

# Hope In Sight Gala 2007-It's Swing Time!

What will have the mystery and suspense of "Casablanca"? The lighthearted joy of "It's a Wonderful Life"? Our 21st *Hope In Sight* Gala!

The 1940s will be in full "swing" on October 14th at the stunning Skirball Cultural Center. Join us for an exciting evening of dinner, awards, and entertainment (including an amazing silent auction) as we celebrate the fabulous '40s and raise \$500,000 to support the services of The Center for the Partially Sighted.

Do you dream of a spectacular Winter Rail Adventure in Canada? Maybe a luxurious two-night stay at the famed Four Seasons Hotel in New York City is more to your liking. Both of these sensational trips and many other tantalizing goods and services can be yours when you bid at the silent auction.

The evening continues with our presentation of the 2007 Vision Award. This prestigious award recognizes exceptional individuals who have dedicated themselves to community service, achieved excellence in their field, and demonstrated outstanding creativity. The Center is thrilled to announce this year's honorees: Television legend, Betty White, and master artist, Sam Smith.

Nicknamed "America's Sweetheart," Betty White has been entertaining and delighting her fans for over 50



years. Winner of 6 Emmys and numerous other industry awards, her television hits include (among others): "The Carol Burnett Show," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," and "The Golden Girls". More recently Betty has made recurring appearances on "Boston Legal" and "The Bold and the Beautiful". Betty is also a tireless champion of animal welfare and is President Emeritus of Morris Animal Foundation. And, much to our delight, Betty recently donated her time to The Center for the Partially Sighted and graciously hosted a promotional DVD for our supporters.

Sam Smith is a master artist whose work is collected by Henry Winkler, Michele Lee, Steve Edwards, Susan Dey, Andrew Solt, Roy Christopher, Larry Nicola, David Pina, Randy Edelman, Michael Hertzberg, The Very Special Arts Gallery, and many, many more. Sam's unique art has been exhibited at venues across Southern California and we are fortunate to have some of his work on display at the Center. The legendary Peter Max has said about Sam, "Sam Smith may be partially sighted, but his sense of design and his sense of humor make him one of the most interesting and creative artists on the scene today."

But the evening doesn't end with the Vision Awards; we have a night of incredible entertainment coming

continued on page 2

### In this issue...

- Sam Genensky, Eighty Years Young
- CPS Year End Report
- Touching the Lives of Others
- Ashly's "Mission Possible"

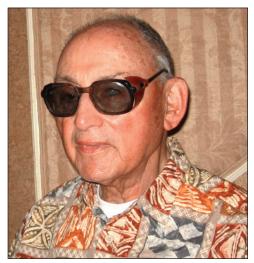
## **Eighty Years Young, Sam Celebrates Life**

In his 80 years on this planet, Sam Genensky has had a significant impact. His education included a school for the blind, a Sight Saving program, a Masters degree from Harvard and culminated in a Ph.D. from Brown University in Applied Mathematics. Dr. Genensky had less vision than most people who are legally blind. With 20/1000 best corrected vision in one eye and no vision in the other, he learned a great deal about living with impaired sight. He went on to work as a mathematician for the Rand Corporation, became a husband and a father, helped to develop the first video magnifier for people with impaired sight and founded a nonprofit agency to help those people who, like him, were visually impaired, even legally blind, but who had some remaining sight. Although you may not know it, you most likely are impacted by his efforts. The geometric signs identifying public restrooms - triangle for men and oval for women

 became required standards because of Sam's efforts.

"I know how hard it is to be a child with impaired sight. When I lived it, there were no options except to function as if I were totally blind. I understand the difficulties people losing vision to diabetes or to macular degeneration face. The Center for the Partially Sighted is my legacy. Getting people the services they need to live, work and play despite their low vision not only helps them, but our society is richer because they are participating members," said Sam.

Sam turned 80 this summer. He still comes to the offices of the Center he founded several times a week, and is involved with the Center's Board of Directors and serves on the Disabilities Commission for the City of Santa Monica. He has received many awards, including inauguration into the California Governors Hall of Fame for People with Disabilities, Doctor of Human Letters from the Illinois Col-



Dr. Sam Genensky.

lege of Optometry, the Migel Award from the American Foundation for the Blind, and the Carl Koch award from the American Association of Optometry. The CCTV (closed circuit television) he helped to pioneer remains one of the most commonly used devices allowing people with impaired sight to read, write and view photographs. Not bad for his first 80 years. Happy Birthday, Dr. Genensky.

## Hope in Sight Gala (continued)

your way. We don't want to ruin any surprises, so we'll just tell you that previous entertainers for the *Hope In Sight* Gala have included Barry Manilow, Ben Vereen, Burt Bacharach, Al Jarreau, and Bernadette Peters. With such an impressive roster, we can promise you won't be disappointed at this year's Gala.

There are so many reasons to join us for the *Hope In Sight* Gala – we are honoring two unique and deserving individuals, the dinner and entertainment will be exceptional, but most of all, your presence will have a direct impact on the lives of thousands of partially sighted children, adults and their families. Most of us take our sight for granted, but the numbers are staggering: did you know that

approximately 1 in 20 Americans have impaired sight? Imagine a child with vision so dim that he can't play catch or see his mother's face. Or a teenager whose future dreams slip away because she can't read a textbook or see a computer screen. Imagine reaching retirement only to find that you are unable to see well enough to take care of yourself. Imagine the fear of losing your independence.

Where would you turn?

The answer is The Center for the Partially Sighted. The Center offers not only hope, but help. We provide services ranging from low vision technology aids tailored for individual needs, to providing living skills specialists who work with children

in their classrooms and adults in their homes to solve real-world issues, and so much more.

It's because of you that we are able to help so many. So mark your calendar for October 14th, "swing" down to the Skirball, and join us for a night of fun and entertainment. The fabulous '40s await you!

—Kaadi Taylor

#### **The Details:**

5:00 pm VIP Reception, Silent Auction Preview 6:00 pm Cocktail Reception & Silent Auction 7:00 pm Dinner, Awards, Entertainment

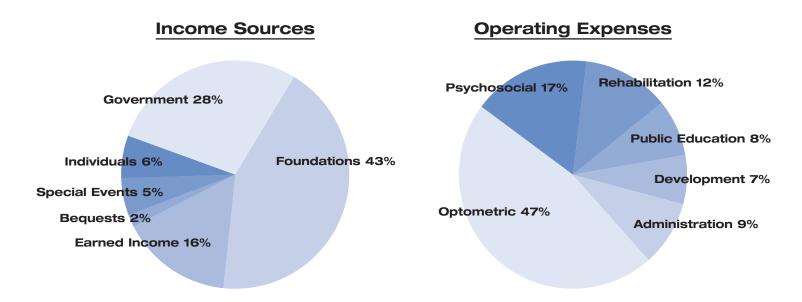
Tickets: \$300

VIP Tickets: \$400 (includes VIP reception)

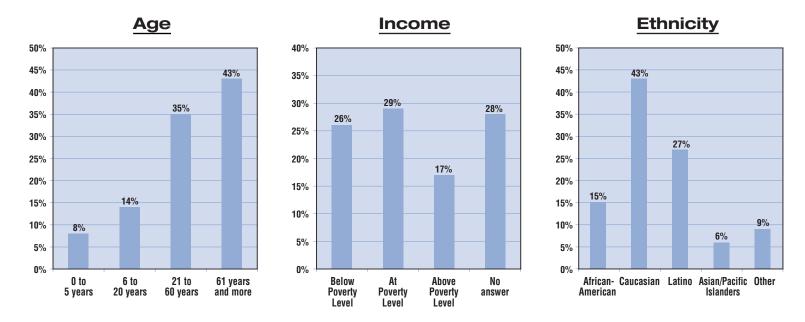
RSVP (310) 458-3501 ext. 167

(Dress is elegant attire, but feel free to dress up to "swing" if you'd like!)

# The Center for the Partially Sighted 2006-2007 Year End Report



## Who We Serve



## We serve people of all ages, income levels and ethnic backgrounds.

Our statistics reflect that vision loss is more common later in life. Because of medical advances, more infants with disabilities survive. We also serve many people with diabetes that impacts the Latino and African American population in greater numbers. Over half of the people we serve live at or below poverty, which demonstrates the increased risk of vision impairment for people with poorer access to medical care and early intervention.

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# **Touching the Lives of Others**

Touching the lives of other people is a rare and moving experience. Being able to continue to touch lives when we are no longer here takes special focus and planning. Two women who did both, Lorraine Marcoux and Irma Colen, were remembered on Saturday, September 8th at a ceremony dedicating plaques in their honor at the Center's Valley office. Family and friends of these two women gathered to recognize the legacy each woman created, and learned how their legacies will impact thousands of children and adults with impaired sight for many years to come.



Lorraine Marcoux.

"Lorraine Marcoux was a woman whose all engrossing focus, despite her own medical problems, was the welfare of the visually impaired," said her friends Shirley and Don Johnstone. "Her dream of a San Fernando Valley location ... has finally materialized... providing people with impaired sight with the opportunities they feared they had lost."

"Anyone can imagine a better world, but only a rare few have the vision and tenacity to help build one," said Center Board member Kathy Coss speaking of her longtime friend, Lorraine Marcoux. "Her dream was to assist the visually impaired with counseling, assistive technology, current events, and, more importantly, companionship in a group setting."

The Lorraine Marcoux Educational Center houses support groups for people living with impaired sight as well as other educational meetings. Plans for the future include Independent Living Skills Training sessions, Low Vision Technology seminars and demonstrations, and additional adult education classes.

"Irma was my friend and an inspiration to me and to all of us. Los Angeles is a more caring place because Irma was here," said Sidney Machtinger, chairman of the Center's Board of Directors. "She will always be remembered by her deeds and how much she cared about people in need," said her husband Lou Colen.



Irma Colen.

Irma Colen was a volunteer and philanthropist who worked tirelessly for the Venice Family Clinic, which provides health care to people in need. The Center for the Partially Sighted has long partnered with VFC to provide eye health evaluations for their patients with diabetes who are uninsured.

The Irma Colen Low Vision Training Area is the portion of the Center where people with impaired sight learn how to properly use their low vision devices, which is critical in successfully enhancing their ability to access their remaining sight. "It is very appropriate that a woman of enhanced vision like Irma leaves the gift of sight as part of her legacy to others," said LaDonna Ringering, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Center.

Lorraine and Irma were both courageous and compassionate during their lives. These legacies continue their lifelong mission of helping others.

## **Valley Group Activities Launched**

The Lorriane Marcoux Educational Center is up and running. Below is a listing of the programs scheduled for September and October. For more information about these events, contact Anna Otis at 818-705-5954 Ext. 222.

- **Sept 20** Answering your questions on how to successfully achieve independence. Guest: Loraine Millen, former Counslor/Teacher, Dept. of Rehabilitation
- Sept 27 Various ways to shop at selected grocery and department stores
- Oct 4 Easy, convenient methods of paying bills
- Oct 11 Dr. Bill Takeshita speaks about Assistive Technology
- Oct 18 Group determines topic
- Oct 24 Skirball Tour for people with low vision



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# **Ashly's "Mission Possible"**

Ashly Stohl is on a mission. "I want to get the word out about the Center and all the wonderful things they do," she says with warmth and determination. As a new Board Member of the Center, Ashly's desire to educate and inform the public isn't just professional, it's personal: her four year old son, Jake, was diagnosed with ocular albinism soon after birth.

Ocular albinism is a genetic disorder that affects the eyes. Unlike other forms of albinism, skin and hair appear normal, but vision is greatly reduced and nystagmus (back and forth movement of the eyes) is often one of the symptoms. But don't think ocular albinism has slowed Jake down. "He's rambunctious, smart,



Ashly and Jake Stohl.

crazy... a typical four year old," she says laughing with delight.

When Ashly first brought Jake to the Center for an exam, she wasn't sure what to expect. "The optometrist was wonderful with him," she says. "And they gave him some great adaptive devices – a handheld telescope and a

plexiglas magnifier that he thinks are toys. The telescope has green rubber on it so Jake calls it his G.I. Joe telescope. He absolutely loves it and takes it everywhere. We can really see the difference in how it's helped him."

While Ashly is quick to point out the wonderful doctors and surgeons that work with Jake, she knows the Center provides a whole other level of assistance. "Doctors can operate on your eyes but they don't help you live your life." As Jake grows older, Ashly knows that the Center will be there for Jake and their family to help them navigate what lies ahead. Now, she wants to make sure other families know that the Center can be there for them as well.