



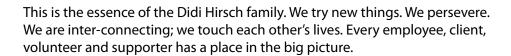
Mission Statement

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

Puzzles are problems with solutions. What seems difficult can be done; what were dreams can become reality.

Starting as toddlers, we learn so much from puzzles. Not just visual-spatial and motor skills. We learn that every piece counts. That with patience and trial and error, we can make order out of seeming chaos. We also

discover that it's easier when others help.



Although we can't begin to convey every aspect of the large, three-dimensional world that is Didi Hirsch, we hope this Annual Report gives you a sense of how we all fit together. Last year, we helped more than 57,000 youth, adults and older adults pick up the pieces and put color and order back in their lives.

Where many see failure, shame and futility, we look at mental illness and substance abuse and see problems with solutions.

You were a part of the solution. Without your support we would have been missing a vital piece. Thank you.

Kita S. Curry, Ph.D President/CEO

Kita S. Cuny





Prevention Specialist Counselor

nnie Ortega is going on her sixth school year as a Prevention Counselor with the Substance Abuse Prevention Department. Ask Annie's fourth graders about her and they might tell you that she loves lemons. In her favorite classroom exercise, Annie hands each student a lemon. Yellow, sour, round, all lemons are the same, right? Really look at it, she tells them. Get to know your lemon. Then Annie collects the lemons, mixes them up, and asks each student to find their lemon. Sure enough, everyone spots his or her fruit easily. It's amazing how different each is when the students take the time to get to know them. Beginning with the common lemon, Annie explores stereotype, prejudice, discrimination as part of the *Beyond Bias: Think Peace* program. "In my effort to teach these very adult, very grown-up concepts, like stereotypes and prejudice, I really try to delve into their lives."

Solving Problems

Annie is one of several prevention counselors at Didi Hirsch shaping the future of Los Angeles youth. Over the last 14 years, they have trained more than 13,000 students as part of the Substance Abuse Prevention department's program *Beyond Bias: Think Peace*. Through classroom exercises, discussions, and projects, *Think Peace* teaches third, fourth and fifth graders the skills they will need to handle conflict and peer pressure. These skills include: social competency, critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making and autonomy. Armed with these skills, children are better able to cope and thrive in an environment that may present multiple temptations, including substance abuse.

In the last year of elementary school, students are eligible to become *Peace Makers*, who are taught how to mediate conflict on their own playgrounds. Each recess, two fifth graders don their *Peace Maker* shirts and patrol the blacktop helping to settle disputes between their peers. One of the most important components of the program is helping students develop a sense of purpose and future. It's not uncommon for a second grader to confide in Ms. Ortega, "My brother was a *Peace Maker* and I want to be one too."





Finding a Place to Fit In

TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH

The late teens and early twenties are a trying time for everyone. It is a period of change and growth and confusion as we navigate out of childhood into adulthood. This is also the time when a young person often experiences his or her first episode of a mental illness. Our Transitional Age Youth (TAY) program reaches out to 16 to 25 year-olds who may be experiencing the isolation of mental illness. More than 50 attend our Wellness Center in Inglewood. For many, it is one of the few places where they can come and talk about their illness with peers. Known as TAY Day, each Tuesday the Inglewood Wellness Center hums with energy. TAY clients gather for lunch and activities such as art therapy, discussions of current events and outings together. Wellness Center regular Jules Perkins has showcased his musical talents by performing live at the Didi Hirsch Wellness Center *Open Mic and Poetry Slam*. Didi Hirsch Wellness Centers help TAY clients find a way to fit in and grow personally.



Lending a Hand

VIA AVANTA

Healthy living begins with a network of support. At Via Avanta, our residential treatment program for women struggling with substance abuse, residents receive support in all aspects of their life—from parenting classes and childcare assistance to chemical dependency and domestic violence counseling. However, this support goes well beyond lectures and meetings and counseling sessions to practical life lessons. As the women prepare to make their way on their own, they learn to fix furniture, prepare resumes and even join community sports' leagues. This year they will be planting their first organic garden. They will reap the rewards of working together while also learning healthier eating habits.



ay Ayala still remembers the first time he walked through the front door to Via Avanta over twentyfive years ago. He was an addict. At the time, the residential program was co-ed, and the court had ordered Ray to receive treatment. Ray readily admits that he was scared. He bargained with his wife to take him home, promising that he would never use again. Yet, Ray stayed at Via Avanta for a year. Within that year something clicked. He became sober and realized that he possessed a gift for listening and guiding others. Now a Program Coordinator at Via Avanta, Ray counsels the women and supervises staff, as he has for 24 years. For many, it is their first positive experience with a male. Many also credit him with their recovery. However, in his humble and guiet manner, Ray is guick to brush off compliments. "Some people have said that I've been their mentor but I'm the one that's learning every day."



ADULT SERVICES

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.

Wellness Centers

To make access to 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. The Wellness Centers offer an array of classes, groups and projects, which foster physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. 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 Centers are 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. Clients who need intensive service receive care at home and in their community.

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 them be successful in the work place.



CHILD AND 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, 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. 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. 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 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.

We offer after-school treatment on campus at Berendo Middle School. 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.

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.

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 volunteers comfort families and connect them to community resources that will help them when loneliness and despair seem overwhelming.

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 who are 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.



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 and substance abuse 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.

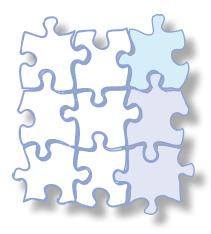
Quality Assurance

Because we believe that the quality of clinical documentation reflects the quality of treatment, our Quality Assurance Department trains 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.



Who We Helped

CLIENT FACTS



57,907 PEOPLE HELPED

9% Substance Abuse Treatment

27% Mental Health Services

64% Emergency Services, Outreach and Suicide Prevention



ETHNICITY OF PEOPLE HELPED

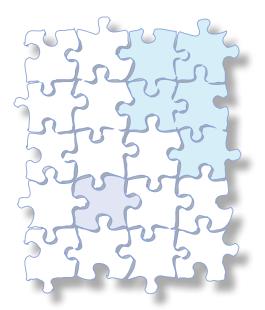
5% Asian/Pacific Islander

8% Biracial/Other

26% African American

30% Caucasian

31% Latino



Age of People Helped

5% Older Adults (65 years of age or older)

28% Youth (under 18 years of age)

67% Adults (18-64 years of age)



ERASING THE STIGMA 2009

The stigma of mental illness has a profound and lasting effect, whether it is one's own illness or that of a loved one. Since 1997, our *Erasing the Stigma Leadership Awards* have honored advocates who have helped change that. The 2009 *Awards* focused on schizophrenia, the most feared of all mental disorders. Under Committee Chair Cheri Yousem's stellar leadership, we raised \$280,000.

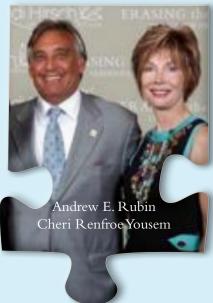
Master of Ceremonies, Comedian Brian Copeland, used humor to describe his own battle with depression. Actor Joey Pantoliano presented *Leadership Awards* to Elyn Saks and to Shari and Garen Staglin. Joined by surprise guest Steve Lopez, DreamWorks CEO Stacey Snider presented a *Beatrice Stern Media Award* to Gary Foster.

Author of *The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness*, Elyn Saks dispelled the stereotypes associated with schizophrenia. She is a Yale graduate, USC law professor and mental health policy expert, despite recurring bouts of psychosis. Elyn poignantly illustrated the isolation that comes with stigma. "When you go to a hospital for a physical illness, people send flowers. When you go to a hospital for a psychiatric illness, they don't."

Shari and Garen Staglin's advocacy began when their son Brandon developed schizophrenia. Garen said, "We had a choice: were we going to run away from this problem or run toward this problem?" Rather than succumbing to stigma, they founded the *Staglin Music Festival for Mental Health*, which has raised \$83 million for mental health research in 14 years. As Brandon joined his parents on stage to thank them for their unwavering support, Garen pledged, "Our commitment to you is—in our lifetime—we will cure these illnesses."

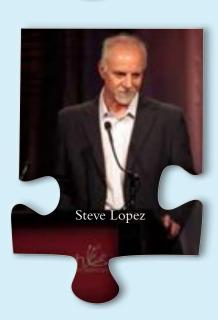
Producer Gary Foster brought *The Soloist* to the screen. Based on a memoir by *Los Angeles Times* correspondent Steve Lopez, it chronicles Steve's friendship with Nathaniel Ayers, a Julliard-trained musician who was homeless and suffering from schizophrenia. Filming on Skid Row opened Gary's eyes. "In all the chaos, almost everyone I encountered said 'Hello', reached out a hand or smiled as I passed by...I felt comfortable with people who only weeks before I feared...While there is a social divide, there is not a humanistic one."

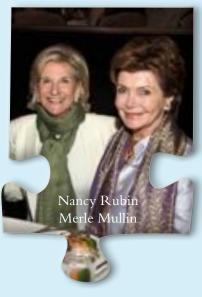




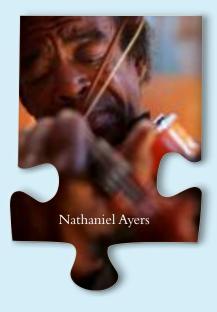


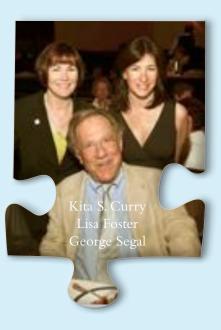














ALIVE AND RUNNING 5K WALK/RUN

Smiles and hope, these represent the spirit of Alive and Running, Didi Hirsch's 5K Walk/Run for Suicide Prevention. With smiles and hope, and a lot of sweat, more than a thousand runners and walkers united to foster awareness, remember loved ones and raise funds for our Suicide Prevention Center. Our honored guest, Sheriff Lee Baca, spoke about the importance of suicide prevention and took first place in his age group.

We count on the community to spread the word about the cause, create teams and help out on the day of the race. In 2009, new social networking tools like Facebook and Twitter extended our reach. More than 150 volunteers came out, and we had the biggest team ever.

Kyle Kubachka's family joined with Cal State University Long Beach's Nursing Students to put together a team of 281 people in Kyle's memory. Dedicated supporter Marilyn Nobori brought out her church's Taiko drum group to jazz up the finish line; she also put together a team of 181 in memory of her daughter Aiko.

With over 51 years saving lives, the Suicide Prevention Center helps more than 35,000 people each year —teaching the warning signs of suicide, offering support to loved ones after a suicide and helping callers in distress through our 24-hour suicide hotline. Alive and Running is a day to smile, hope, and perhaps shed a few tears for loved ones while also making a difference. Working with dedicated friends and committed supporters, Event Chairs Janine Lichstein and Todd Rubin helped raise more than \$130,000 to support these life-saving services. Alive and Running is one way to help make certain there are resources available to people in despair, day or night.





JUST AS FOOD, WATER AND AIR ARE ESSENTIAL TO LIFE, support from our many donors, friends and funders is essential to the work of Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services. We are grateful to all who have given of time and treasure, including the 215 volunteers and future mental health professionals who contributed 15,900 hours of service in the 2008–09 fiscal year. We are committed to using your contributions wisely. Eightyseven cents out of every dollar is spent on programs.

I personally can attest to the value of your investment in Didi Hirsch. The Suicide Prevention Center helped me endure the indescribable grief of losing my son, Stephen, to suicide. Out of

it also came the most meaningful work of my life—from my days as a volunteer on the crisis line to my current service as Board Chair. Nothing is more uplifting than the stories of the clients we have helped begin anew, who might otherwise have given up hope.

If Didi Hirsch is to help the generations to come, in our worldview today, there also must be a vision for the future. Our Legacy Leaders, who are highlighted below, have shown that foresight. By including Didi Hirsch and its programs in their estate plans, they have attended to the future of those they love and those who will need Didi Hirsch many years from now.

On behalf of the Board, Staff and clients, I offer my heartfelt thanks to each and every donor. You make a difference. I hope Didi Hirsch can count on your continued support.

Stanley D. Lelewer Chair, Board of Directors

LEGACY LEADERS

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

Cynthia Chaillie

Dr. Kita S. and Peter W. Curry

The Estate of Robert E. Emerson

Todd Hays

The Larkin Trust

Mary and Stanley D. Lelewer

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We are Accredited By

Employment Services by CARF

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SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	fy 08/09	FY 07/08
Revenue		
Government Contracts	\$ 21,650,000	\$ 20,924,000
Contributions and Grants	383,000	376,000
United Way	104,000	203,000
Special Events (Net)	186,000	244,000
Patient Fees	147,000	145,000
Donated Goods and Services	566,000	564,000
Other	90,000	172,000
Total Revenue	\$23,126,000	\$ 22,628,000
Expenses		
Personnel	\$ 17,813,000	\$ 17,314,000
Operating	2,199,000	2,444,000
Occupancy	1,765,000	1,672,000
Depreciation	695,000	594,000
Donated Goods and Services	566,000	564,000
Total Expenses	\$ 23,038,000	\$ 22,588,000
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 88,000	\$ 40,000
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 5,137,000	\$ 3,921,000
Accounts Receivable/Prepaid	968,000	1,608,000
Property and Equipment (Net)	4,304,000	4,590,000
Total Assets	\$ 10,409,000	\$ 10,119,000
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable/Accrued	\$ 4,093,000	\$ 3,785,000
Notes Payable	937,000	1,044,000
Total Liabilities	\$ 5,030,000	\$ 4,829,000
Net Assets	\$ 5,379,000	\$ 5,290,000
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 10,409,000	\$ 10,119,000



LOCATIONS

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services

Headquarters

4760 South Sepulveda Blvd. Culver City, CA 90230 (310) 390-6612

Culver-Palms Center

11133 Washington Blvd. Culver City, CA 90232 (310) 895-2300

Excelsior House

1007 Myrtle Ave. Inglewood, CA 90301 (310) 412-4191

Inglewood Center

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

Jump Street

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

Mar Vista Center

12420 Venice Blvd. 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

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

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Transforming Lives Since 1942

The first non-profit outpatient mental health clinic in Los Angeles County, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services initially was founded to help adults cope with the aftermath of the Great Depression. Over the years, we have evolved in response to the needs of our increasingly complex community.

Through the leadership and generosity of Didi and I. Kingdon Hirsch, in 1974 we became one of the first federally approved community mental health centers in greater Los Angeles. With this designation came a commitment to offer community education, clinic-based treatment and residential care to people of all ages. We subsequently were renamed to honor Didi Hirsch's leadership in this expansion.

Today, we offer a broad array of mental health and substance abuse services to more than 57,000 children, adults, older adults and families wherever they are needed—at our nine centers, in more than 25 schools, on Skid Row and beyond. The first in the nation, our Suicide Prevention Center has helped those in need for more than 50 years; as part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network, our suicide crisis line answers the second-most calls in the nation.