming real estate market that he was able to buy a home for his wife and their four children.

But the economic downturn hit Jose’s family especially hard. After he lost his job, he was unable to make his mortgage payments and soon lost his home, too. Hopeless and overwhelmed by the pressures of trying to support a family, Jose sank into a deep depression—until he found his way to Didi Hirsch.

Using an effective therapy known as “mindful awareness,” counselor Rachel Plasencia helped Jose develop new coping skills to rebuild his self-esteem. Soon, his depression lifted. He enrolled in a college program to earn an advanced degree in counseling and is back to work.

With Didi Hirsch’s support Jose is using what he has learned to benefit others: he has spoken to dozens of men and women in his community who are also suffering from depression, hopelessness and despair and has been honored for his efforts by a community group and his local church.

“I remember what it was like to feel hopeless—before Didi Hirsch helped me get back on my feet,” Jose says. “I have found my purpose in life and now I can pay forward their support by helping others.”
Doing the Cupid Shuffle

Payroll Administrator Patti Alexander literally comes to work with her dancing shoes on.

The longtime Didi Hirsch employee volunteers once a week to teach dance at one of our two Wellness Centers, where adult clients with serious mental illnesses connect with others in the community.

The Wellness Centers in our Inglewood and Sepulveda offices offer a wide range of peer support and recreational activities aimed at strengthening the physical and mental health of our clients.

Patti’s popular dance classes started fourteen years ago, during a Wellness Center Valentine’s Day party, when she agreed to teach a group of clients the Cupid Shuffle line dance. Teaching dance was so rewarding that she found another way to volunteer for the Wellness Centers: she now serves on a committee that helps develop new programs for the centers.

And just as Patti has found gratification through volunteering, so have many of the Wellness Centers’ clients. Many of them read to older adults in convalescent homes while others walk dogs for an animal shelter or help pick up beach trash for Heal the Bay.

By volunteering in these ways, our clients not only develop a sense of pride and dignity for their efforts but also demonstrate that they too have something valuable to contribute to the larger community—which helps erase the stigma of mental illness.
It's not uncommon these days for several generations to live under one roof–especially when families are struggling to make ends meet. Nor is it uncommon for more than one family member to need help.

Maria, a single mother, was already overwhelmed trying to work and raise four kids when life got even tougher. Her teenage daughter became pregnant and soon Maria was also caring for her grandchild.

When Maria’s usually studious and helpful son, Jaime, started disrespecting her and getting in fights at school, Maria felt so overwhelmed that she started spending long stretches of time in bed.

Luckily, Jaime’s teacher told Maria about Didi Hirsch’s Metro Center, which is walking distance from their apartment.

Maria enrolled in a parenting class that helped her give Jaime the structure and attention he needed, but that was only part of the family’s solution. For the first time in their lives, Maria and her son began receiving treatment for serious depression, a condition they both share.

With therapy and medication, Maria is interacting more with her family and Jaime is back on track at school.

“I am very grateful to the counselors for the help they are giving me and my son,” Maria says. “I only wish I knew about Didi Hirsch when my daughter was younger.”
When Jacob, 12, started coming to Didi Hirsch, he was failing at school and was the target of bullies. As he grew comfortable with his therapist, he revealed home was not safe either.

Jacob was placed in his grandmother’s care and, with his therapist’s guidance, began making art that expressed his feelings. With time, images of pain were replaced by hope. He made a collage of magazine pictures that showed people traveling, happy families and schools that reminded him of the neighborhood magnet school where he set his sights on transferring to.

With cast off materials, Jacob also crafted a boat and painted the words “The Saver” on its side, which he said represented himself and how he felt about his future.

“The boat is me,” Jacob said, “because I know I have to save myself.”

With the help of a loving grandmother and caring therapist, Jacob has begun to recover the sense of safety and security that growing children need to thrive. And he is going places. He was accepted at the magnet school, where he received a report card brimming with A’s and recently enjoyed his first trip to the Los Angeles Zoo.
Crisis Residential Care
Jump Street and Excelsior House are crisis residential treatment programs, 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 helps them stabilize, provides treatment for their mental illnesses, finds long-term housing and connects them to on-going treatment programs.

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

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 program also partners with the Urban L.A. Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, whose peer advocates are onsite providing support and inspiration.

Intensive Services for Adults
The Full Service Partnerships Programs (FSP) address intensive mental health needs of adults, older adults (60+), and transitional age youth (16-25) suffering from serious mental illnesses which have led to frequent hospitalizations, incarcerations or homelessness.

The programs provide wraparound services wherever and whenever needed by a multidisciplinary team including psychiatrists and other medical personnel, a care coordinator, program coordinator, consumers, and therapists. Staff members work with clients in community settings such as work, home, hospitals, and court to help clients significantly reduce their symptoms and live full and healthy lives.

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. Clients who need intensive service receive care at home and in their community.

Wellness Centers
Wellness Centers at the Culver City and Inglewood sites offer an array of classes, groups and 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.
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.

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, delinquency and/or other issues. We provide 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 45 schools. Therapists work closely with teachers to prevent the development of further emotional and behavioral problems, and help increase a child’s chance of success in the classroom.

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.
Alternative Sentencing Programs
The ‘First Offender’ Program at our Metro Center is designed for those mandated to participate in a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) program. It focuses on heightening awareness of the consequences of alcohol and other drug impairment, and preventing further incidents. 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 arrest and incarceration.

The Community Assessment and Services Center (CASC)
The CASC assesses the mental health and substance abuse treatment needs of adults receiving general relief and other public assistance. 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 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 in Los Angeles, we offer after-school treatment and prevention education. 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.

Project 50
As part of a multi-agency team, we provide substance abuse outreach and treatment to vulnerable adults living on Skid Row. Project 50 focuses on those who are at high risk of dying due to chronic and severe physical illnesses, mental disorders and addictions.
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
Each year, we train 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 pre-doctoral 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.

Our commitment to quality mental health and substance abuse services is supported by an excellent continuing education seminar series. Mental health professionals within the agency and from the community present a variety of topics, such as suicide risk assessment, crisis counseling, professional ethics, and handling special challenges when working with culturally diverse populations.

Quality Assurance
Because we believe that the quality of clinical documentation reflects the quality of treatment, our Quality Assurance Department trains staff to write effective treatment plans and progress notes. 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.

All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today
- Indian Proverb
Driven by pain, despair and mental illness, about 95 people in the United States die by suicide every day—the equivalent of one suicide every 15 minutes.

That’s why our Suicide Prevention Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with intensively trained phone counselors providing comfort and support—in English and Spanish—to people in crisis.

And while we have used sophisticated phone technology for some time to help callers who speak other languages, we are now hiring staff in our new Orange County office who can talk to callers in Arabic, Korean, Farsi and Vietnamese.

But the support doesn’t stop there. For decades, Didi Hirsch has run survivor groups facilitated by staff members and trained survivors to provide a safe place for people to talk about the pain of losing a loved one by suicide.

Members of our outreach program also speak to schools, churches and community organizations to teach people how to recognize the warning signs of suicide in themselves and their loved ones.

Didi Hirsch’s Suicide Prevention Center is dedicated to ending the stigma of suicide because lives can be saved when people talk about their suicidal feelings and friends and loved ones know how to respond.
Service Numbers
5,808 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Clients
24,931 Prevention and Education Services
41,325 Calls to our Hotline

Ethnicity of People Helped
41% Latino
38% African American
17% Caucasian
4% Other

Age of People Helped
53% Adults (18-64 years of age)
28% Youth (under 18 years of age)
2% Older Adults (65 years of age or older)

Gender of People Helped
50% Female
50% Male

No creature is fully itself till it is, like the dandelion, opened...
- D. H. Lawrence
WE OFFER SERVICE AT

Headquarters
4760 South Sepulveda Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 390-6612

Culver-Palms Center
11133 Washington Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232
(310) 895-2300

Excelsior House
1007 Myrtle Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90301
(310) 412-4191

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

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

Mar Vista Center
12420 Venice Boulevard
Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90066
(310) 751-1200

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

Didi Hirsch
Orange County Center
2021 E. 4th St. Ste 204
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone: (714) 547-8096

S. Mark Taper Foundation Center
1328 West Manchester Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90044
(323) 778-9593

Via Avanta
Pacoima, CA
(818) 897-2609

WE ARE FUNDED BY

California Department of Rehabilitation:
Employment Services

County of Orange Health Care Agency

L.A. County Department of Mental Health

L.A. County Department of Public Health:
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Federal Emergency Management Agency:
Emergency Food and Shelter Program

United Way of Greater Los Angeles

ACCREDITATION

Employment Services
by CARF

Predoctoral Psychology Internship Program
by the American Psychological Association

Suicide Prevention Center
by the American Association of Suicidology
# Summary Financial Information

## Statement of Activities

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<th>FY 08/09</th>
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## Statement of Financial Position

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<th>FY 09/10</th>
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<td>$10,409,000</td>
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*audited financial information available on request*
Our 14th Annual Erasing the Stigma Leadership Awards focused on promoting mental health awareness among youth. With 50% of mental disorders emerging by the age of 14 and 75% by the age of 24, early intervention is key to helping people with mental illness lead healthy and normal lives. Sadly, many suffer for years before seeking help.

Leadership Awards honored Ross Szabo and Alison Malmon—two young advocates whose efforts have helped raise awareness among teens and college students about mental illness. Gary Knell, chief executive officer of Sesame Street/Sesame Workshop, received The Beatrice Stern Erasing the Stigma Media Award.

Discharged from a psychiatric hospital at the age of 16, Ross Szabo was so shaken by his classmates’ disparaging attitudes toward mental illness that he decided to stand up and share his story. As a spokesman for the National Mental Health Awareness Campaign, Ross reached more than half a million youth. He also co-authored Behind Happy Faces: What Adults Need to Know About Mental Health and currently serves in the Peace Corps.

While Alison Malmon was an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania, her brother took his life. Because she felt stigma had contributed to his despair and reluctance to stick with treatment, she started a campus group dedicated to ending shame and encouraging students to seek help. Its success inspired her to found the non-profit Active Minds, which now has 311 college chapters in the United States.

Before Gary Knell received the Beatrice Stern Media Award, 12 year-old Madison Carney sang Sesame Street’s theme song, creating the same hopeful tone that has helped children and families pull together since the show’s inception. Under Knell’s leadership, Sesame Street/Sesame Workshop has addressed every major stressor of the last decade including September 11, Hurricane Katrina, unemployment and war. An ongoing project since 2006, “Talk, Listen, Connect” has helped millions of military families cope with the trauma of deployment and the often invisible wounds that warriors bring home with them.

Actor George Segal delighted the audience —singing and playing the banjo—before he stepped forward as emcee. Award presenters included Academy Award nominee Russ Tamblyn, Jennifer Renick, teen founder of Generation Hopeful, and Margaret Loesch, chief executive officer of The Hub, a new Hasbro-Discovery Communications network.

Under the leadership of Cheri Renfroe Yousem and Beatrice Stern, the event brought together nearly 500 guests and raised $330,000 for services at Didi Hirsch. “This year, we had more teens and young adults than ever before,” said CEO Kita Curry. “It’s inspiring to think that their generation and those that follow may finally be free of the stigma of mental illness.”
On a beautiful Sunday morning, more than 1,000 friends and family members gathered under sunny skies for the 12th Annual Alive & Running 5K Run/Walk for Suicide Prevention. Whether they came to run, walk or just cheer on their companions, everyone who came to support the life-saving services of the 24-hour suicide prevention hotline shared in the spirit of hope.

Under the leadership of Event Chairs Janine Lichstein and Todd Rubin, Didi Hirsch raised more than $160,000 for the Suicide Prevention Center's crisis hotline and survivor support groups, and for suicide prevention services at our new center in Orange County.

Certified personal trainer Dan Mann warmed the crowd with stretching exercises and L.A.’s own singer/songwriter Caitlin Crosby set the tone for the day with songs that spoke to our themes of loss and healing. Bearing photos and names of loved ones on their t-shirts, walkers and runners crossed the finish line to the beat of Taiko drummers and the cheers of family and friends. Dozens of children participated in a kid-friendly 1K race before joining the expo that featured made-to-order balloon animals and treats.

Throughout the morning, runners and walkers traded stories about the loved ones they lost to suicide and in whose names they helped sponsor the event. Offering a new take on sponsorship were the friends and family of Jeff Laughrey, who donated proceeds from the Jeff Laughrey Memorial Golf Tournament to help sponsor Alive & Running.

Especially touching was the support we received from clients of our Wellness Centers, which offer peer counseling and recreational activities designed to integrate people with mental illness into the larger community. The clients not only formed their own walking team, but also mobilized themselves as a super fundraising force, bringing in $5,300 for the event--tripling last year's donation.

Wow, today was extremely intense... I sang @ a Suicide prevention fundraiser.....& met so many people who lost their family members to this..... – Caitlin, caitlincrosby.tumblr.com
Laying the Groundwork

The beautiful photograph below is a blooming field of California Poppies. They grow wild throughout the state, turning its vast rolling hills golden. Once an important resource for the indigenous people of California, who used it for both food and oil, they still herald spring.

Perhaps that is why the words growth, renewal, and blooming kept coming to mind as I began to write about the importance of our donors and volunteers. What I had in mind was not a horticultural article but rather the idea that our friends are a vital resource. They sustain us. Those that have included us in their estate plans lay the groundwork for many springs to come.

Because of your generosity, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services is helping more clients (growing), providing the most current and effective treatments (renewing), and, yes, transforming lives (blooming).

On behalf of the Board, staff, and clients, I am extremely grateful for your support and ongoing confidence in this tremendous agency.

Martin J. Frank
Chair, Board of Directors
LEgACY SOCIETY

(Honoring those who have included Didi Hirsch in their estate plans.)

Cynthia Chaillie

Kita S. Curry, Ph.D. and Peter Curry

The Estate of Robert E. Emerson

Linda and Martin J. Frank

Todd Hays

The Larkin Trust

Mary and Stanley D. Lelewer

The Judith Anne Phillips Trust

Francine Chandler Righter and Guy B. Righter

Andrew E. Rubin

Terrence V. Scott

Lisa and Michael C. Wierwille

Zimmermann-Geismar Family Trust
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Didi Hirsch saved my life. I’m looking forward to becoming a peer advocate so I can help others with my story” – Julie Hererra
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DR. NATHANIEL JACKSON

Dr. Jackson became an integral part of the Didi Hirsch Board in 1994 when Inglewood’s Centinela Family and Child Guidance Clinic merged with Didi Hirsch.

Dr. Jackson strongly believed in helping others. After serving as an Air Force psychologist, he became a community activist for organizations like the NAACP and Urban League. Later, as an educator and administrator at El Camino College, he mentored several generations, encouraging them to tap into the best parts of themselves in the face of adversity.

With his help, Didi Hirsch was able to form critical alliances with key leaders in South Los Angeles and Inglewood. Through these relationships, we have been able to bring much needed services to underserved communities. It has been an honor to have such a wise and gentle man serve our agency for so many years.
With almost 70 years of experience, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services provides mental health and substance abuse services at ten sites in Los Angeles and Orange County. A member of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network, its Suicide Prevention Center was the first in the nation. Each year, Didi Hirsch helps over 70,000 youth and adults—from Pacoima to Venice to South Los Angeles to downtown Los Angeles to Santa Ana, and many points in between. Didi Hirsch transforms lives by providing quality mental health and substance abuse services in communities where stigma or poverty limit access.