

# Disabled Resources Center, Inc.



Independent Living

Autumn Newsletter 2015

To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time for every matter under  
heaven  
Byrds-1965-Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

## Dear Reader,

Each season of 2015 has brought many wonderful happenings to DRC. In this brief letter I've described just a few of this year's most recent exciting times, and some of the special events that have been meaningful to our staff and volunteers. The inside of the newsletter pages have photos of a few of those events that made us all feel happy and proud. I hope you will enjoy both the written news from DRC and the photos.

Our 39th Annual Awards Dinner, which celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the ADA, was so meaningful, fun, and well attended. Once again, we are so proud to have the opportunity to recognize and honor local residents who do so much to improve the lives of people with disabilities. You can read more details on the event as it appeared in the Long Beach Press Telegram on the DRC website. A photo of those we honored at the event can be found on the inside of this newsletter. A list of those wonderful benefactors and donors who graciously supported this annual event can be found on the "goldenrod" insert in this newsletter, along with a list of our government and private funders.

Another inside photo shows the entire staff enjoying a special day at a beach volleyball game, during the Special Olympics, thanks to a bus provided by Supervisor **Don Knabe**. For **Greg Kozlowski**, our dedicated Lead Volunteer, golfing after the Special Olympics continued. His photo, with Supervisor **Knabe**, was taken when they participated in a fundraiser Golf Tournament for Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. With their two partners, they won first place. What a wonderful accomplishment!

We've had some special guests as well. A group of international visitors from Spain were our guests one day. On another day, a group of students with disabilities from Jordan High School were our guests. Read the thank-you note on page 2 from their teacher. DRC also hosted Lutheran Social Services, who conducted their Thank-a-Thon on DRC phones again this year.

We are always excited to have new interns and

volunteers to help with our many programs. Without them it would be nearly impossible to accomplish all that we do. This fall we welcomed Interns **Willie Scott**, **Marybel Martinez**, and **Kate Adamson**, who are students at CSU Dominguez Hills. **Kate** is returning for her second semester. This time she will be working with **Richard Hernandez**, Systems Change Advocate. She is also working part-time with DRC's Job Developers. From National University, we welcomed **Amarachi C.J. Obiwuru**, who is completing her M.A. Degree.

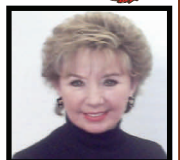
Our newest volunteer is **Theresa Jacques**, a medical transcriber who speaks Spanish and French. Her first special project will be to develop a Spanish language version of the DRC website. This is something we've been planning for several years. Later, **Theresa** will be translating many of DRC's materials into Spanish. Another of our active volunteers, **Kina Moimoi**, is also a member of Youth Organizing (Y.O.) Disabled and Proud, funded by CFILC. She attended the National Council on Independent Living Conference in Washington, D.C., and took part in a two-mile march to the capitol.

We are excited to welcome a new board member, **Josephine Caron**, who is a Librarian at the Long Beach Main Library. At the same time, we are sorry to lose Board Member **Rob Schlesinger**, who was our Dinner Chairperson and generous contributor this year. **Rob** will be busy establishing his private practice in hypnosis, and we wish him well in this new endeavor.

Thanks to wonderful groups, agencies and companies, we have received several new grants. Bay Shore Congregational Church is once again supporting the **Jerry Stein Memorial Scholarship** fund, and Southern California Edison, through their International Community Grant Program, has made a donation to the Employment Services program. A special grant to help people with disabilities transition from convalescent homes to independent living facilities, from the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), was also much appreciated, as was a grant from our faithful supporters at the **Sidney Stern Memorial Trust**.

Enjoy your season of Autumn, and we look forward to sharing more successes and more dreams of independence to those we serve in DRC's Winter Newsletter.

*Dolores Nason,*  
Executive Director





## INDEPENDENT LIVING/PEER COUNSELING PROGRAM

Dear Ms. Nason,

I just wanted to take a moment and spread good cheer regarding my experience with Disabled Resource Center and in particular with **Andrew**.

Being the father of an adopted teenage boy plucked from the foster care system who is high functioning but is challenged with Asperger Syndrome, ADHD, and PTSD it is extremely frustrating navigating through the system to try to get the services this young man needs. He has through most of his life, simply fallen through the cracks and his enormous potential has been by and large wasted.

Nobody seems to know anything. The system is a maze, and at the end of the day, if they know something they aren't telling.

There is only ONE PERSON who seems to know something and that is your employee **Andrew**. He has been amazingly generous sharing his resources, listening to our tale of woe and pointing us in the right direction.

I am very grateful both to him and to you for the excellent service provided.

Sincerely,

Alex

### Stepping Stones to Employment/Peer Counseling Class Graduations



Winter 2015



Spring 2015

Thank you for providing a wonderful experience for our students. The students benefited a great deal from the information, and I plan to contact you to arrange other such tours to our students here at Jordan/Jordan Plus High School. Thank you again for your hospitality.

Dawn Ide, Career Transition Specialist, Jordan High School

**DRC Consumer Comment**



# MEET OUR 2015 DRC AWARDEES



Front row, left to right: **Mary Zendejas**, Civic Leadership Award; **Charles Whitehead**, Independent Living Award. Back row, left to right: **Louise Allen**, Community Service Award; **Efrain Montemayor**, Outstanding Military Veteran Award; **Gino Elliot**, Volunteer of the Year Award; **Don Knabe**, Supervisor, 4th District, Los Angeles County; **Ali Sajad Taj**, Councilmember, City of Artesia.

# CONGRATULATIONS



**Greg Kozlowski**, DRC Volunteer, and Supervisor **Don Knabe** at a Golf Tournament for Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

## THE PATH TOWARD INCLUSION THROUGH SPORTS DRC AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES



## DISABILITY CAPITAL ACTION DAY IN SACRAMENTO 2015



Supervisor **Don Knabe**, (seated) past Independent Living Awardee **Al Buck**, and Executive Director, **Dolores Nason**.

## DRC'S MISSION STATEMENT

To empower people with disabilities to live independently in the community, to make their own decisions about their lives and to advocate on their own behalf.



# Calendar of Events

\*Group Orientation for new consumers every Thursday at 9:00am

## SEPTEMBER 2015

- 3rd- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 4th- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 7th- Labor Day Holiday (CENTER CLOSED)
- 8th- Peer Counseling/Stepping Stones to Employment Graduation 2:00pm
- 9th- DRC Advocacy Group Meeting @ NRC 3:00pm-5:00pm
- 9th- Social Security Workshop, "Benefits and Filing for Benefits" 1:30pm
- 10th- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 10th- Mobility Training @ Cambodian Association 8:30am-11:30am
- 11th- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 14th-18th- "How to Build a Computer" Class 9:30am-11:30am
- 15th- DRC CPR/First Aid Training through American Red Cross
- 16th- Job Club 8:30am-11:30am
- 17th- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 17th- Webinar, "Developing Your Skills," IL-Net
- 18th- Job Club 8:30am-11:30am
- 18th- Access Compensation Meeting at DRC 2:00pm-4:00pm



- 18th- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 20th-22nd- Independent Living (IL) Summit, LA Marriott Hotel, Burbank
- 21st- ADRC Meeting @ Department of Aging in L.A.
- 22nd- Mobility Training @ Lutheran Social Services 9:00am-12:00pm
- 24th- DRC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm
- 24th- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 25th- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 29th- DRC's Transitional Youth and Young Adult Group 3:30pm-5:00pm

## OCTOBER 2015

- 1st- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 2nd- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 3rd- Spinal Injury Games @ Rancho Los Amigos 10:00am-2:00pm
- 4th-7th- APTA Annual Meeting in San Francisco
- 8th- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 9th- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 14th- DRC Advocacy Group Meeting @ NRC 3:00pm-5:00pm
- 15th- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 15th- Mobility Training @ Cambodian Association 8:30am-11:30am
- 16th- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 20th- Disability Mentoring Day @ Jet Blue
- 21st- Job Club 8:30am-11:30am



**DRC: Disabled Resources Center**  
*The Key to Independence*

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**Return Service Requested**

- 22nd- DRC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm
- 22nd- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 23rd- Job Club 8:30am-11:30am
- 23rd- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 24th- Mobility Training @ Lutheran Social Services 10:00am-2:00pm
- 27th- DRC's Transitional Youth and Young Adult Group 3:30-5:00pm
- 29th- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 30th- Housing Workshop 9:00am



## NOVEMBER 2015

- 5th- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 6th- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 11th- DRC Advocacy Group Meeting @ NRC 3:00pm-5:00pm
- 11th- Veteran's Day Holiday (CENTER CLOSED)
- 12th- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 13th- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 18th- Job Club 8:30am-11:30am
- 19th- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:30pm-3:00pm
- 19th- Long Beach Transit Meeting 1:30pm-3:30pm
- 20th- Job Club 8:30am-11:30am
- 20th- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 25th- Mobility Training @ Lutheran Social Services 9:00am-12:00pm
- 26th & 27th- Thanksgiving Holiday (CENTER CLOSED)

