



Autumn 2012

## DEAR READER

According to the Chinese Calendar, the Year of the Dragon brings with it exciting events. Indeed, this seems to be true. First, we had the successful DRC 36th Annual Awards Dinner, then the London Olympics captured the hearts of many, and soon there will be another historical election.

Personally, I am always so proud and pleased to be an American, but this year my pride was even greater as I watched the exciting Olympic Games from London. To even be chosen for the Olympic teams means that hundreds of our youth have the determination to keep their focus on their dreams. What an inspiration they were, but the exciting year is not over.

In November there will be another noteworthy election. We are so lucky to be living in a country where voting is our right. To help eligible DRC clients prepare to vote in the November elections, we are holding a complimentary "Are YOU Ready to Vote?" workshop on October 3, 2012 from 1:00pm-2:30pm led by DRC Systems Change Advocate, **Richard Hernandez**. The workshop participants will have the opportunity to register to vote, learn how to use the ADA-approved voting booths at Long Beach City Hall, and receive the necessary materials and instructions to use the Vote-By-Mail process if that is their choice. A flyer about this important workshop is on our website. I urge you to share this information with anyone who may be voting for the first time. We want everyone who is eligible to have the opportunity to be an important part of the next historical presidential election in November.

In the meantime, there are many other happenings going on at DRC that also make us proud and help us feel inspired to continue to offer noteworthy services to our clients.

Thanks to all of you who enjoyed the evening with us at our Annual Awards Dinner or purchased opportunity tickets. The event was "larger than life" just like the symbolic Year of the Dragon, the theme of the event. We are so grateful to Board Member, Shirley Hsiao, who brought us the dramatic decorations for the evening from her homeland, Taiwan, and to **Rob Schlessinger**, DRC's volunteer Psychologist, who secured the grand prize trip to Hawaii, complete with airfare and car rental donated by **Alohi Enterprises**. A complete overview of our dynamic dinner event is on the inside of the newsletter and on the DRC website. Lists of our contributors and funders throughout the year, along with those who donated prizes and gifts to make the dinner and silent auction so successful is enclosed.

One of the on-going tasks at DRC is seeking funding to sup-

port our many programs. As always, we are honored when we are selected to receive grants to help us. Most recently, DRC has been notified it is a finalist for the **Alfred P. Sloan** Grant Award for "Excellent Workplace Effectiveness and Flexibility".

We were so sorry to lose our long-time Benefits Advocate Coordinator, **Felicita Moges**, who retired after ten years at DRC to spend time with her recently-retired husband, **Tsagay Moges**. We were fortunate, however, that one of our volunteers, **Grisleda (Grace) Lopez**, was trained and ready to accept a full time assignment. As is DRC's policy, when a job opening occurs, we always invite volunteers and interns to apply for the position along with the public.

It is always rewarding to me when in-house employees, many of whom started as volunteers, are ready to take on more responsibilities. Several DRC employees were recently promoted in appreciation of their good work. **Carolyn M. Rossi** assumed the position of Bookkeeper in addition to her role as Special Grants Coordinator; **Myralynn Arzaga**, formerly Office Assistant, was promoted to Office Manager; and **Mario Rodriguez**, who has been the Coordinator of Housing for several years and is now, in addition, the Equipment Operations Manager. Another new staff member, **Gilda Giron**, was just hired as a Job Developer (see the articles on **Grace** and **Gilda**). DRC also welcomed **Nancy Santillan**, a senior Intern from CSULB who is majoring in Family Life Education. **Nancy** will be helping parents who have questions about guiding young children.

In July, I had the privilege to serve as moderator for the "Moving Beyond ADA Compliance to Great Consumer Service" at the Transit Board Member Seminar in Atlanta, Georgia, and also had a 15-minute interview on the Services offered by DRC on KFRN Radio Station 1280 on July 28, 2012.

Like the young athletes who competed in the 2012 Summer Olympics, the staff at DRC has a vision, a passion, and a focus. Ours is not to win a gold medal, but to provide appropriate and worthwhile services to every DRC client who seeks our assistance. We do this every day in every way we can!

Go Team DRC!

**Dolores Nason**  
Executive Director



## 36TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER SURPASSES ALL EXPECTATIONS

Each year the DRC Annual Awards Dinner grows in attendance and brings awareness of the services of DRC to more people in the community. During the recent 36th Annual Awards Dinner there were more people in attendance, the prizes were more spectacular, those who attended had more fun, the decorations were more dramatic and authentic, and more and more recognition was given to DRC for the work it is doing. It was a win-win evening for all concerned.

The Year of the Dragon was selected as the theme of the dinner for 2012 because this Chinese mystic symbol is for people who are passionate, brave, self-assured, and generous with their resources. All of these qualities are traits that DRC's staff and its clients demonstrate every day.

From the colorful dragons hanging around the room to the fortune cookies on the table and the bamboo "lucky" centerpieces, good luck and great success were the passwords of the evening. With DRC Board Vice President, **Theresa May de Vera**, standing in for DRC Board President, **Lloyd Saposnek**, to welcome the huge crowd, and **Rev C.Kit Wilke**, DRC Board Secretary giving a heart-felt invocation, the evening was kept on pace by Master of Ceremonies, **David Sanfilippo**, Director of Disabled Student Services at California State University Long Beach.

A free photobooth, donated by Pics4myParty, gave the guests personal souvenirs to take home to remember the memorable evening, while the soothing live music of Blue Coral Jazz surrounded the guests while they ate and shopped for silent auction items.

The winner of the 8-day/7-night trip to Hawaii, donated by Alohi Enterprises, was an employee of Union Bank who had purchased her opportunity ticket at work. **David Sanfilippo**, Master of Ceremonies, won the first opportunity prize of \$500.00, which he graciously donated back to DRC. Other prize winners were a family from Lake Isabella who won 4 MVP Field Level Los Angeles Dodger Tickets, complete with parking, and **David Foster** who won a Dell Streak 7 Tablet.

Among the silent auction items that gathered the most attention were several sport baskets, one held a basketball autographed by **Kobe Bryant** that was secured by **Alan Buck**. The book, *Early Long Beach*, written by Councilperson **Gerrie Schipke** gathered a lot of bidding as did the "Lunch for Two" with State Senator **Alan Lowenthal**. All in all, the guests had the chance to bid on more than a dozen baskets prepared by the DRC Board of Directors.

The Award winners for the 36th Annual Awards Dinner were **Wendy Welt Narro**, a young mother of three who was born without arms or legs; she received the **Jerry Stein** Independent Living Award. **Elizabeth Nelson**, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, received the Community Service Award; **Ron Arias**, Director of

the Health and Human Services Department for the City of Long, was selected to receive the Civic Leadership Award; and **Jessica Bean-Harvey**, a US Navy Veteran, received a \$500 scholarship to continue her education. DRC Volunteer of the Year is **Henry Broadbent**, who is working with the Systems Change Advocacy Program to help keep track of the impact the federal insurance reform will have on the lives of people with disabilities.

Impressive Certificates of Recognition were presented to DRC and the Awardees. They were presented by: Congresswoman **Linda Sanchez**, State Senator **Alan Lowenthal**, State Senator **Roderick D. Wright**, Assemblymember **Bonnie Lowenthal**, Assemblymember **Holly J. Mitchell**, Assemblymember **Isadore Hall, III**, Assemblymember **Warren T. Furutani**, **Richard Espinosa** on behalf of Supervisor **Don Knabe**, Mayor **Bob Foster**, Long Beach Councilpersons **Gerrie Schipske**, **James Johnson**, and **Robert Garcia**.

**Cathy Parsa**, past President of the Board of DRC, who recently retired from the board, was presented with a plaque for her devoted service to DRC as was past President **Mark Matsui**, who served the DRC board for twenty years.

Other board members in attendance were Annual Awards Dinner Chairman **Timothy Lashlee**, **Finola Campbell**, **Dora Hogan**, **Katie Ramirez**, and **Ana Reyes**.

**Dolores Nason**, Executive Director of DRC, closed the fulfilled evening by reminding the guests that during the Year of the Dragon, a most special year in the Chinese calendar, one can expect great things to come into fruition. This is already happening and we expect to see much more.



DRC's Volunteer of the Year **Henry Broadbent** receiving award from State Senator **Alan Lowenthal**

# WARM WELCOME TO NEW DRC STAFF

**GRACE LOPEZ** - When **Grace** brought her parents to DRC for Benefits Services, she thought she would just serve that day as their translator. Little did she know that she would be so impressed with the services of DRC that she would decide to volunteer with **Felicita**, the Benefits Advocate Coordinator. So, of course, she had no expectation that her volunteering would lead to a full time job. But that is exactly what happened. Both **Grace** and DRC are fortunate that this employment opportunity resulted from **Grace's** willingness to help her parents seek the services of DRC. The single-parent of three children, **Grace's** background includes extensive experience in Human Resources, most recently as a Human Resources Administrative Assistant.

**GILDA GIRON** - **Gilda** has been working with people with disabilities for nine years. She was a vocational trainer at both the High School and College level, assisting students to obtain job skills, working with job developers, conducting job clubs focusing on building resumes, interviewing skills and work etiquette. **Gilda** has a Master of Science, Counseling, Option: Rehabilitation from California State University, Los Angeles. Most recently she served as a Counselor Intern at Rio Hondo College under the supervision of DRC's Board of Director's past President, **Mark Matsui**.

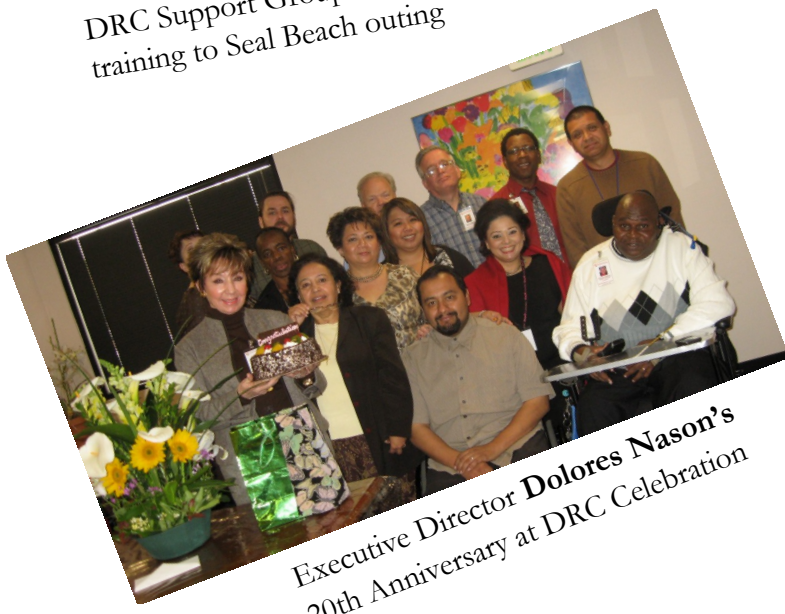
## DRC'S EVENTS



DRC Support Groups attend public transportation training to Seal Beach outing



DRC Advocacy Group at the Governor's Office in Sacramento



Executive Director **Dolores Nason's** 20th Anniversary at DRC Celebration

To Richard and Khanny Thank You for giving us information and talks with our class. It was very helpful to learn more about public transportation, housing, and more stuff.

Sincerely,  
Kevin

Bellflower Unified School District student's thank you note to **Richard** and **Khanny** for their classroom visit

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Labor Day Holiday (Center Closed)
- 4<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 5<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 6<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 10<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30-11:00am
- 11<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> - Department of Rehabilitation Compliance Review
- 12<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 12<sup>th</sup>- DRC Advocacy Group Meeting at NRC 3:00pm-4:30pm
- 13<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 14<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 17<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 18<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 19<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 19<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 20<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 21<sup>st</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 24<sup>th</sup>- Access Meeting in L.A. 11:00am-3:00pm
- 24<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 25<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 26<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am

- 26<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 27<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 27<sup>th</sup>- DRC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm
- 28<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 30<sup>th</sup>- End of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

## OCTOBER - Disability Employment Awareness Month

- 1<sup>st</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- "Are You Ready To Vote?" Workshop 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 4<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 8<sup>th</sup>- Columbus Day Holiday (Center Closed)
- 9<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 10<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class 9:30am-11:00am
- 10<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 10<sup>th</sup>- DRC Advocacy Group Meeting at NRC 3:00pm-4:30pm
- 11<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 12<sup>th</sup>- "How To Build A Computer" Class Graduation 11:00am
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 17<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 19<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 24<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup>- DRC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm
- 26<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am



DRC: Disabled Resources Center, Inc.  
*The Key to Independence*

Disabled Resources Center, Inc.  
2750 E Spring St. Suite #100  
Long Beach, CA 90806  
562-427-1000  
www.drcinc.org

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**Return Service Requested**

- 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>- CFILC Statewide Meeting in San Diego
- 31<sup>st</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm

## NOVEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 7<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 8<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 9<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Veteran's Day Holiday (Center Closed)
- 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> - Mental Health First Aid Certification
- 14<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 14<sup>th</sup>- DRC Advocacy Group Meeting at NRC 3:00pm-4:30pm
- 15<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 16<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 21<sup>st</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup>- Thanksgiving Day Holiday (Center Closed)
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- Thanksgiving Day After Holiday (Center Closed)
- 28<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 29<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 30<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am



We're on the web at [www.drcinc.org](http://www.drcinc.org)