



DECEMBER 2015

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Thankful for a Successful 2015 Looking Forward to a Greater 2016

by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District



This has been a very exciting year. This was the first time in Los Angeles County history where we began the year with two new Supervisors—Hilda L. Solis and Sheila Kuehl, a new Sheriff Jim McDonnell, a new Assessor Jeffrey Prang, and a new County Counsel Mary A. Wickham. Additionally, our new Chief Executive Officer, Sachi A. Hamai, has rapidly responded to reforms critically needed to improve the quality of life for our residents.

We established a coordinated health agency to integrate the operations of health services, mental health, and public health to improve access to care and streamline operations.

We moved forward with the jail plan and put additional deputies in the unincorporated areas.

We leased two additional Super Scoopers and the Ericson Air Crane and expanded the public awareness campaign for earthquake and other emergency preparedness.

We created the Child Sex Trafficking Integrated Leadership Team and expanded first responders, initiated public outreach campaigns, and enhanced the electronic child abuse reporting system between law enforcement and child protective services. The new Office of Child Protection will provide overarching guidance.

We advocated state legislation clarifying the prioritization of foster youth for subsidized childcare and improved training for qualified social workers with a 52-week curriculum that our universities will now implement to upgrade the caliber of social workers coming out of our universities.

We created a one-stop permitting center by consolidating Regional Planning, Fire, and Public Health permits at one

location and decentralized the locations of conditional use permit applications to district offices.

We continued the procurement process through technology and e-government, helping small minority enterprises, women-owned, disadvantaged and veteran-owned businesses to be competitive. We altered the list of qualified local workers to automatically include veterans.

We acquired 27 acres in Brown’s Canyon, preserved for multi-use open space for an equestrian park; and acquired acres along Portal Ridge to preserve for public use.

We amended Title 10 of the County Code to require mandatory spaying and neutering and micro-chipping of cats in the unincorporated areas of our County.

We created additional employment opportunities for veterans and expanded veteran internships to assist them in their transition to a civilian workplace. My office sponsored the 18th annual Salute to Veterans and Their Families to provide public outreach, employment opportunities, and support and organized free transit passes for veterans on Veterans Day.

Finally, L.A. County was named one of America’s best employers of 2015 by Forbes Magazine. We received the California Employer Advisory Council Veterans Employer of the Year Award for our hiring and promoting of veterans. We launched a Financial Wellness Program and a user-friendly online application system. We created the Executive Leadership Development Program to help guide department heads to build succession plans and expanded the Career Development Internship Program to L.A. County’s 88 cities and public and private businesses.

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Calendar of Events

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

(323) 857-6010

www.lacma.org

Through February 21 – Diana Thater: The Sympathetic Imagination

Through March 20 – Frank Gehry

Through May 29– Japanese Paintings: Figures from Life, Figures from Allegory

Through July 4 – Vitality of New Forms

Through January 2, 2017 – Senses of Time: Video and Film-Based Works of Africa

Center Theatre Group

(213) 628-2772

www.centertheatregroup.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Through January 17 – The Bridges of Madison County

January 30 through March 13 – An Act of God

Kirk Douglas Theatre

March 6 through April 3 – Women Laughing Alone with Salad

Mark Taper Forum

Through January 10 – The Christians

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

December 24 – L.A. County Holiday Celebration

January 29 through January 31 – Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

Grand Park

www.grandparkla.org

(213) 972-8080

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday – Lunchtime Lunch Trucks

Every Wednesday and Friday – Lunchtime Yoga + Lunch Trucks

Through December 26 – Light Up the Holidays

Walt Disney Concert Hall

www.hollywoodbowl.com

(323) 850-2000

December 21 – A Swingin’ Christmas: The Count Basie Orchestra

December 22 – White Christmas Sing-Along

December 23 – Soweto Gospel Choir

December 31 – New Year’s Eve with Gladys Knight



Visit <http://hr.lacounty.gov> for information on employment opportunities with the County of Los Angeles



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Second District

Sheila Kuehl

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Check out the DIGEST at

<http://hr.lacounty.gov/county-digest/>



health talk



by *Christopher Metchnikoff, M.D.*
Physician Specialist, Internal Medicine
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Eight Ways to a Healthy Holiday

As part of the CDC's *Healthy People* initiative, here are tips to stay safe and healthy this holiday season:

Bundle up for warmth.

Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems, especially in infants and older adults. Stay dry and dress warmly in several layers of loose-fitting, tightly woven clothing.

Manage stress.

The holidays don't need to take a toll on your health. Keep a check on over-commitment and over-spending. Balance work, home, and play. Get support from family and friends. Practice time management. Keep a relaxed and positive outlook.

Be smoke-free.

Avoid smoking and breathing other people's smoke. If you smoke, quit today! Call (800) QUIT-NOW or talk to your health care provider for help.

Get exams and screenings.

Schedule a visit with your health care provider for a yearly exam. Ask what tests you should get based on your age, lifestyle, medical history, and family health history.

Monitor the children.

Children are at high risk for injuries that can lead to death or disability. Keep a watchful eye on your kids when they're eating and playing. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, choking hazards (coins and hard candy), household items, and other objects out of kids' reach. Learn how to provide early treatment for children who are choking. Make sure toys are used properly.

Practice fire safety.

Most residential fires occur during the winter months. Keep candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees, and curtains. Never leave fireplaces, stoves, or candles unattended. Don't use generators, grills, or other gasoline- or

charcoal-burning devices inside your home or garage. Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home. Test them once a month, and replace batteries twice a year. Leave the fireworks to the professionals.

Prepare dinner safely.

As you prepare holiday meals, keep you and your family safe from food-related illness. Wash hands and surfaces often. Avoid cross contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs (including their juices) away from ready-to-eat foods and eating surfaces. Cook foods to the proper temperature. Refrigerate promptly. Do not leave perishable foods out for more than two hours.

Eat well and get moving.

With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holidays the healthy way. Choose fresh fruit as a festive and sweet substitute for candy. Select just one or two of your favorites from the host of tempting foods. Find fun ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite holiday music. Be active for at least 2½ hours a week. Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.

Zev Yaroslavsky Family Support Center

To fulfill former Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's vision for customers to receive a plethora of resources in one location, the Zev Yaroslavsky Family Support Center opened in September 2015.

This effort was made possible through the collaboration between multi-disciplinary agencies that recognize and respect the cultural, ethnic, and spiritual differences of the families served. The new 212,000-square-foot facility is on the grounds of the Mid Valley Comprehensive Center, which is located at 7155 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys. This facility is designed to provide effective customer service immediately upon entry into its two-parking structures that accommodate 1,334 spaces.

Approximately 1,000 employees from the Departments of Children & Family Services, Public Social Services, Child Support Services, Probation, Health Services, Public Health, and Mental Health occupy this seven-acre facility. These departments share the lobby area, reception, cashier, interview booths, a children's play area, and other support spaces.

The Mid Valley Comprehensive Health Center will remain intact as a stand-alone part of the complex in addition to a new pharmacy that serves mid-Valley clients.

I Just Adopted a Pet, Now What?

Department of Animal Care and Control



Congratulations on the new addition to your family! Do you know what to do next?

- **Establish a relationship with a veterinarian**
 - Within the first week of adoption, find a veterinarian in your area. SCVMA.org is an excellent resource for this!
 - The veterinarian will determine the necessary care and needs for your pet.
 - Most SCVMA veterinarians will examine shelter adopted pets free of charge within the first seven days.
 - In case of an emergency, having an established clinic makes things a lot easier.
- **What to feed and how often**
 - As pets grow, their nutrient needs change. Young pets need to be fed more often than adult pets. A veterinarian is your best source of information on what and how to feed your new pet.
 - Avoid table scraps and “human food” unless otherwise instructed by a veterinarian.
- **When do you get the next set of vaccines**
 - Your veterinarian can answer this question but it depends on the age of the pet.
 - Animals under four months of age should be vaccinated every 2-4 weeks until they turn four months.
 - Animals over four months need two sets of vaccines, 2-4 weeks apart.
 - Until your pet is fully vaccinated, keep away from other animals or areas where other animals may frequent (parks, pet stores, grooming parlors, etc.).
 - Vaccines should be given at least yearly.
- **How to introduce your new pet to your current family**
 - Keep your new pet away from your current animals for at least seven days.
 - Slowly introduce the animals, while under close observation.
 - Speak to your veterinarian about how to best approach this.
- **When do you bathe your new pet**
 - If your pet had alteration surgery, you may need to wait 7-10 days before bathing.
 - If your pet did not have surgery, he/she can be bathed as soon as you get home.
 - Use animal shampoo as even “baby” shampoo can be harsh on their skin.
 - Bathe animals no more than every three weeks.
- **Keeping up with County policies**
 - Ensure your animal maintains their license by checking with the city you live in.
 - Some cities require only Rabies vaccine while others require microchips or other vaccines as well.

Finally, *enjoy* your new pet! They have been waiting to have the care and love that you can provide them! If you have any questions, feel free to contact your local veterinarian!

Rideshare L.A. County!

from the CEO/Office of Workplace Programs

December is Commute Safely Month. There are many ways to be safe on the road. Following safety measures can ensure that you and your loved ones enjoy this blissful time of year. One way to be safe is to make sure you buckle up if you are driving or carpooling. When on public transit, make sure that

you wait in a safe location on a curb or behind marked lines at bus or rail stations. For more safety tips on public transit, visit www.metro.net/around/safety-security. Rideshare L.A. County wishes you a safe and happy holiday season. Remember to take pride and share the ride.



Working for You

Department of Public Health

The holidays are a busy time of year, but that doesn't mean you should put your health on hold. As you prepare to ring in the New Year, share good health practices with family and friends during this holiday season.

Wash your hands. Handwashing saves lives and is the best way to eliminate germs, avoid getting sick and prevent the spread of germs to others. After being in crowded places such as the mall or movie theaters, and always before eating, remember to wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds.

Get vaccinated. Influenza season is here and now is the best time to get your seasonal flu vaccine. The influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone six months of age and older. Get your yearly flu vaccine to protect yourself against the flu.

Use antibiotics appropriately. Antibiotics can be lifesaving when used appropriately, but using them incorrectly or when it is unnecessary can lead to antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Use antibiotics wisely and only when prescribed by your physician. Discard old unused or expired antibiotics at a Los Angeles County Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Collection site.

Practice safety first. Whether you are driving near your home or traveling across town for a holiday gathering, make sure that you and your passengers are safe and secure in the car on every trip. Children need to be properly buckled up in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt. Also, if you expect to drink alcohol, remember to have a designated driver so that you and those on the road are safe.

Enjoy holiday treats but don't overindulge. Instead of piling everything on your plate, have a reasonable portion of your favorite specialties and leave some of the other dishes. Focus on quality rather than quantity and set the tone for eating well throughout the holiday season. Get more information on how to "choose less, weigh less."

The Department of Public Health wishes you and your family a happy, healthy holiday season!



QPC Honors DPSS Director Sheryl L. Spiller Chair Leadership Award



Presented annually to an individual who leads by example and carries out the mission and vision of their organization, the Quality and Productivity Commission honored Sheryl L. Spiller, Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), with its prestigious Commission "Chair Leadership Award" at its 29th annual awards program in downtown Los Angeles.

"It's my pleasure to present the Commission's Chair Leadership Award to an individual, who's County career could take up several chapters in a book about the American dream," stated Commission Chair Rodney C. Gibson (pictured above with Spiller).

Spiller started out in an entry-level clerical position at a DPSS district office in South Los Angeles. Her hard work earned her the directorship of the department in 2013. Along the way, she earned an undergraduate degree in Organizational Behavior and a master's degree in Human Resources from the University of San Francisco. She is credited with bringing a new vision and innovative technology to the department. With more than 13,600 employees, an annual budget of \$3.9 billion and over 3.5 million residents seeking public assistance, Spiller leads one of the largest and most diverse health and human services agencies in the world.

Spiller acknowledged the DPSS family for its ongoing support and the "competition" between her department head colleagues, who inspire each other to "bring out the best in us for the people we serve in the County."

WeTip
WELFARE FRAUD
1 (800) 87-FRAUD

Innovative Projects Honored

Benefitting County residents

County residents and families will have a brighter holiday season thanks to positive outcomes achieved by programs honored at the 29th annual Productivity and Quality Awards (PQA) ceremony, held in October in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Rick Garcia of KCBS/KCAL-TV served as master of ceremonies.

“These creative projects improve the quality of services provided by County departments to the more than 10 million residents, who call Los Angeles home,” said Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor of the Board. Also joining Antonovich were Supervisors Hilda L. Solis and Sheila Kuehl, and Assessor Jeffrey Prang.

CEO Sachi A. Hamai said, “The PQA recognizes projects developed by County employees that will result in cost savings revenue or cost avoidance; and the programs honored this year have an estimated value to the County of \$75 million.”

A novel way to design public and private facilities that promote physical activities was the impetus for a new, collaborative approach to seeking grant funding. Two years ago, the County launched the **“Mega \$\$\$! Grants to Grow a Healthy County”** project, which has brought in more than \$4.7 million.

Child Support Services will make Christmas brighter this year for many vulnerable children and families. Utilizing an innovative and highly sophisticated **“Predictive Analytics”** model, the department “collected \$2 million for fragile families on previously non-paying cases,” said Dr. Steven J. Golightly, Director.

A new and robust urgent care center at Twin Towers Correctional Facility, anchors the **“Inmate Care Services Project,”** a collaboration between Health Services and the Sheriff. The health initiative has improved inmate access to quality health care while reducing the number of unnecessary transfers out of the jail setting.

Members of the Commission are subject matter experts from the private sector, who are charged with promoting employee productivity and efficiency in County services. The PQA is the County’s premier recognition event for employees.

All of the honored programs are featured in the QPC’s annual “Best and Shared Practices Report,” which is available on the Commission’s website, <http://qpc.co.la.ca.us>.

2015 Eagle Awards

Gold – **Mega \$\$\$! Grants to Grow a Healthy County** (DPH with DPW, Parks and Recreation, DRP, Arts Commission, ISD)



Commissioner Gibson, TTC Kelly, Ron Moskowitz, Mayor Antonovich, Supervisor Solis, and CEO Hamai.

Silver – **Predicting Prosperity: It’s Just Analytical** (CSSD)
Bronze – **Inmate Care Services Project** (DHS with LASD)

Productivity and Quality Awards

Managed Print Services (MPS) (CIO)
Student Information Tracking System (SITS) (DCFS)
A Brighter Future: Combatting Foster Youth Identity Theft (DCBA with DCFS and Probation)
IMHT: Reducing Risk for Homeless Early Death (DMH)
Una Mente, Una Vida: One Mind, One Life (DMH)
Women’s Veterans Program (DMVA with BOS First District, DHR, Public Library, DMH and DPSS)
24-7 Virtual Library (Public Library)

2015 Commission Special Awards

Changemaker Award – Novel Program Improves HIV Care and Prevention (DPH with Commission on HIV)
Commissioners’ Legacy Award – Redevelopment Bond Refunding Program (TTC)
County Image Enhancement Award – Using Art to Create a Healing Environment (DHS)
Creative Application of Technology Award – DA Cyber Investigation Response Team (DA with CIO and ISD)
Customer Service Award – 24-7 Virtual Library (Public Library)
Mega Million Dollar Award – Water Districts Monitor What’s In Your Water (DPW)
Outstanding Teamwork Award – CAMS – Improving Client Case Management (TTC with DMH, Medical Examiner/Coroner and County Counsel)
Performance Measurement Award – Special Investigations’ Tracking System – SITS) (Assessor)
Process Enhancement Award – Court Reservation System (Los Angeles Superior Court)



Share Your Heart Share Your Home

*Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent
Department of Children and Family Services*

The holiday season is here! What that means to most of us is spending time with our families. Maybe your kids have all grown up and moved away and you miss those busy days of running the kids to music lessons, sports practice, or school activities? Maybe you have always wanted to start your family but didn't want to go through the baby stage with diapers and round the clock feedings? Maybe you have just enough room for one more child each year at your dinner table during the holiday season? If you can relate, then you might be the perfect family for one of our over 400 waiting children in L.A. County foster care.



Photo: Luwin Kwan

Meet the handsome and sweet Michael. Michael reports that in addition to loving sports, his real passion lays in his faith (Christianity) and his love for music. He has found a way to combine both passions by participating in his church's worship band. You can find him playing the drums, the keyboard, or the guitar during services.

His dream is to find a Christian family who would share the holidays with him, not just this year, but every year and commit to being there for him unconditionally. With a smile like Michael's, a family should not be hard to find. Let's work together and find a family for Michael.

Turn Around, Don't Drown

Stay Safe During Winter Storms

As meteorologists predict a strong, wet El Niño for this winter, the Fire Department reminds residents to avoid driving through floodwaters.

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm-related disasters. More than half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into rushing water, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. People underestimate the strength of a current; in fact, it takes only two feet of water to sweep away a vehicle.

Flash floods are caused by numerous reasons—not just rain. They can be caused by broken dams and pipes or melting snow. Being prepared and paying attention to warnings and public safety announcements may be the only way to ensure your safety.

Don't get caught driving in flood waters. Here are some tips to remember if flooding occurs while you're behind the wheel.

- Avoid driving through flood waters.
- Be aware of potential flood-like conditions.
- Heed "Turn around, Don't Drown!" signs from the Federal Highway Administration.



- Stay away from flood control channels, such as catch basins, canyons, and natural waterways.
- If flood water rises around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground.
- Stay away from flooded areas, even if the water seems to be diminishing.
- Do not attempt to cross flooded areas and never enter moving water.
- Know where you're going if you abandon your car.

Follow these simple tips to help keep you safe, no matter what El Niño brings. Visit www.lacounty.gov/elnino for more information.



SAVE THE DATE!
March 14, 2016

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Presents

31st Annual
“Women of the Year” Awards
and Scholarship Luncheon

Music Center Grand Hall

135 North Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Online ticket purchases will be available beginning
January 2016

The proceeds help fund educational scholarships and programs

For additional information, please visit our website at <http://laccw.lacounty.gov>

Retirees

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after their many years of service to the County of Los Angeles:

45+ Years

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Bernice Hicks
SHERIFF: Carolyn F. Curry

40+ Years

ASSESSOR: Kurt D. Gensicke
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Hanem M. El Habiby, Betty J. Jordan
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Geraldine Williams
HEALTH SERVICES: Ethel L. Owens
INTERNAL SERVICES: Diane R. Amador, Po-Bik Shum
MENTAL HEALTH: Sharon K. Frank
PROBATION: Yvonne Mack, Noy R. Russell
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Mary A. Contreras, Ana M. Escorcia, Maria Lopez, Dora Torres
SHERIFF: Darlene Belair

35+ Years

HEALTH SERVICES: Mary Barbee, Helen J. Brewer, Deborah Lantin, Luisa E. Luckunchan, Leticia Velez
PUBLIC HEALTH: Aprel M. Johnson Gabriel, Yolanda R. Moore, Esther P. Rodriguez, Alice Ybarra
PUBLIC WORKS: Debra L. Del Castillo, Eddie Maldonado
SHERIFF: Michael L. Bornman, Teresa Reed
SUPERIOR COURT: William Barnes, Rose M. Davis, Wayne Denton, Shirley Gladue

30+ Years

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL: Socorro R. Villa
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Valerie M. Hara, Maggie S. Ly
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Glynndean Suggs
HEALTH SERVICES: Ofelia Gonzalez, Baek-Nan Kim, Sharon E. Miller, Salva R. Tayco, Stanley Weldon
MENTAL HEALTH: Jeffrey A. Adams
PROBATION: Michael A. June
PUBLIC HEALTH: Beverly A. Sherman
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Waver E. Tassin
PUBLIC WORKS: Dan R. Pesci, Kevin Smith
SHERIFF: Richard C. Milton
SUPERIOR COURT: Ronald G. Dahl

25+ Years

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Gregory C. Benton, Maryanne Duffy, Dennis Gregory
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Renee Harris
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Nahid Rizvi, Rhonda Saunders

FIRE: Jon E. Baker, Eric G. McKellar, Juan F. Reynoso
HEALTH SERVICES: Johana C. Arcia, Geraldine M. Cano, Chantal R. Girault, Doris Guarin, Misun Lee, Delia C. Salazar, Sandra C. Sasso, Agnes L. Tolentino, Pepito Tolentino
MENTAL HEALTH: J.C. Duvall
PARKS & RECREATION: Andrew Henry
PROBATION: Quentin E. Christie
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Alba N. Marrero
PUBLIC HEALTH: Bernardita Cayabyab, Ana M. Pinedo, Yvonne R. Williams
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Annette B. Burns, Justina Y. Chang, Maria L. Espinoza, Angelina Galvan-Casas, Zi H. Jin, Shirley A. Matijevich
PUBLIC WORKS: Lonnie C. Munson
SHERIFF: David W. Campbell, Nancy Dopirak, Teodorico D. Rosell
SUPERIOR COURT: Charles Kuhn, Mary H. Ruiz



As part of the preparations for El Niño, the County has launched a robust webpage to communicate emergency information and share preparedness tips with residents, businesses, and community partners: www.lacounty.gov/elnino.

The webpage provides storm-related resources including safety tips, weather forecasts, and information for homeowners affected by floods and mudslides. Additionally, visitors can find info guides, PSAs, and a dedicated Twitter feed of first responder agencies tweeting about this year's storms. It is mobile-friendly and can be instantly translated into 90 languages.



Christmas Tree Recycling

dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/xmastrees



Last Minute Holiday Shopping Tips

Buying your present late this season? Do it wisely with these tips:

Set a budget and a plan

Prepare a budget before you step into a store or start your computer. Paying with cash for smaller purchases can keep you from overspending. Plan your purchases in advance instead of going store to store in rush-hour shopping traffic.

Make sure the price is right

You probably missed the best sale prices, but always check your receipt before you leave the cash register. Every dollar counts, especially when time is short.

Or, just wait for after-Christmas sales

You've waited this long, so if you don't exchange gifts until after Christmas day, hit the clearance sales once the holiday has passed. (While you're there, stock up on holiday-specific items like cards and gift wrap for next year!)

Consider cash instead of gift cards

Many last-minute shoppers buy gift cards. However, U.S. consumers waste about \$10 billion every year in unused gift cards. Gift cards seem more personal than cash, but would you be disappointed with a 20- or 100-dollar bill instead of a gift card? Neither would they.

Know shipping deadlines

Before you buy from an online retailer, double-check their shipping methods and costs. Look for the exact dates you need to buy in order to get your gifts on time. Track your shipping and if necessary, leave a note for the delivery person to make sure you get what you need when you need it.

For more consumer tips, visit dcbalacounty.gov. Follow us on Twitter: @LACountyDCBA.



Photo: Grand Park

Ring in the New Year

Grand Park + The Music Center's N.Y.E.L.A.

Public Library Re-Gifts Magazines

to LAC+USC Medical Center Patients

When patients are confined in a hospital, they often feel anxious as they pass time with few distractions and little to do. So, the Public Library has partnered with the LAC+USC Medical Center to provide gently used magazines to inpatients hospitalized there.

"The County Public Library is happy to provide magazines in numerous languages and on a variety of topics," said Yolanda De Ramus, Chief Deputy/Acting County Librarian. "This is exactly the kind of interdepartmental cross-collaboration the public expects, and we are happy to oblige."

The ongoing reading material re-gifting program began in September 2015. The Public Library delivered over 300 magazines to the LAC+USC Medical Center for siblings, family members, and friends of patients waiting in the hospital, and the donations continue. LAC+USC Medical Center volunteers take reading materials by cart directly to patients' bedsides so they can conveniently select one of their choice.

"All of the magazines have been made available to inpatients who are hospitalized, many of whom are here for several days with limited resources," said Coco Ceja, Director of Volunteer Services at the LAC+USC Medical Center. "These magazines have been very helpful in helping patients pass the time by providing diversionary activity and help reduce their levels of anxiety and boredom."