



DISABLED RESOURCES CENTER, INC.

Dear Friends:

Spring 2013

The happy people shown in the masthead above are reminders that "When all of us work together, success takes care of itself." (Henry Ford)

At DRC we are proud of our team that consists of our devoted board members, our hard working staff, our consumers, those who award special grants, our generous donors, and our loyal supporters. Each of these groups is vital to our growth and the programs we offer. At this time, we especially want to acknowledge:

Alan Buck who provided tickets for the DRC staff to enjoy a Lakers basketball game for the third consecutive year,

Our gracious Board of Directors who provided the staff with a delicious Holiday Luncheon, and

DRC's wonderful donors who used the annual DRC's donor request envelopes to provide a little extra to our programs.

Additionally, we are grateful for: United Way's 2013-2014 Utility Assistance Program that allows us to pay the utility bills of some of our eligible consumers once each year, and

The award of the Ticket to Work Employment Grant, which will allow us to be part of the Ticket to Work Program for another five years. DRC has been providing this program since 2001, and it has enabled us to help many of our consumers find appropriate, permanent employment.

Two new programs DRC has initiated are described on page 3. The counseling services and the opportunity for our young people to learn to be more independent and self-sufficient can make the lives of those who participate in these programs become happier and more fulfilling. If you or someone you know would benefit from either of these programs, please take the time to read more about them.

Each year at our Annual Awards Dinner DRC recognizes individuals in our community who are contributing

to the welfare of people with disabilities.

We think of these people as part of our extended Team. Because everyone can achieve more when we work together, you are invited to share the name of someone you think should receive one of these awards: The Jerry Stein Independent Living Award, the Civic Leadership Award or the Community Service Award. Information on the requirements for each of these awards can be found on page 2. For more detailed information go to DRC's website: www.drcinc.org.

Please don't forget to put Thursday, June 20th, 2013 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 great fun, deserved recognition, and delicious food at *The Reef on the Water* Restaurant in Long Beach.

This year our theme for the Annual Awards Dinner is Butterflies. It is reflective of the butterfly that is part of DRC's logo. We chose this logo to symbolize the important work DRC does to help people with disabilities enjoy their freedoms: the freedom to go the places they love, freedom to get a worthwhile job, freedom to advocate for themselves, and the freedom to be independent. The butterfly theme of the Annual Awards Dinner will remind us how important personal freedom is to each of us and to celebrate new found freedoms.

We are proud of the work we are doing to help our consumers grow through our many programs and services. For all each of you do to make DRC a more productive and inspiring Center, thank you.

I wish each of you a very Happy Spring and a year full of good health and happiness.

Dolores Nason

Executive Director



The Board of Directors and staff members of DRC, who form our dedicated team are listed below. The contributions of each one is vital to the saying "Light is the task when many share the toll." (Homer)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lloyd Saposnek, President
C. Timothy Lashlee, Vice President
Shirley Hsiao, Treasurer
Rev. C. Kit Wilke, Secretary
Zeke Alcalá
Finola Campbell
Dora Hogan
Gail Morrison
Katelyn Ramirez
Ana Reyes
Shelly Verrinder

DRC STAFF

James Alusick - Service Assistant
Myralynn Arzaga - Office Manager
Alice Bruns - Job Developer
Richard Burnett - Computer Instructor
Richard Hernandez - Systems Change Advocate
Donna Jackson - AT Assistant
Vincent Johnson - AT Coordinator
Finbar La Montagne - Job Developer
Grace Lopez - Benefits Advocate
Dolores Nason - Executive Director
Khanny Ou - Personal Assistant Services
Mario Rodriguez - Housing/Equip. Ops. Mgr.
Carolyn Rossi - Bookkeeper/Admin. Asst.
Andrew Swinton - Peer Supp. & IL Skills

Seeking Nominations for DRC's 2013 Annual Awards Nominees

Each year DRC presents the following awards at their 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.

Nominations for the 2013 Awards are **DUE on, or BEFORE, March 14, 2013**. Honorees will be selected by a panel of Disabled Resources Center Board of Directors. Selected Honorees will be recognized at the Annual Awards Dinner on **Thursday, June 20th, 2013**.

In the meantime, DRC staff will select the DRC Volunteer of the Year!

Consumer Comments

To the Wonderful Group
at the Disabled Resource Center
Thank you for the
wonderful gift of
a bag of groceries
I was a very lovely
much needed surprise
may you all have
a Happy Holiday Season
Autism !!



"I tell my clients that Disneyland is not the Happiest place in America, The Disabled Resources Center is!!!!!" - **D. Wesley**, D.O.R., Long Beach

Thank-you for the
Christmas food.
It was needed.
Janna



The recent "How to Build a Computer" class graduation



Enriching Our Programs: Two New Opportunities

DRC has implemented two new programs this year.

1. Affordable Counseling Services provided by **Rob Schlesinger**, Registered Marriage & Family Therapist Intern. Cost will be assessed based on income, using a sliding scale, with no charges for those who have a disability and are on General Relief or without income. Counseling sessions can include Individual, Family, Couples, or Group Therapy. Appointments are required and can be arranged by email or over the phone.
2. DRC's Transitional Young Adult Group - This group will empower young adults with a disability to have fun, make new friends, find valuable entertainment, learn about and claim your rights, develop more independent living skills, increase your self-confidence and work together to help make each other more successful. **Andrew Swinton**, Peer Support / Independent Living Skills Coordinator and **Ana Reyes**, DRC Board Member will be leading this group. The first meeting will be held on March 20, 2013 at 5:30pm. All are welcome!

DRC'S New Volunteers & New Intern

DRC welcomed two new volunteers to our team. **Joana Arcangel** and **Tracey McNeal** who recently graduated from the Peer Counseling Class in December 2012. Joana is working as a Co-Facilitator of the Co-Ed Group and helping to organize DRC's new Transitional Young Adult Group. Tracey will be working with the Employment Services Program.

Don Edwards is DRC's new Intern. In his junior year at California State University, Dominguez Hills, Don is studying Human Services. He will be working as a Co-Facilitator of the Co-Ed Peer Support Group and helping to organize DRC's Transitional Young Adult Group. Don will also serve as a presenter at Group Orientation for new consumers on Thursday mornings.



Joining the Volunteer Holiday Cookie Exchange in December were DRC Board Members (left to right) **Gail Morrison**, **Ana Reyes**, **Shelly Verrinder** & **Rev. C. Kit Wilke**



Newest Peer Counseling/Stepping Stones to Employment graduation

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