Mission Statement
The mission of the Little Tokyo Service Center, a Community Development Corporation is to meet the critical needs of people and build community.

- We improve the lives of individuals and families through culturally sensitive social services.
- We strengthen neighborhoods through housing and community development.
- We promote the rich heritage of the ethnic community.

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We would also like to thank and acknowledge all those who supported our fund raising events, those who donated non-monetary gifts, our many volunteers, and government agencies that provided leading for the programs and services at the Little Tokyo Service Center.

We greatly appreciate your support.

Every effort to include all donors from July 2006 to June 2007, but if a name has been inadvertently omitted, please let us know at (213) 673-1613 or info@ltsc.org.

Annual Report designed by: Megumi Tomatsu

The new handicap accessible local Ningyo Shobu.
Miss Nella Grace Oliver 1867-1947

Ask any of the thousands of Nikkei youth at a packed basketball, volleyball, or judo tournament and they most likely will not name of Miss Nella Grace Oliver. But at the turn-of-the-century, the children of Japanese farmers in Little Tokyo were prohibited from local youth leagues. Determined to form their own group, they turned to their trusted teacher for help.

Miss Oliver donated 25 years to helping foster athletics, communication skills and other youth-building activities. Under her wing, the children practiced their English and Japanese, sang and socialized together. Over the years, 250 Nisei have competed on Oliver teams producing many standout athletes. In an era of ignorance, Miss Oliver educated herself in her students’ culture, even making a trip to Japan. When her students were interned during World War II, the 80-year-old Miss Oliver made the trek to Manzanar to visit and wrote spirited protests to Washington D.C.

To preserve the story of Miss Oliver and the youth leagues, the Little Tokyo Service Center, with funding from the California Council for the Humanities and help from Frank Fukuzawa, has captured the Olivers Clubs’ ninety-year history in an exhibit at the historic Far East Café, just a few blocks from where the same children of Japanese farmers met and played their first games.

Read LITTLE’S posting at: www.discovernikeville.org/littlekeibun

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In Honor Of - Special Gifts

Alice Ishigami-Tao’s
40th birthday
Shelia Bablou
Oscar Bablou

Opening A Door for E-commerce
Small Business Program

Mr. Ota*, a native of Japan, came to the Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program (APISBP) for assistance in loan packaging for business expansion. His online retail store sells English language learning tools and seasonal merchandise with insights on product shipment, 98% of his sales come from Asia, 93% from Japan.

The LISC Business Counselor, under the APISBP collaboration, advised Mr. Ota on his marginal credit, advised him to invest to increase his score and offered strategies. After eight months of diligent work, they both pleased to see a dramatic 30 point improvement.

LISC approached the banks, but they hesitated because of the difficulty of assessing an overseas market demand for retail products. Following a referral from APISBP, the counselor pitched the online business to Mr. Song, a Loan Officer at Primary Bank, who agreed to consider it. Mr. Ota elaborated on his business operations and expansion plans through the translation help of the counselor. Impressed by the previous sales growth, knowledge of consumer trends, and business operation structure, Mr. Song gave them the green light.

The LISC Business Counselor submitted all the necessary paperwork to complete the loan application following the week. Within a few days, LISC was notified that the client was approved for a $200,000 loan and would receive the funds the next day. With the infusion of this new working capital, the client is implementing his expansion plans including a larger

Inventories and quicker turnaround from receipt of funds. The LISC’s Business Counselor works to ensure that entrepreneurs like Mr. Ota improve their businesses and in doing so helps revitalize the local economy.

*Charged for confidentiality
When LTSC opened the DISCoverry Computer Learning Center in the historic Far East Building, Yuki Shorob-Kranzro Cushing-Murray, a resident volunteer, asked about wireless internet connection to follow her Dhara studies from home. Just a few years ago, Yuki, a vibrant spirit and Buddhist monk, found physical condition take a sharp turn for the worse. She became wheelchair bound and had to give up her job. Lacking income she moved into a homeless shelter. An LFSC social worker helped her apply for government support, negotiate with her health insurance and placed her in LTSC’s subsidized housing. From her studio she now has convenient access to groceries, public transportation, and every need for daily living. She enrolled in the DISCoverry Center computer classes to make friends and learn new skills but her health made it difficult to take full advantage of the free drop-in times at the center and a monthly ESL service was beyond her budget.

Yuki’s need for internet at home sparked LTSC’s Tech Team to recruit savvy volunteers and begin mapping out a plan to bring affordable wireless access to ALL of Little Tokyo. As part of their advisory committee, Yuki became the compelling spokesperson for Little Tokyo Unplugged.

Since January, Little Tokyo Unplugged’s wireless internet connection has provided over 1,200 residents and businesses with access, opportunity and a competitive edge. Additionally, the Access for All Foundation has generously sponsored modifications to make the DISCoverry Center more accessible for those with disabilities. (LittleTokyoUnplugged.org)
Honor Grove Annual Pledges

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<th>Level</th>
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<tr>
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Special Thanks to Our Donors for Your Support
Grants and Donations Received July 2006 - June 2007

Aigo Giving Campaign
Sustaining programs for Japanese-speaking populations:
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- Corporate Employee Giving

Legacy Partners
Providing for future generations through bequests of cash, real estate, securities or pension fund assets.

Yasuko Sakamoto Kowalchuk
Rising to the Call of Compassion

From an early age, Yasuko Sakamoto knew what she felt like to be treated in the same way as other people. During her school days in Naka, Japan, teachers treated her differently, not because she was smart or could beat the boys in tree climbing even though she could, but because her mother was a widow. Undeterred, Yasuko’s persistence convinced her mother, although she did not see the use in it, to let Yasuko go to college in Tokyo.

Yasuko worked her way through college and became a teacher, but felt a strong calling to help her students with emotional issues. Through hard work and meager living, she earned a Master’s degree in social work. Yasuko’s first experience at the Tokiwada Mental Health Clinic left an indelible impact on her and established her professional philosophy: Alleviating herself to be open to her clients’ feelings of shame and isolation, she learned humility. Their difficulty with communicating even simple phrases taught Yasuko how to truly listen and care.

In 1976, having just come to the U.S., Yasuko was impressed by the garden, determination, of Japanese Americans. Their stories of dreams crushed and civil rights and belongings taken away when forced into internment camps, appalled the young newcomer and she became active in the movement for redress.

As LISC’s first social worker and now Director of Social Services, Yasuko has set the standard for commitment to clients, competency, compassion and integrity over the years. A client marvels, “Have you ever seen this lady not smiling?”

A Year of Commendation
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation and HGTV recognized Bill Earnest, for his work to preserve Little Tokyo, an important part of America’s historic and cultural legacies.
- The National Association of Social Workers honored Bill for his enduring commitment.
- Koto also received the Japanese Foreign Minister’s Commendation.
- Vernor recognized Dr. Roberta Angeline as one of the most Teach Survey programs.
- Assembly Speaker Fabián Núñez named Evelyn Robinson a Woman of Distinction.
- Alzheimer’s Association recognized Yasuko Sakamoto’s unmatched work.
- The LA Department of Aging honored Youron Kim for his Excellence in Social Work.
Helping People

Asians For Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M)
A3M helps save lives by working to improve patient access to treatment options including bone marrow transplants. Since its inception, A3M has added over 136,000 Asian and Pacific Islander (API) potential marrow donors, over one-third of the total API’s in the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. A3M-recruited donors have donated their marrow or blood cells to patients. This year 394 donor drives were hosted and 10,675 potential donors were recruited, a 49% increase from last year! www.AsianMarrow.org

Asian Pacific Islander Older Adults Task Force (GATF)
Through the MENTORS project GATF provides cultural education, diversity training and technical assistance to licensed caregivers of the elderly.
- 314 caregivers attended 21 trainings and workshops
- 5,389 hours of technical assistance were provided

Cambodian Senior Nutrition
Five days a week GATF provides hot, nutritious, culturally-appropriate meals to Cambodian seniors. The luncheons encourage socialization. The seniors have even formed a dance troupe.
- Over 7,600 meals were served, 2,600 more than last year!

Parent Education & Involvement
For 39 hours a week, parents in the First 5 LA Family Literacy Program learn English, vocational skills, parenting techniques and engage their preschoolers in literacy activities.
- 28 parents and 35 children aged 0-5 participated this past year
- 397 hours of ESL classes and 176 hours of computer training were provided

Children and Youth Services
Asian youth neighborhoods, LTSC creates nurturing safe havens for youth and families in its apartments. Child care, tutoring, academic enrichment, field trips, computer-based learning, and community activities benefited.
- 33 youth at the Casa Heloise Apartments
- 29 youth at the Angelina Apartments
- 65 youth connected with UCLA Volunteers in the CIHAP mentorship program

Child Care
Subsidized, high quality care for infants and toddlers and preschool education for children age 3-5 prepares children for school and creates strong family partnerships. One of the few in the downtown area serving low-income families, LTSC’s licensed home-based and center care is critical to the parents who work or are in school. This year LTSC served:
- 73 infants & toddlers in the Grace Line Child Care Center
- 75 children in Family Child Care Network (15 licensed providers)
- 78 children in Angelina Head Start/State Preschool
- 45 graduated to Kindergarten
- 28% of the children served had special needs

Social Services
Counseling Programs
Providing services in languages that match the diversity of our service population has always been a priority of LTSC. Trained case managers
The LA Tofu Festival

After a great 12 year run, in which the LA Tofu Festival grew from a small neighborhood fair to a nationally recognized festival, the Little Tokyo Service Center bids its edamame inspired fundraiser a fond farewell. To the 210,000+ Angelinos that have savored the soy creations, the 5,000 volunteers who lent us their hands, the many sponsors and the loyal fans who have every Tofu T-shirt, you helped us raise critical funds for community serving programs. Arigatou!

Highlights
- Concerts with Hirochona, Doconadi, Blackalicious and others
- Demonstrations by Iron Chef Morimoto and more celebrity chefs
- The ever popular Tofu Eating Contest and mascots like the Tofu Neja
- Featured in Food Network’s Top 5: Amazing Celebrations, Travel Channel’s Taste of America, KCET’s Visiting with Huell Howser, & Los Angeles Magazine’s Top Ten

provide information, referrals and assistance in Japanese, Korean, Chinese and Spanish, as well as English. Licensed social workers provide individual and family counseling:
- 195 non-elderly Little Tokyo-area residents received in-depth case management services
- 310 first-generation Japanese utilized the Nikkei HelpLine
- 500 foreign students sought help via the Nagakusa Hotline
- 290 individuals and families received counseling
- Including 10 Domestic violence batterers
- 36 support group meetings were held
- Clients also received emergency assistance, such as bus passes, food and housing vouchers, and clothes.

Senior Services
Older mostly non-English speaking adults and their caregivers turned to LTSC for information, referral and resources. Staff also provided culturally sensitive and multi-lingual case management, in-home services, and respite care.
- Of the 10,025 caregivers that LTSC assisted,
  - 2,796 received in-depth assistance
  - 375 received emergency assistance
- Of the thousands of seniors assisted,
  - 155 seniors received in-depth case management, in-home services and/or respite care
  - 249 seniors utilized LTSC transportation and translation services for critical healthcare needs.

Outreach and Education
LTSC reaches out to parents and provides educational workshops on child abuse and breast cancer, case management, counseling, parenting classes and therapy sessions for children.
- 2,157 parents attended workshops
- 154 children of domestic violence participated in fun and relevant group therapy sessions
- 500 women were educated about breast cancer in order to increase their chances of early detection
Special Needs Programs
Survivors of domestic violence escaped abuse and started new lives in the Kusumosi Transitional Housing Program:
- 11 women and 14 children found sanctuary at LTSC.
- Formerly homeless and people with developmental disabilities found supportive permanent housing that is culturally and linguistically appropriate. Case managers helped tenants secure needed resources and achieve greater independence.
- 5 formerly homeless are now housed.
- 5 disabled adults gained independent living skills through housing and 24-hour support services.

Building Community
Community Economic Development (CED)
CED encompasses various programs and projects that provide affordable housing, community revitalization and development, and cultural preservation. To date, LTSC has built over 600 apartment units, over 120,000 square feet of community space, such as childcare centers, and has developed over $100 million in community-serving nonprofit real estate.
- CED is currently developing 20 projects totaling over 900 units:
  - 1 project under construction - 60 units
  - 8 active projects with site control - 330 units
  - 5 projects pending site control - 300 units
  - 6 projects in conceptual development/site search - 200 units

Real Estate Development (REDD)
The cornerstone of LTSC's community and economic development strategy, REDD works with neighborhood and government leaders to build housing, community facilities, and commercial space while helping other community-based organizations serve low-income individuals and families.

Property and Asset Management
LTSC provides full service property management and financial asset management. The portfolio includes 29 low-income units, 297 affordable units, 44 market rate units and 6 commercial properties. Other units are dedicated to special needs populations, including:
- transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence,
- group home for developmentally disabled adults,
- independent housing for mentally ill adults and apartments for formerly homeless persons.

Community Organizing
LTSC engages residents of Little Tokyo in civic opportunities to improve their quality of life and make the community stronger. This year over 1,050 attended a month-long film festival aiming to build a deeper understanding between Japanese and Korean elderly residents in Little Tokyo. LTSC also helps Korean tenants integrate into the Little Tokyo Residents Association.

Historic Cultural Neighborhood Preservation
LTSC celebrates the diverse history of Little Tokyo and shares Japanese-American culture with all interested. This year LTSC:
- Traced the roots of Nisei sports and community in an exhibit featuring the history and contribution of the Olives Club.
- Introduced interactive touch-screen kiosks and a self-guided walking tour for visitors exploring Little Tokyo.

In the summer, LTSC helped run Cap Mutsuh, a week of fun and learning about heritages.
- 55 middle school age campers participated, 20 more than last year.

The Niski Community Internship develops the next generation of leaders through placements at community organizations and leadership training.
- 12 interns trained for 6 weeks.

LTSC also continues developing preservation strategies through ties that

Blind and fosters awareness via the Historic Society.

Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program (APISBP)
APISBP assists the development of small and micro-businesses in Los Angeles with particular focus on Chinese, Korean, Little Tokyo, Thai Town and Filipino communities. LTSC provides technical assistance and training opportunities, including: 20 workshops and seminars that help entrepreneurs expand their businesses.

DISHover Center - Little Tokyo and Echo Park
LTSC provides technology access to the community through affordable computer classes and public access hours. Students of all ages participate in introductory to advanced level classes ranging from basic computer literacy to producing digital media. We help young people master technology and assist adults improve job skills and help seniors come to the computer age.
- 60 workshops/courses in English and Japanese
- 2 classes series in Korean
- 755 children, adult, and older adults enrolled in classes
- 355 students regularly use the public access hours

Little Tokyo Unplugged
In April, LTSC launched Little Tokyo Unplugged, a wireless network providing affordable internet access for residents, small businesses and visitors. Free Wi-Fi hotspots and a neighborhood website build a community in Little Tokyo and online. 28 low-income residents also received donated computers.

www.LittleTokyoUnplugged.org