



Disabled Resources Center, Inc.



Independent Living Center

Dear Reader

Happy Spring to You!

Feliz Primavera (Spanish)
Masaya Tagsibol (Tagalog)



(Sign Language)

These are only four of the eleven languages our staff can use to say "Happy Spring" to the consumers who come to us for assistance.

It is just another way I recognize how much we've grown and changed as I begin my twentieth year at DRC. When I first started part-time as the Personal Assistance Coordinator, there were only 9 employees; now we have 15.

During my tenure with DRC, I have worked in nearly all of our departments including Housing, Benefits, and Associate Director before being selected to be the Executive Director in January 2008. What a wonderful adventure it has been to be part of DRC. Our new programs, new faces, and new goals and expectations are very exciting to all of us.

We've recently added two new board members, **Katelyn Ramirez** and **Ana Reyes**, so that we can better serve youth and our ever increasing Hispanic consumers, which are two of our major goals for 2012. Our other major goal is to help our returning veterans who need our services. With a major VA Hospital located in Long Beach there are many ways we can be of assistance.

We've also added seven new volunteers, who were trained in our Peer Counseling/Stepping Stones to Employment Program, to our expanding volunteer team. These volunteers now assist in each of our departments and are a vital part of why we are so successful. You will find the names of these new volunteers in another part of this newsletter.

With funding from **Boeing Employee Community Fund Grant**, we have started another extremely popular "How to Build a Computer" class (see pg. 2), and with small grants from the **City of Long Beach** and **Southern California Edison** we will be able to provide emergency utility assistance this year. Funding from the **Josephine Gumbiner Foundation** will help us provide food and shelter to the Homeless, and a stipend from **Supervisor Don Knabe** will allow us to offer computer training to **LBUSD** students with disabilities and to assist the **American Red Cross** in training classes. For all of these added resources we are truly grateful.

Thank you, Yekenyey (Tigrigna), Egziher Yis-

tilign (Amharic), and Danke (German)!

Rob Schlessinger, a Marriage and Family Therapist intern is working with our Co-Ed Group and providing individual counseling free of charge. We have partnered with **Maureen McIntyre**, Department of Rehabilitation, on a SDSU Master's Degree Program project regarding Outcome Management of a DRC Core Service, and we've been given approval for one of DRC's Job Developers to work bi-weekly on-site at the Compton Department of Rehabilitation (see picture on pg. 2). All of this added staff time and the special funding and dedicated volunteers are ensuring that our consumers receive the best service possible.

DRC is pleased to be involved with the new voting machines that will allow people with disabilities to vote without assistance. We regret that there will only be four machines available this year all located at City Hall, but trust that eventually these will be placed in many strategic locations throughout the city. We will be working with others toward that objective.

For those of you who plan to nominate an individual for one of the three awards to be presented at the DRC's Annual Awards Dinner, now is the time to send in your nomination. March 20th, 2012 is the deadline. Please see the details on pg. 2.

And don't forget to put June 21, 2012 on your calendar. Your personal invitation will be mailed at a later date, but we wouldn't want you to miss this special evening of fun, recognition, and great food at The Reef in Long Beach.

I'm so excited to announce that we are now on Facebook. Please take the time to check us out and "Like" us. I'll be looking for you!

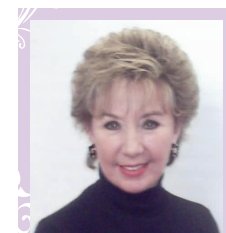
Until we meet again,
Reak rea noeu rutheu lumhav (Khmer-Cambodian)
Buona primavera (Italian)
Yato haru ne narimashita (Japanese)

Happy Spring

From all of us at DRC,



Dolores



Dolores Nason
Executive Director



SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR DRC'S ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year DRC presents the following awards at our Annual Awards Dinner:



Jerry Stein Independent Living Award

(An individual with a disability who exemplifies courage and character in living independently)

Civic Leadership Award

(An individual whose life work, or avocation, has improved the lives of those people with a disability)

Community Service Award

(An individual who advocates, on behalf of people with disabilities, as part of their role in civic life)

If you know anyone who provides exceptional or out-of-the ordinary service for people with disabilities, now is the time to nominate that individual. If you would like more information regarding the nomination process, or wish to receive a nomination form, contact **Myralynn Arzaga** at marzaga@drcinc.org

"Like" us on Facebook



DRC is now on Facebook so check us out!

DRC at Compton's Department of Rehabilitation

Finbar La Montagnz, DRC Job Developer, working on-site bi-weekly at DOR Compton.



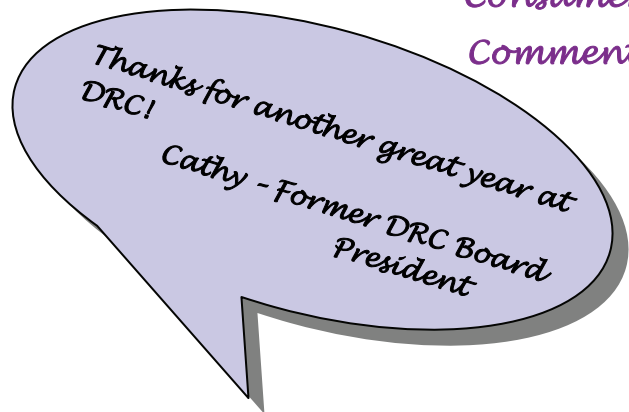
DRC's Mission Statement

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.



The latest Peer Counseling/Stepping Stones to Employment Graduation Class

Consumer Comment



*Thanks for another great year at DRC!
Cathy - Former DRC Board President*

Newest Members of DRC's Volunteer Family

- Timothy Hunt** - Volunteers for **Andrew** in the ILS/Peer Support Program. Graduated Peer Counseling Class on August 30, 2011.
- Oscar Casillas** - Volunteers with **Carolyn** in the Employment Services Program. Graduated Peer Counseling Class on August 30, 2011.
- Cynthia Sims** - Volunteers with **Felicita** in Benefits Advocacy. Graduated Peer Counseling Class on August 30, 2011.
- Matthew Mitchell** - Volunteers with **Andrew** in the Co-Ed Group. Graduated Peer Counseling Class on December 6, 2011.
- Alvin Miles** - Volunteers with **Andrew** in the ILS/Peer Support Program. Graduated Peer Counseling Class on December 6, 2011.
- Lillian Carter** - Volunteers with **Andrew** in the ILS/Peer Support Program and with **Khanny** in Personal Assistance Services. Graduated Peer Counseling Class on December 6, 2011.
- Dane McArthur** - Volunteers with **Khanny** in Personal Assistance Services and with **Finbar** in the Employment Services Program's Job Club. Graduated Peer Counseling Class on December 6, 2011.



**DRC's
Job
Club**

DRC Public Transportation Information



**"How to
Build a
Computer"
Class**



There is always DRC staff available to help with directions and information about public transportation. Call (562) 427-1000 ext.12 or ext.20 Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Read About One of Our Success Stories...

Rodney Sanders joined the Employment Services Program in October 2011 and in late December he had already received a job offer. Rodney started his new job at the VA Hospital as a Staff Assistant in early January. Rodney is so grateful to DRC for assisting him with getting a job, and in his words "Carolyn, thanks to you and your staff, you helped me to keep a positive attitude and not give up hope."



A smiling Rodney at DRC sharing the details of his new job.

CALENDAR of EVENTS



Disabled Resources Center, Inc.
2750 E Spring St., Suite #100
Long Beach, CA 90806

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Long Beach, CA
Permit No. 828

MARCH

1st-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
2nd-Mobility Training 10:00am-11:30am Weingart Center Lakewood
6th-“Peer Counseling/Stepping Stones to Employment” Class 1:00pm-2:30pm
7th-Benefits/SSA Workshop 9:30am-11:00am
7th-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
7th-Homeless Coalition Meeting 8:30am-10:30am MSC
7th-Mobility Training 2:00pm-3:00pm Long Beach Main Library
8th-CACoD Meeting 12:30pm-2:00pm Long Beach Main Library
8th-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
12th-Personal Assistant Workshop 1:30pm-2:30pm
13th-“Peer Counseling/Stepping Stones to Employment” Class 1:00pm-2:30pm
14th-DRC’s Neighborhood Advocacy Group 3:00pm-5:00pm NRC
14th-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
15th-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
20th-“Peer Counseling/Stepping Stones to Employment” Class 1:00pm-2:30pm
21st-Department of Rehabilitation Unit Meeting DOR, Long Beach 10:00am
21st-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
22nd-DRC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm
22nd-Mobility Training 1:00pm-2:00pm Long Beach Senior Center
22nd-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
27th-“Peer Counseling/Stepping Stones to Employment” Graduation 2:00pm

Return Service Requested

28th-Access Annual Meeting Los Angeles 11:00am-1:30pm
28th-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
29th-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
29th & 30th-Abilities Expo Los Angeles Convention Center
30th-Cesar Chavez Holiday (Center Closed)

APRIL (VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION MONTH)

1st-Abilities Expo Los Angeles Convention Center
4th-Homeless Coalition Meeting 8:30am-10:30am MSC
4th-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
5th-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
10th-In-Home Support Services (IHSS) Workshop 1:30pm-2:30pm
11th-DRC’s Neighborhood Advocacy Group 3:00pm-5:00pm NRC
11th-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
12th-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
12th-CACoD Meeting 12:30pm-2:00pm Long Beach Main Library
18th-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
18th-“Changes in Medicare 2012” Workshop 10:00am-11:00am
19th-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
20th-Volunteer Luncheon 11:00am
21st-Cambodian New Year Celebration El Dorado Park 8:00am-5:00pm
25th-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
26th-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
26th-DRC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm
27th-Millikan High School Special Ed Transition Fair 6:00pm-8:00pm



MAY

2nd-Homeless Coalition Meeting 8:30am-10:30am MSC
2nd-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
3rd-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
4th thru 8th-APTA Bus and Paratransit Conference Renaissance Long Beach and Long Beach Hilton (5th-ADA Subcommittee Workshop 2:00pm-5:00pm)
9th-DRC’s Neighborhood Advocacy Group 3:00pm-5:00pm NRC
9th-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
10th-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
10th-CACoD Meeting 12:30pm-2:00pm Long Beach Main Library
16th-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
17th-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
23rd-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
24th-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
24th-DRC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm
28th-Memorial Day Holiday (Center Closed)
30th-Capital Action Day Sacramento
30th-Women’s Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
31st-Co-Ed Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm

We’re on the web at
www.drcinc.org

