Expansion on the Horizon

Visualize an oak tree: this tree has been growing steadily at the corner of Robertson and Pico for quite some time. It’s been putting down roots and taking in nutrients from the rich soil of the Pico/Robertson community and, over time, our oak has grown strong branches and green leaves abound. This is an apt metaphor for Alcott Center: we are growing and developing new services! We have augmented and expanded our mental health services and more:

• The number of clients we serve has increased - up 40% from 2015 to 2016 and we project a increase of 100 new clients in 2017. As a result we’ve added more clinical and administrative staff to meet the demand;
• We are nearing certification for Drug Medi-Cal – allowing us to provide substance abuse treatment counseling;
• Our Interim Residential program has been infused with enough funding to allow us to place people in temporary housing while we provide them with “wrap-around” support services;
• We are the lead agency in the Pico Robertson Health Neighborhood strengthening bonds with our community and supporting better health outcomes for our neighbors;
• We are co-sponsoring a Homeless Panel with the South Robertson Neighborhood Council (SORO), participating in a health fair at Hamilton High School and planning future community education programs.

All this activity has created a need to expand our footprint and we have fortunately found space right next door! Now the planning begins and at almost 3,000 additional square feet we’ll be designing and remodeling both our current space as well as the new space. Our thanks to two foundations who have provided seed funds to get our expansion off the ground: Rose Hills and Weingart Foundations.

"It’s been putting down roots and taking in nutrients from the rich soil of the Pico/Robertson community and, over time, our oak has grown strong branches and green leaves abound."

Our oak tree is flourishing – there is a lot of work and “cultivation” ahead! With your help we can do it - please help us grow and thrive - and thank you for your ongoing support.

Penny

Penny Mehra, Executive Director

CLIENT FEEDBACK

"Alcott has been very helpful in helping me manage my symptoms whether in a group, in therapy with Aaron, working with Kacy or attending Art Class all have been and continue to help restore my core. Also look forward to seeing Teresa at the front desk upon arrival."

Anonymous Alcott Client
NEWS AND EVENTS

Alcott and SORO

Congratulations! Tickling the Ivories

Alcott’s Associate Director Nick Maiorino at our South Robertson Festival community booth (SORO). We introduced many community members to our mission and services—a great success.

Go Dodgers!

New addition to the Board of Directors

Welcome Bill.

Go Dodgers!

New staffer Jessica Toledo gives our newly donated piano a try-out! Thanks to donor Boaz Herzog—we are now the proud owner of this circa 1900 antique. Alcott’s musicians will be quite happy playing on this beautiful instrument!

On the run

Alcott Board member David Sall and his wife Lisa preparing for their first recent Half-Marathon Run. David asked his sponsor to make donations in support of Alcott Center. Thanks to all who did—it’s appreciated!!

Tickling the ivories

Congratulations Penny.

Executive Director Penny Mehra celebrates 55 years with Alcott Center! Congratulations Penny! L-R: Quality Assurance Specialist, Dorothy Berndt, Executive Director Penny Mehra, Board Member Clayton Coleman.

A Success Story - Joan and Sally (pseudonyms)

Joan – age 28 has struggled with longstanding dependency, living with her mother and fearful of doing things on her own. She is diagnosed with OCD & Agoraphobia with Panic Attacks. In addition, she has a congenital heart condition and has had to undergo dozens of surgeries.

Over the last couple of years, Sally, age 36 has had multiple psychiatric hospitalizations due to psychosis, and had to relocate and lived with various family members. She has not consistently followed her medication routine—residing with her mom who was calling Alcott staff constantly out of concern.

Recently however, both clients befriended one another during an Alcott Group session and client activities and both have shown a sharp reduction in symptoms.

While planning a trip to Mexico, Joan’s parents talked and discussed both clients staying together for the two week period of the trip. The two clients moved in together, providing support to each other during this time and both are doing extremely well—an example of powerful peer-to-peer support and Alcott’s guidance.

“Keep up the great work! Zachary, my counselor is the best, most skilled, most helpful counselor and/or just plain human being I have known. For one year now, every time I see him I feel much more hope and am able to access much more inner and outer resources IN MY LIFE. He is highly skilled and gifted! So surprising for a guy his age. Neal is extremely knowledgeable...(also)...Theresa is very efficient and patient and supportive. This the only mental health center that is mentally healthy!”

- Joseph, Alcott Client

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

OCTOBER 2016

Cynthia Anderson-Barker and Tim Barker
Leonard and Audrey Asher
Christina Benson and Kenneth Wells
Brenda Jacobs, M.D. in honor of David Sall
Clayton and Caren Coleman
Arlene and John Cull
Karen and John Cutler
Robert and Ginger Emerson
Michael Gales, MD
Olushola Giwa
Gordon Family
In Memory of Bruce Gordon’s Parents
Mark and Ingrid Huberman
Joel Holwerda in honor of David Sall
Anonymous
Thomas and Kristine Koeningaisberg in honor of David Sall
Doria Krohn
Robert Kummer, O.D., P.C.
Laurie Newkirk in honor of David Sall
Maggie and Sean O’Neill in honor of David Sall
Nicholas G Maiorino, Jr
Mariana Alfaro in honor of David Sall
Matt Riezman in honor of David Sall
Penny Mehra in honor of David Sall
Lee and Jeffrey Milman
Diane Lerner In Honor Of Margie Rothman
Molly Larson in honor of David Sall
Felice Myers and Philip Malamuth
Michelle Pahl and Boaz Herzog
Myrna Perry
Cecile and Robert and Stephen Polsky
In Honor of Stephen Polsky

Lissette Pulc
Kristi and Louie Rangel in honor of David Sall
Roger Recupero
LuAnn Roberto
Ellen Roese
Marjorie Rothman
Vicki & Mark Rothman in honor of David Sall
Kenneth Sall in honor of David Sall
Myra and Emmanuel Schegloff
Oscar and Erika Scremin
Joseph and Marie Jose Serbaroli
In Honor of Christine Sicile
David and Sandra Stirling
Eric Stoff in honor of David Sall
Steven Tietzert
Yardena Vener In Memory of Rochelle Vener
In Honor of David Vener
Joan and James Vernetti
Whitney Ribbens in honor of David Sall
Gayle Whittemore
William McKenna in honor of David Sall
Wilton Ng in honor of David Sall

COMMUNITY & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

Cedars-Sinai
National Arts and Disability Center,
University of California, Los Angeles
Rose Hills Foundation
South Robertson Neighborhood Council
Union Bank
Jean & Lewis Wolff Foundation
Weingart Foundation

- Joseph, Alcott Client

“Thank you Alcott for providing a safe place for others to explore their deepest troubles and fears.”

Anonymous Alcott Client

DID YOU KNOW?

Do you use Amazon to make purchases?

Thank you for supporting Alcott Center for Mental Health Services. Remember, always start at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.