



DISABLED RESOURCES CENTER,

Independent Living Center

Winter 2011



Dear Reader

The weather is getting cooler and the nights are getting longer and darker, but the spirit at DRC is glowing ever brighter. And the prospects for our clients to be better served is equally bright.

In October, DRC received a three-year certification by the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to increase and enhance our Employment Services. With this program in place, the four Job Developers at DRC are busy securing more sites for work placement opportunities. The participants in this program, who are referred by DOR, will receive a comprehensive, hands-on training that includes job placement preparation, resume writing, and mock interviews.

DRC received a surprise "Good Neighbor" award from Long Beach's 5th District **Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske**. Our good friend and long-time DRC supporter, **Supervisor Don Knabe**, will continue to represent us and the Fourth District. All of this was great news to our hardworking staff and myself.

We also started a new "Build A Computer" class where students not only build their own computer, they take it home for their personal use at the end of the six-week class. This program was made possible by the Boeing Crystal Vision Award funding. We are most appreciative of this funding, and of the help of **P. James Drake**, who will be our sponsor to the Boeing Employee Community Fund.

There are several new faces at DRC. **Khantina Mann**, a third year intern, will be assisting our Housing Coordinator on Tuesdays and Fridays. Three other new volunteers have joined us also. **Oscar Casillas** will be working with the Employment Services Program and **Tim Hunt** and **Cynthia Sims** will be assisting with Benefits Advocacy. **Tim** will also help with Group Orientations. Additionally, DRC welcomed three new Board members. Read about them in this issue of the DRC newsletter.

Although it seems like we just completed our most

successful Annual Awards Dinner ever, we have begun planning next year's event, which will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2012. Please make sure to save the date and read about how you can nominate an awardee in this newsletter.

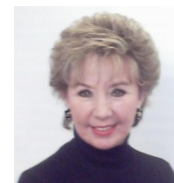
The DRC staff has been more involved than ever in the community. They have participated in a Veteran's Stand Down event, attended spinal cord injury games at Rancho Los Amigos, and the LA County Commission on Disability Awards Luncheon that honored **Allan Buck**. DRC was honored to have site visits from **Julie Meenan**, Executive Director, and **Burke Gumbiner**, Board Member, of the Josephine Gumbiner Foundation. We had the delightful presence of **Cheryl Kasai**, a Resource Specialist from DOR in Sacramento who spent a day visiting our Center and staff.

We are truly thankful for everything that has been given to DRC this year in service, program funding, participation of volunteers, and several new, exciting grants. We are recipients of 25 turkeys from **State Senator Lowenthal** to distribute to low income and homeless families. (See two of the pictures on page 2). We are grateful for his continued support as well.

The entire staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors are looking forward to the coming year with much anticipation. We know that it will be exciting and fulfilling, as DRC continues to expand its services, and provide comfort and joy to people with disabilities who seek our assistance.

Happy Holidays to you and yours from all of us.

Dolores Nason
Executive Director



SAVE THE DATE

The 36th Annual Awards Dinner Thursday, June 21, 2012.

The dinner will be held at the beautiful Reef Restaurant, Downtown Long Beach. Invitations will be mailed in early May.

If you would like your name on our mailing list, call **Myralynn** at 562) 427-1000 extension 12

or email marzaga@drcinc.org





DRC'S ANNUAL AWARD NOMINEES

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR DRC'S ANNUAL AWARD NOMINEES

Each year DRC presents the following awards at the Award 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 to 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 2012 Awards are DUE on, or BEFORE, March 20, 2012. Honorees will be selected by a panel of Disabled Resources Center Board of Directors. In the meantime, the DRC staff will select the DRC Volunteer of the Year!

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF DRC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DRC would like to welcome three new members of the Board of Directors. **Finola Campbell** is the Vice President/Manager at Union Bank, Lakewood Branch. The depth and breadth of her skills and experience will be a good combination for the Board and a great asset to the agency. **Katelyn Ramirez** and **Ana Reyes** are both college students who will be a welcome addition to the Board and a voice for the young adult community.

Marriage Announcement



Richard Hernandez, DRC's Systems Change Advocate and Newsletter Editor, will marry the love of his life, Lorena Moya, on November 20, 2011. DRC wishes the happy couple a lifetime full of love, laughs, and joy!

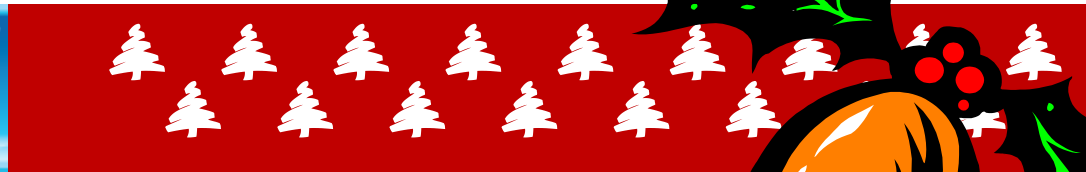


THE GIFT OF GIVING

Just in case you have any spare change, we've enclosed an envelope for you to have the opportunity to help those in need. DRC and its consumers thank you in advance for your generosity!



Turkey giveaway 2011



DRC'S DEDICATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lloyd Saposnek - President

Theresa May de Vera - Vice President

Shirley Hsiao - Treasurer

Rev. C. Kit Wilke - Secretary

Finola Campbell

Dora Hogan

C. Timothy Lashlee

Janice Liberti

Mark Matsui

Gail Morrison

Katelyn Ramirez

Ana Reyes

DRC'S DEDICATED STAFF

Dolores Nason, Executive Director

James Alusick, Service Assistant

Myralynn Arzaga, Office Assistant

Alice Bruns, Job Developer

Richard Burnett, TTW/Job Developer/Computer Instructor

Richard Hernandez, Systems Change Advocate

Donna Jackson, Assistive Technology Assistant

Vincent Johnson, Assistant Technology Coordinator

Finbar La Montagne, Job Developer/Program Presenter

Felicita Moges, Benefits Advocate

Khanny Ou, Personal Assistant Services/Program Presenter

Mario Rodriguez, Housing Coordinator

Carolyn Rossi, Special Grants Coordinator

Jeanny Sonoda, Bookkeeper

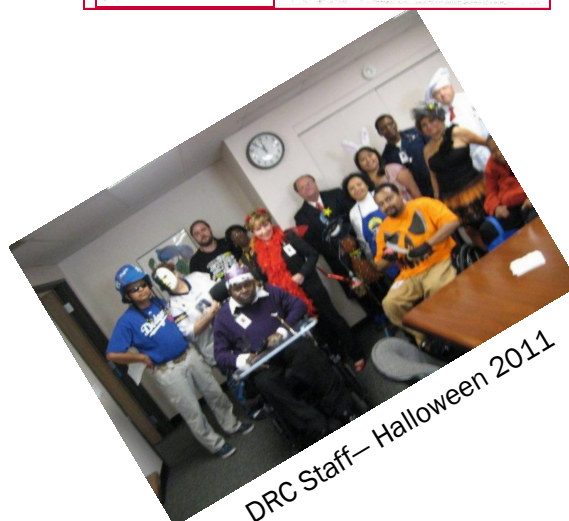
Andrew Swinton, ILS/Peer Support Coordinator

Consumer Comment

*Thank you for being
so kind and helpful,
not just to me but to
everyone.*

*Sincerely
Mary Anton*

Cypress



DRC Staff Richard, Vincent, Donna with Supervisor Don Knabe enjoying the 2011 Spinal Cord Injury Games at



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 1st - Julie Meenan and Burke Gumbiner from the Gumbiner Foundation site visit
- 2nd - Women Support Group "Open Discussion" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 3rd - Co-Ed Support Group "Open Discussion" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 4th - Veteran's Luncheon in Long Beach
- 9th - Women Support Group "Bring Your Baby Photo-Guess Who?" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 10th - Co-Ed Support Group "Games" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 16th - Women Support Group "Share Your Favorite Music (Bring CD)" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 16th - Executive Director's ILC meeting in LA at CRS
- 17th - Staff Thanksgiving Luncheon from 12:00pm to 1:00pm
- 17th - Co-Ed Support Group "What Are You Thankful For?" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 22nd - Fair Housing Speaker, **Maria Benitez** at 10:00am
- 23rd - Women Support Group "Three Things That You Are Most Thankful For" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 24th - Thanksgiving Day Holiday (Center Closed)
- 30th - Women Support Group "Women's Health Education with Susan G. Komen for the Cure" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm



DRC: Disabled Resources Center
The Key to Independence



Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

Long Beach, CA
Permit No. 828

Disabled Resources Center
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Fax: 562-427-2027
TTY: 562-427-1366
Email: info@drcinc.org

Return Service Requested

We're on the web at www.drcinc.org

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.

DECEMBER

- 1st - DRC Board of Directors meeting at 5:30pm
- 1st - Co-Ed Support Group "Thanksgivings" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 6th - Peer Counseling Class Graduation at 2:00pm
- 7th - Women Support Group "How To Curb Holiday Overspending" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 8th - Co-Ed Support Group "Family Traditions" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 8th - **Supervisor Knabe** State of the County Address at 11:30am at Long Beach Convention Center
- 9th - Cambodian Association of America 36th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at 6:30pm in Long Beach
- 13th - United Way Training in LA from 9:00am to 12:00pm
- 14th - Women Support Group "White Elephant Christmas Party at Polly's Restaurant" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 14th - Last class session for "How to Build A Computer Class" from 9:30am to 11:00am
- 15th - Co-Ed Group "Cookies and Treats" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 21st - Women Support Group "Christmas Crafts" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 22nd - Co-Ed Group "Crafts" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 26th - Christmas Day Holiday (Center Closed)
- 28th - Women Support Group "Tell About The Best Gift You Got this Year and Who It Came From" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 29th - Co-Ed Group "Open Discussion" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm

JANUARY

- 2nd - New Year's Day Holiday (Center Closed)
- 16th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday (Center Closed)



CONSUMER COMMENT

felicitar

*Thank you for your help & support.
It has been such an ordeal going
thru such a debilitating period of
my life and to fight for any
SSDI benefits was taking a toll
on me. I am so happy with
our meeting and working together
on this process. I hope we'll have a
positive outcome after going through
the hearing this morning
with much heartfelt gratitude*

Superhero McWinters

Long Beach