

## AN ONGOING SUCCESS STORY

Last year we reported in one of our newsletters on a successful use of the government's Transition Funds. These funds made it possible for DRC to help Bonnie move into her own apartment after she had been "stuck" in a convalescent center for two years searching for a way to get on with her life and provide for her son.

Readers will remember that Bonnie had been a happy single mother, trained as an Accountant, with a well-paying job and her own apartment, when she fell and broke her left foot. Screws in her feet, learning to navigate in a wheelchair, loss of job and home, hospitalization, her son put in foster care.... All led to the 18 months in a nursing home. Determined to get her life back, she found DRC in the phone book.

We are now happy to report that the help DRC gave Bonnie through our Housing Coordinator, Mario, is proving to be more successful than we ever could imagine. Bonnie has made good friends in her new apartment, and they shared the turkey provided by DRC via



a neighborhood Thanksgiving Day dinner. (see photo). She has enrolled in Long Beach City College, majoring in Business Administration before she transfers to CSULB. Her son, now 16, is able to spend more time with her, is doing well in high school, and looking forward to going to college.

Bonnie's future goals include returning to work so she can develop low-cost housing for those who are looking for a way up.

**CONGRATULATIONS, BONNIE. WE ARE PROUD OF ALL YOUR PROGRESS!**

## SUPPORT GROUPS

FREE SUPPORT GROUPS  
[For persons with disabilities]

MAKE NEW FRIENDS SHARE IDEAS WITH OTHERS LEARN FROM GUEST SPEAKERS ENJOY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES & OUTINGS AND CONNECT TO NEEDED RESOURCES

### WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesdays from 1:30pm – 3:00pm at DRC

### COED SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays from 1:30pm – 3:00pm at DRC

For more information or reasonable accommodation, call: Cheryl Wilson at 562-427-1000 Ext 23

[cwilson@drcinc.org](mailto:cwilson@drcinc.org)

## SPOTLIGHT ON HOUSING

The most requested service at DRC is for housing and the many issues associated with housing. This keeps Mario Rodriguez, DRC's Housing Coordinator very busy.

These issues include: being homeless, needing special assistance to find appropriate housing, paying utility bills, workshops on Section 8, emergency food and shelter vouchers, bus passes, and the special transition program that helped Bonnie and her son get a second start.

Mario, who has been with DRC for approximately five years, found employment through the Department of Rehabilitation after he became disabled. The special computer re-



**If you or someone you know have a housing issue that needs support, call Mario at 562-427-1000 Ext 14**

training Mario received is a terrific asset in his current position.

Being bi-lingual and a "great-listener" are two traits that help Mario be great at what he does, but truly enjoying the opportunity to work with the underserved population is equally important. He says, "I am so lucky to have found this special job." At DRC, we think we are so lucky to have found Mario.

When he's not hard at work helping DRC consumers solve their housing-related needs, Mario can be found coaching basketball, indoor soccer, or baseball for his son or daughter or working for his church with his wife Alicia.