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# Press Release

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## **KOREATOWN YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER AND MARK RAGINS, M.D. TO BE HONORED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY**

LOS ANGELES, CA, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013: The Koreatown Youth & Community Center (KYCC) and Mark Ragins, M.D., Medical Director of MHA Village, a program of Mental Health America of Los Angeles, will be honored on Thursday, October 24, 2013, by Mental Health Advocacy Services at its Annual Celebration. “We are proud to present our 2013 Advocates Awards to KYCC and Dr. Ragins to recognize their achievements in serving the community, especially their assistance to low-income individuals and families facing mental health challenges,” says Jim Preis, Executive Director of Mental Health Advocacy Services.

The Koreatown Youth & Community Center (KYCC) is a non-profit, community-based organization that has been serving the Korean American Community since 1975. KYCC’s mission is to serve the evolving needs of the Korean American population in the greater Los Angeles Area, as well as the multi-ethnic Koreatown community. KYCC's programs and services are directed toward recently-immigrated, economically disadvantaged youth and

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families who experience coping and adjustment difficulties due to language and cultural barriers. KYCC provides affordable housing, clinical services, community economic development programs, and environmental services, as well as a wide variety of programs for children and youth.

Mark Ragins, M.D. is the Medical Director of MHA Village, a program of Mental Health America of Los Angeles. Dr. Ragins was one of the founding staff members of the Village, a pioneering organization in the delivery of integrated services utilizing the recovery model of mental health care. Dr. Ragins is the author of "Road to Recovery" and numerous other writings on rehabilitative psychiatry. He is a prolific lecturer, speaking to consumers, community, family and professional groups. Dr. Ragins has received multiple honors, including the John Beard Award, given for lifetime achievement by the United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, in 2011.

Founded in 1977, Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. (MHAS) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect and advance the legal rights of children and adults with mental disabilities. MHAS provides free legal services to approximately 3,000 low-income individuals annually, with an emphasis on obtaining government benefits and services, protecting rights and fighting discrimination. MHAS also serves as a resource to the community by providing training and technical assistance to attorneys, mental health professionals, consumer and family member groups, and other advocates.

The event will be held at the downtown Los Angeles office of Munger, Tolles & Olson at 355 S. Grand Avenue. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and the awards presentation begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$150. Further information is available at [www.mhas-la.org](http://www.mhas-la.org).

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