

Benefits

Black-ish Star Jenifer Lewis, Former NBA Player Metta World Peace Among Pacific Clinics' 2019 Champions of Mental Health

STAFF REPORT

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L-R: Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Metta World Peace and Jennifer Lewis

Pacific Clinics will be honoring television star Jenifer Lewis, former professional basketball player Metta World Peace, Rep. Grace Napolitano and East West Bank for their mental health advocacy efforts at the 2019 Champions of Mental Health Gala, held May 18, 2019 at The Langham Huntington in Pasadena.

"We are most proud of this year's honorees and their efforts to address the importance of mental health care," said Jim Balla, President and CEO of Pacific Clinics. "We recognize and applaud them for their important advocacy efforts, each lending their talents, voices, and resources to help us overcome the stigma associated with mental illness."

- **Jenifer Lewis** is an actress, author and advocate, known for playing strong female characters. She has written candidly about her experiences with bipolar disorder in her memoir, *The Mother of Black Hollywood*.

- **Metta World Peace** is an entrepreneur and former NBA player. Metta World Peace has spoken openly about strengthening mental health services. In 2010, he donated the proceeds from raffling his championship ring to several mental health service organizations, including \$50,000 to Pacific Clinics.

- **Congresswoman Grace Napolitano** represents the 32nd District of California and is founder and co-chair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus. Through advocacy and legislation, Congresswoman Napolitano has worked to improve mental health resources.

- **East West Bank** has been a supporter of Pacific Clinics for more than two decades with a shared spirit of improving the well-being of our communities. East West Bank led a capital campaign that allowed Pacific Clinics to successfully renovate a comprehensive recovery and wellness center, which increased capacity to serve the homeless and mentally ill.

The gala will be co-hosted by Ellen Leyva and David Ono of ABC7 Eyewitness News and will feature a musical performance from MUSE/IQUE.

All proceeds from the event will help Pacific Clinics provide mental health treatment and supportive services to more than 22,000 children and adults in southern California. For more information, visit www.pacificclinics.org.

About Pacific Clinics

Founded in 1926, Pacific Clinics is a community-based behavioral health agency that provides outpatient services to individuals of all ages at over 60 locations and 280 schools across Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. Each year, over 22,000 individuals benefit from comprehensive and supportive services, including case management, health navigation, early education, school-based services, housing support, and employment assistance. Through its Pacific Clinics Training Institute, the organization provides continuing education to mental health practitioners, early educators, and clients.

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OF MENTAL HEALTH

Annual Gala

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Honoring the 2019 Champions of Mental Health

The Honorable
Grace F. Napolitano
Congresswoman, 32nd District

Metta World Peace
Entrepreneur & Former
NBA player

Jenifer Lewis
Actress, Author & Activist

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