



THE SDRC REPORT

To serve and empower persons with developmental disabilities and their families to achieve their goals with community partners.

A Year of Independence: Celebrating Stevenson's Journey at Homies

Homies: California's life-sharing program for people with disabilities

About one year ago, Stevenson (32 years old) took a big step toward independence when he moved out of his family home to live with his supportive roommate, Hodon. Both had signed up for Homies and, through mutual connections at St. Madeline's day program, found each other and decided to live together. What began as a new arrangement has grown into a friendship and a year marked by new experiences and personal growth.

Hodon brings roughly 15 years of experience working in the disability community as support staff. In the first months, Stevenson, who receives services through SDRC, needed a good amount of support to learn routines in his new home, navigate transportation, get to activities, and adjust to life outside the family home. With steady structure and weekly planning, the two built a stable rhythm. Hodon has since turned the supportive roommate role into his full-time work and is thriving in it.

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October 2025

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A year of new adventures

- **Learning to surf:** Stevenson got comfortable on the water and found a new activity he enjoys.
- **Universal Studios Trips:** a theme-park day that turned into lasting memories with friends.
- **Special Olympics:** he trained for and competed in a swim meet, showing dedication and pride.
- **Strawberry Picking:** a simple, joyful outing that highlights how much he appreciates time in the community.
- **Bowling League:** joined a local league and enjoys weekly games with friends.

The power of community support this past year shows what's possible when a supportive home, experienced caregiving, and meaningful relationships are in place. With the right environment, people can build skills, try new things, and stay connected to the activities they care about. At Homies, we are honored to celebrate Stevenson's progress and look forward to what year two brings.



Messages from Mark

Please review the [Safety Guidelines Related to Federal Law Enforcement Visits](#). This guidance is designed to help you stay safe and protect the privacy of those we serve during any federal enforcement activity.

The document outlines:

- What to do during in-home visits and in SDRC offices.
- How to respond if approached by federal agents.
- Key reminders about warrants, information sharing, and notifying leadership.

Your safety and the confidentiality of the individuals we support are our top priorities.

If you have questions, contact your supervisor or a member of the Executive Leadership Team.

Thank you for your attention to this important information and for all you do.

Mark

Beginning January 1, 2026, all Regional Centers will be subject to the **California Public Records Act (CPRA)** under the Disability Equity, Transparency and Accountability Act of 2024.

SDRC is working with the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) and the other Regional Centers to finalize a training program by mid-October. This will be mandatory for all staff.

We invite you to review the [first issue of the PRA Newsletter](#) for additional information.

Please note that you will need to download the PRA Newsletter from the Wiki to view the full document.

Mark

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Meet Christo Rose, Training Specialist

About Christo

How long have you been employed at the regional center and what do you do?

I've been employed here at SDRC for 8.5 years, and I make people laugh. My job description states – forgive me, but I'm going to paraphrase – I'm responsible for educating and supporting all the fabulous employees here at SDRC regarding foundational policies and procedures, in addition to administrating our learning management system (LEAP), but when you ask "what do I do," I make people laugh.

Why did you get into this business?

I have always enjoyed working with people, regardless of the job or field, I've always enjoyed the human interactions and being able to "help."

Tell us about one of your best days at work

I've been here long enough and am lucky enough that I can say I've had so many of these that it's legitimately difficult to choose just one. In general, Tuesdays tend to be "best days" since the entire Training Team is in the office and when we all get together, the ideas just start FLYING! There's so much passion and shared energy, it's impossible to not leave the office feeling electrified and optimistic. More specifically (but still broad and generalized) just recently, giving our Justice, Liberty and Belonging trainings, those were some "best days" too because I feel like I learned so much from everybody that participated and shared. Oh, and any day where there's been donuts. Can't forget about those.

Where were you born and raised and how many siblings are in your family?

I was born and raised in Southern California, in the little town of San Dimas, just two hours north-ish of here. I have two sisters that are 2.5 years younger than me.

What is your favorite quote?

"When your dreams turn to dust, vacuum."
Wolfgang Riebe



What do you like to do in your spare time?

Play! Play games with my son – board games, card games, video games, NERF, make believe, Frisbee, whatever! We'll also go swim/chill at the pool, blast dance music and bounce around the house or just hang out and watch anime (we're working through Naruto at the moment). And when I am not with my son, I'm usually playing Magic: The Gathering or capoeira with my friends. I also love to read, mostly fiction (fantasy/sci-fi), but I'm willing to read other genres if people have good recommendations.

Tell us about your dream vacation

My dream vacation is a big family ski trip with whole family – mom, dad, sisters, brother-in-law, nieces and nephew. I like to envision lazy mornings with coffee, eggs and pancakes setting up days spent snowboarding and skiing and then evenings with games/movies and cocoa. Nothing hectic or too fast paced... except for maybe going down the slopes!

Do you play or watch any sports?

Once upon a time I was an avid college basketball and football fan (Go Bruins!) but cutting cable really disconnected me from readily accessing that medium. As for playing a sport, I had been playing capoeira for close to a decade just before COVID but then that fell off and I've neglected to get back into it.

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SOCIAL SHOWCASE

Join us on social media for the latest updates and exclusive content!

Introducing Carli

Meet Carli, a woman whose journey has been shaped by perseverance through good times and bad. Despite facing challenges with her health, education, and the ups and downs of navigating adulthood, Carli has not only overcome them but is now thriving with the support of her family, friends, and SDRC services.

As the proud business owner of The Empower Connect Services, Carli amplifies non-profits and organizations, resources, and events in San Diego to support people like her. With her optimism and commitment to helping others, Carli has goals to grow her business, write a book, and earn a degree in social work. We're cheering you on every step of the way, Carli!



You can watch Carli's story [here](#).



Check out more videos and stories about our clients:



2025 California DSP of the Year

Gilda Carillo

Noah Homes / Spring Valley, CA



Gilda Carillo, Life Enrichment Day Program Coordinator at Noah Homes, is one of five **Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)** being selected statewide by California Disability Services Association (CDSA) for the **2025 DSP Empowerment Awards**. This awards program honors DSPs who demonstrate talent, dedication, and professionalism.

With great joy and professionalism, Gilda walks alongside our most fragile residents: individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are also experiencing dementia and are unable

to attend a traditional day program. While these individuals face barriers such as reduced stamina and memory issues, Gilda focuses on what they are capable of doing, supporting their independence and self-advocacy. She creates meaningful, person-centered experiences and truly gets to know each individual's personal goals, hopes, and dreams, so she can meet people where they are and honor their unique needs.

[Continue reading](#)



2025 California DSP of the Year

Kevin Salvador

Noah Homes / Spring Valley, CA

ANCOR, the leading voice in Washington for community-based disability services providers, has announced that Kevin Salvador, a direct support professional at Noah Homes, has been named the recipient of the **2025 California Direct Support Professional of the Year award**. Salvador joins 53 other honorees in the 2025 edition of ANCOR's annual Direct Support Professional of the Year Awards program.

"The entire Noah Homes community is proud of Kevin as he receives this national honor," says Sandra Rocco-Melville, Executive Director of Noah Homes. "This award recognizes his dedication to fostering inclusion in a community-based, person-centered environment for the individuals we support. Kevin's work has transformed the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are so pleased to celebrate him!"

[Continue reading](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Meet Lorelee Bada, Training Specialist

About Lorelee

How long have you been employed at the regional center and what do you do?

In October, I will be with the Regional Center for 18 years. For the last 2 years, I have been part of the Training Team. It has been an amazing opportunity to be a part of something from its inception, and I get to work with some of the best people in the agency. Prior to joining the Training Team, I was a Service Coordinator for 16 years. I loved working closely with the individuals and families we serve. Service coordination will always have a piece of my heart.

Why did you get into this business?

From a young age, helping others has always been a part of me. I have worked with different populations, but working with the individuals we serve has been the most fulfilling.

Tell us about one of your best days at work.

One of the best days are Workplace Welcome days. This is the first day of employment for new employees. I get excited talking about what we do and the individuals and families we serve. It's wonderful to be a part of people's SDRC employment journey from the start and see how they evolve in their roles.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

A majority of my circle of support, which includes family and friends, live in San Diego so a lot of time is spent with them. I grew up around lots of aunts, uncles and cousins, so I love that my children are growing up with a similar experience. If we are not at a family get together, we can be found at baseball games, theme parks, the movies or camping. I recently rediscovered a love for going to concerts especially The Rady Shell.

Do you play or watch any sports?

I don't play any sports, but I come from a Padres family! Padres Opening Day in the Bada household is a family holiday for us; we take the day off and go to the game. We have also been going to Spring Training since my eldest son was about one and enjoy visiting other ball parks.



What is one of your greatest accomplishments.

It might be cliché to say, but my children. They're young, but I am so proud of the people they are growing up to be. I can't wait to see where life takes them.

What is the most important characteristic of a good leader?

One important characteristic of a good leader is having strong communication skills. When a leader is able to effectively communicate with their team, they are able to get the team motivated, encourage collaboration, work towards a unified goal and boost morale.

What do you value in a person most of all?

I value people that are trustworthy. Trust is a foundation for a strong friendship, personal relationships and professional relationships.

Where do you hope to travel to in the next five years and why?

I would like to go to the Philippines with my parents, husband and children. My parents have not been back to the Philippines since they immigrated to the United States more than 40 years ago. I have never been and while my parents don't have any immediate family that still live in the Philippines, it would be a memorable opportunity to see where they grew up and to visit parts of the country they never had the opportunity to visit when they lived there.

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3rd Annual Vendor & Family Resource Fair

Open to Everyone!

Families, self-advocates, and community members — come explore services and supports for people with intellectual disabilities!

San Diego Convention Center
October 4, 2025, 9 am – 3:30 pm

300+ Exhibitors. Meet service providers, community partners, and inspiring self-advocate microenterprises.

9 Dynamic Breakout Sessions.

Engage in focused conversations, learn, and connect with experts.

Plan Ahead. Be sure to review the agenda to make the most of your day!

 **Free Parking** for the First 600 Attendees.

VISIT the SDRC Resource Row!

Connect with our experts on:

- Services by age group
- HCBS Waiver
- Supported Decision Making
- Self-Determination
- Participant-Directed Services
- Employment Services
- Residential Options

Any questions, speak with your Resource Coordinator



SCAN the QR or
CLICK HERE to REGISTER



This event is sponsored by Language Access and Cultural Competency Funds



SDRC MISSION MOMENT



Mayra Morachis, you're awesome!

Regarding Mayra and all the support I have received from the Regional Center, it has truly been a light of hope for me in this situation where I knew nothing about autism and felt such pain and despair in wanting to help my daughter.

Mayra, as my coordinator, was there: so kind, caring, and above all empathetic toward the deep pain we as parents felt at the beginning.

I went through a deep depression in silence with my husband, knowing absolutely nothing about autism. I felt like I was drowning in my own pain and couldn't even think clearly about anything. I didn't even know that there were supports and special programs for children with this diagnosis.

Mayra guided me in processing everything so that Emily could begin with the Regional Center. She made me feel that I wasn't alone in this, and that she had all the experience and tools to help. That's how we started with the different evaluations. She introduced me to the Regional Center's programs, which have been a great, great help to Emily. The social and recreational programs Emily has had the chance to participate in have worked like wonderful therapy; for example, helping her extend her arms naturally, coordinate her leg strength, and interact with other children outside of the traditional therapies.

My daughter has progressed so much, and that makes us very, very happy. We know there is still so much more to work on so that she can continue moving forward, adapt socially, and face her sensory challenges, etc. But honestly, for me as her mom, your support is incredibly valuable, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I could share many more examples... I truly feel your support is sincere, unlike what I have experienced with therapeutic services through medical insurance. I've had many issues with them and often felt like, for them, this is just a business, and they don't have the genuine calling to see our children succeed the way the Regional Center does.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Meet Francis Almario, Program Manager

About Francis

How long have you been employed at the regional center and what do you do?

I have been with SDRC for 9 years. I am the Program Manager for Unit 21 TAY in San Marcos.

Why did you get into this business?

I have always enjoyed working with people. I worked at a mental health program in 2012 where I was providing case management services to families in crisis. It was rewarding when families would thank me for connecting them with resources that helped them stabilize their lives and situation. When that program lost a significant portion of its funding, I was forced to look for other employment options. I worked as an ABA behavior therapist for a short time in 2016. Soon after that I was presented an opportunity to become a Service Coordinator with SDRC.

Tell us about one of your best days at work.

I can recall a time where I was walking through a parking lot to get to my next meeting when I was stopped by a young woman asking if my name was Francis. I said yes, and I didn't recognize the person asking. She smiled and said her name. It was a client I worked with about three years prior in an adult unit where I was her SC. She made a complete 180.

When I was working with her, she was in an abusive relationship, addicted to drugs and unhoused. She reached a very low point in her life. I would often call to check in on her and when she would stop contacting me, I would visit locations she would frequent to complete her quarterly meetings. I eventually lost all contact with her. Three years later it was a great surprise to see that she was in a healthy relationship, engaged, working and had a stable home. She deserves all the credit for the changes she made in her life. She thanked me for being supportive and encouraging during the time I was her SC. This made me feel proud about the work I do. This was definitely one of my best days at work.



Where were you born and raised and how many siblings are in your family?

I was born in Pampanga, Philippines and raised in San Diego CA. I have two older brothers and a younger sister.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy being outdoors in my spare time. I like hiking, camping, playing basketball, surfing and skateboarding. I also like to cook and try out new restaurants.

Tell us about your dream vacation.

I'd like to spend a year traveling and exploring the Philippines. There are over 7,000 islands in the Philippines and I have visited about a dozen of them. It would be a dream vacation to explore as many of the Philippine Islands as I can.

Do you play or watch any sports?

I play pick up basketball at rec centers and gyms and have participated in basketball leagues in the past. I enjoy watching basketball and football mostly. Skateboarding and surfing are also sports I enjoy doing and watching as well.

What is the most important characteristic of a good leader?

Compassion is at the top for me. Compassion shows those you lead that you care and want to understand.

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We need your help to engage more **service providers** and find new **internship applicants** in your communities!

We know that each day your service providers must face the challenge of hiring and keeping quality direct support staff, while continuing to provide excellent services and supports to more than 450,000 Californians. We need your support in letting them know about a program that can help them hire, so they can focus on other important things.

In a [2024 report from ANCOR](#), the stark reality of the direct support workforce crisis for community-based providers supporting people with IDD was put into focus. **Some key findings for providers included:**

- 1 90% experienced moderate or severe staffing challenges in the past year.
- 2 69% reported turning away new referrals.
- 3 39% were discontinuing programs and services.

Part of California’s response is to build the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce statewide through the DSP Internship Program. Every regional center already may be sharing this opportunity with its service providers. **Now we’re asking everyone to do so with added urgency.**

A Toolkit is available to support your communication efforts in getting the word out about the DSP Internship Program to service providers. **This toolkit includes:**

- 1. Social Media Images and Captions
- 2. Social Media Stories
- 3. Website Banner Text
- 4. Article for Newsletter or Website
- 5. Informational Flyers
- 6. Email Message for Your Service Providers

This Program has the power to:

Support and empower service providers by simplifying the hiring process and providing a no-risk opportunity to easily add staff to their roster.

Uplift California’s communities by creating much needed jobs; jobs that can turn into meaningful careers.

Make positive steps toward resolving DSP workforce shortages. This makes way for better overall care of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

A Note on Outreach to ALL Californians

The [authorizing statute](#) for the Program asks us to focus our recruitment efforts on populations that reflect California’s diverse population and to people that do not traditionally have a pathway toward jobs in the developmental services field. If we can facilitate this by providing additional support to your regional center in reaching any of the following groups in [your catchment area](#), let us know right away:

- People Speaking Non-English Languages
- Diverse Racial/Ethnic Groups
- People Living in Rural Communities
- Veterans
- Former Foster Youth
- Youth formerly Justice-Involved



Christo Rose (continued from page 3)

What is one of your greatest accomplishments?

Gonna sound like a cliché Dad answer, but honestly, raising my son. Anytime people remark about what an all around great person he is, I'm prouder than proud. I think about all the other things that I've accomplished with my education and my career and they all pale in comparison to the sense of success I get when people compliment him.

What is the most important characteristic of a good leader?

Humility. Being able to recognize and acknowledge your own limits is important when building and maintaining a team. Having the ability to identify areas where people can shine by supporting you where you would otherwise be "limited." I think when people can speak genuinely about times they may have been mistaken, it builds trust and helps boost confidence when talking about how things were addressed after the fact.

What do you value in a person most of all?

Loyalty, which should not be misconstrued with sycophancy. Loyalty means having somebody's back, which also means saying the hard things sometimes because you care.

Where do you hope to travel to in the next five years and why?

New York? I've never been and my sister lives there so that could be fun. Otherwise, I'm not that big of a planner. Give me the itinerary and I'll make sure it gets done!

Who is the funniest person you know?

My buddy Carlos. We're both very quick with our timing and witticisms, and I think we have similar or complementary comedic senses. Whenever we hang out we're for sure putting each other in tears at some point.

What is the best advice you ever received

Never put more on a credit card than you could have readily paid for out of pocket.

Tell us one thing people would be surprised to know about you.

When I was a little boy, before my first hair cut, I was blonde. Like blonde blonde. So blonde that for my first halloween, my aunt made me a little lion costume to match my curly little golden mane.



Albert Noriega

**Employee of
DISTINCTION**



Albert Noriega, Community Services, is being recognized for his exceptional efforts in ensuring that our regional center finalizes rate reform for our vendor partners. Albert has been training Community Services team members on rates, sub-codes and procedures for the last three months. Albert also prepares effectively every month for rate changes.

Most recently Albert has taken the lead on the Hold Harmless project. He is currently working with Client Services and Business Services to train all staff and vendors on this significant change. Albert is a team player and goes above and beyond by completing his tasks and assisting others.

News from IT



- We will be reaching out to employees in the near future to migrate them to the updated Citrix system.
- We are piloting and training our team on SharePoint best practices to best support departments using this application. Office hours kick off date, and also how O365 can be accessed via any web browser, which includes Outlook.



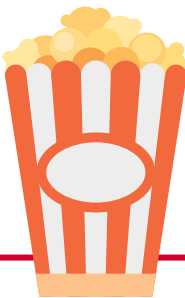
Choking Edition

Individuals with developmental disabilities face risks that can lead to choking and aspiration. Per Mission Analytics there were 79 deaths associated with choking from 2022 – 2023. From 2022 – 2025 San Diego Regional Center had 147 Special Incident Reports that involved an incident of choking.

COMMON SIGNS

- Hands around neck/throat
- Inability to talk
- Coughing, wheezing, or other unusual breathing sounds
- Change in color (face/lips blue or red)
- Passing out

HIGH-RISK FOODS



- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| • Hot dogs | • Melon | • Nuts | • Corn | • Crackers |
| • Meat | • Sandwiches | • Hard candies | • Popcorn | • Peanut butter |
| • Pizza | • Cake | • Raw vegetables | • Grapes | • French fries |
| • Spaghetti | • Doughnuts | • Hard candies | • Beans | |



RESOURCES

Resources for service providers and direct support professionals:

- [Choking Prevention Fact Sheet](#)
- [Recognize Signs of Choking](#)
- [DDS Wellness Toolkit: Choking Prevention](#)

Resources for self-advocates:

- [Choking is Scary: What Can You Do video](#)

For a full list of SDRC internal resources on choking prevention materials for service providers (translations available), risk mitigation training resources, and fact sheets please see the [Choking Prevention Wiki Folder](#) in the Risk Mitigation and Wellness Toolkit.

CHOKING IS PREVENTABLE

The IPP can address choking risk awareness by:

- Identifying if an individual is susceptible to risk of choking
- Documenting any conditions present that increase risk of choking including special diet, dental problems, risky eating behaviors, and swallowing difficulty
- Detailing if there is a special diet
- Documenting risk factors and plans for preventing choking incidents, including any need for supervision during eating

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Meet Nang Nakhonthap, Administrative Support Assistant

About Nang

How long have you been employed at the regional center and what do you do?

Well this August it was 23 years for me. I love my job as an Administrative Support Assistant in the North County office.

Why did you get into this business?

I wanted to work where it is flexible and this organization says it all with all the perks and fringe benefits that come with the hard work and dedication.

Tell us about one of your best days at work.

I love it when everything goes smoothly and everyone goes home happy.

Where were you born and raised and how many siblings are in your family?

I was born in Laos but raised here in San Diego with nine wonderful siblings, now eight, my oldest brother passed away in 2007.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to walk my dog, named Honey, he is the love of my life.

How many kids/grandkids do you have?

I have none, except my furry baby, Honey. I do have two step kids.

Do you play or watch any sports?

I do not play anymore, but love watching soccer (World Cup) and football (Super Bowl).

What is one of your greatest accomplishments

One of them was when we bought our house in Temecula, where there are plenty of wineries.

What is the most important characteristic of a good leader?

To name a few, set a good example, take the initiative and be able to listen to all the problems and at least try to solve them.

What do you value in a person most of all?

I value their honest opinion, loyalty and sometimes their criticism.



Where do you hope to travel to in the next five years and why?

I'd love to go to places like Fiji, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, I just love fantasy islands.

Who is the funniest person you know?

That would be my furry baby, Honey. He is so funny sometimes and doesn't even know it.

What is the best advice you ever received?

From my parents, to always "be kind and not to say anything if you have nothing nice to say."

What is your favorite quote?

"Life is like a box of chocolate, you never know what you gotta get." Forrest Gump, the movie.

Tell us one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

Oh my, that I am funny inside.

“Every leaf speaks bliss to me / Fluttering from the autumn tree.” - Emily Brontë,
“Fall, Leaves, Fall”

We Hit Over 1,000 Employees!



A huge milestone in SDRC history: we've reached 1,000 employees!

As our community grows across San Diego and Imperial Counties, so do we to support you and your loved ones.



Client Report

As of September 2

638 cases opened through intake
462 (66%) cases opened in Early Start
151 cases were reactivated
91 cases were inactivated
521 cases were closed
46,495, the total caseload at the end of August

Francis Almario (continued from page 9)

What do you value in a person most of all?

Integrity. Integrity builds trust. This is an important quality of people that I want around.

What is one of your greatest accomplishments?

I would say obtaining a Master's degree. If you told me in high school that my future self would have completed a master's degree, I wouldn't have believed it. I was always capable of getting decent grades, but I was not the most motivated student. That all changed when I transferred to a university from community college. I focused on a path and degree that I was passionate about which was Human Services and Organizational Management and Leadership.

Where do you hope to travel to in the next five years and why?

I would like to travel around Europe. Mainly because I have never been to Europe. I'd also like to travel to South America to visit Peru and Brazil for the beaches and food.

Who is the funniest person you know?

My nieces and nephews are hilarious. They are between the ages of five and nine. They're funny without trying to be, and their young inquisitive minds always make me laugh.

What is the best advice you ever received?

To read the book *The Four Agreements*: Be impeccable with your word, Don't take anything personally, Don't make assumptions and Always do your best.

What is your favorite quote?

"Your body is not a temple, it's an amusement park. Enjoy the ride." – Anthony Bourdain

Tell us one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

I can cook. In the kitchen and on the basketball court, lol!

Have an outreach event you need staffing for?

email us: communications@sdrc.org





Mark Received the Community Legacy Award at the CDSA Annual Meeting



The California Disability Services Association (CDSA) presented our very own Executive Director, Mark Klaus, with the Community Legacy Award at the CDSA Aligned 2025 Conference. The award honors Mark for his committed service to people with disabilities, and the enormous impact he's made on the regional center system in California.

Join us on congratulating Mark on this well-deserved honor!





CAPITOL
CURRENTS

Keeping you plugged in to what's happening in CA and D.C.
OCTOBER EDITION NEWS [VIEW ONLINE NOW](#)





HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October 1

Jose Borbon
Araceli Corning
Janice Rogers-Archie
Stephanie Silvaggio

October 2

Kirra Mardesich
Mary Nieves
Sofia Castano

October 3

Leslie Piceno
Sara Thorpe
Diana Wehr

October 4

Victoria Vargas

October 5

Angely Alano
Savannah Endres
Monica Fox
Joseph Hellmann
Cristina Rios
Vanessa Yanez-Mendoza

October 6

Hannah Burns
Josefina Rios
Andrea Romo
John Spetnagel

October 10

Andrea Garaygordobil Ortega

October 11

Raquel Coco
Rosa Garcia
Ciara Manzo
Matthew Marshall
Brittany Parker
Galo Vargas

October 12

Brian Uribe

October 13

Alessandra Aldai
Paola Garcia
Noemi Kelsey
Vy Le
Evelyna Nguyen
Chilanta Salmon
Melinda Williams
Diane Yopez-Pawlik

October 14

Elena Loya
Linnette Alvarado
Alexandrea Gomez
Scott Sebright

October 15

Erica Castano
Rebecca Hamada
Valeria Lugo
Maribel Veaz

October 16

Mayra Morachis
Alejandra Padilla Arroyo

October 17

Olivia Gemmill
Kimberly Kyne
Sarah Uchino

October 19

Giselle Fernandez
Marcela Fernandez
Penelope Miranda-Sanchez
Marianne Pita
Vanessa Smith
Robert Webb-Rex

October 20

Ana Alcantar
Malia Bumanlag
Cristel Mendoza Munoz
Dawn Oliwa

Leslie Sanchez

October 21

Andrea Ante
Pamela Starmack

October 22

Christopher George
Jamie Nixon
Casedra Owens
Alyssa Paulas

October 23

Renato Escobedo
Sonia Griffin
Brenda Isaais
Alma Laguna
Shayla Sanderson

October 24

Melissa Babick
Brenda Hernandez
Rina Ngo

Edith Peeler

October 25

Samantha Di Angelis
Ronald Forrest
Janie Ramos

October 27

Ashley Lopez

October 28

Meagan Andino
Bob Edwards

October 29

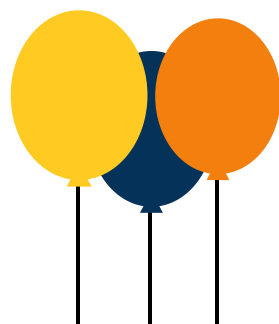
Virginia Bautista
Jessica Dominguez
Celeste Graham
Yessenia Morales
Melissa Oliva
Christo Rose

October 30

Lizbeth Martinez

October 31

Andrea-Lisa King
William Lacey
Erika Manzo
Tiffany Wong



ANNIVERSARIES!



25+ Years

Arturo Alvarado
Jose Rosas
Kathleen Rubio
Kimberly D. Kyne
Mirna Cardenas-Navarro
Angelina E. Garcia

15-24 Years

Jamie Rodriguez
Christina Longoria
Lorelee Bada
Noemi Kelsey
Seth Mader

5 Years

Debra Grossberg
Claudia Lopez
Daisy Olvera Ramirez

1 Year

Celeste Graham
Reyna Soto

Welcome to SDRC!



Be sure to say hello to some of our newest team members.

Foundation for Success Training - September



LEAP is

Learning & Education for All Professionals

LEAP is a comprehensive and centralized system for training and to help you further your professional development. It offers a variety of training modules that tracks your progress.

The training modules offer both online and instructor-led classes.

Don't Have a LEAP Account?

New employees must register. If you have recently changed your name please log in using your existing account and update the information on your profile to reflect the new name/email.

Create your **LEAP** account [HERE!](#)

SIRs and Waiver Rager

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday

9:00AM - 11:00AM

<https://sdrc.org.zoom.us/j/87442219870?pwd=cUzpWHTABeY03CWxzbrvRq4zhboCr4.1>

Meeting ID: 874 4221 9870

Passcode: J3SFCr

Institutional Deeming Office Hours

<https://sdrc-org.zoom.us/j/89237693873?pwd=SrHILpwvvyJsGcUg0bBhKEvVU5CuBeM.1>

Meeting ID: 892 3769 3873

Passcode: Z5D8Gj



Mandatory Training

All SDRC staff are required to complete the following online training (new employees must complete within the first 30 to 90 days of employment).

Introduction to the Regional Center System
Online | LEAP at San Diego Regional Center

We're Here to Speak for Justice
LEAP at San Diego Regional Center

Privacy and Security Series
LEAP at San Diego Regional Center

SDRC Emergency Action and Fire Prevention Plan - LEAP at San Diego Regional Center

Safety in the Workplace
LEAP at San Diego Regional Center

What You Need to Know About COVID-19
LEAP at San Diego Regional Center

Workplace Etiquette
LEAP at San Diego Regional Center

Harassment Free Workplace
Employee | LEAP at San Diego Regional Center
Manager | LEAP at San Diego Regional Center

Workplace Violence Prevention
LEAP at San Diego Regional Center

Heat Related Illness Prevention and Guidance
LEAP at San Diego Regional Center

Confidentiality and Privacy
Online | LEAP at San Diego Regional Center



October Events

Bi-National Health Week

October 1-3, 8 am - 1 pm
Mexican Consulate
1549 India St. San Diego 92101

Family & Resource Fair

October 4, 8:30 am - 4 pm
San Diego Convention Center
111 Harbor Dr, San Diego 92101

Annual Consumer Luncheon

October 10, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road SD 92101

Child Family Well Being Resource Fair

October 14, 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Logan Heights Library
567 28th Street, San Diego 92113

SUHSD Adult Ed Career & Resource Fair

October 15, 9:30 am - 11:30 am
San Ysidro Adult School
4220 Otay Mesa Road, San Ysidro 92173

Los Altos Elementary Resource Festival

October 17, 2 pm - 4:30 pm
Los Altos Elementary
1332 Kenalan Drive San Diego 92154

Feria Conference

October 18, 8 am - 3:30 pm
Otay Ranch High School
1250 Olympic Pkwy. Chula Vista 91913

Housing Symposium

October 20, 8:30 am - 5 pm
Sharp Prebys Education and Innovation Center
8695 Spectrum Center Blvd, San Diego 92123

26th Annual Jobtoberfest Job Fair

October 22, 8:30 am - 2 pm
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West, San Diego

Chula Vista Champions Run

October 25, 8:00 am
Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center
2800 Olympic Pkwy, Chula Vista 91915

Resource Family Picnic

October 25, 10:30 am - 2 pm
Admiral Baker Park
2400 Admiral Baker Rd, San Diego 92124

NHA Head Start Resource Fair

October 30, 11 am - 1 pm
567 S. 28th St. San Diego 92113



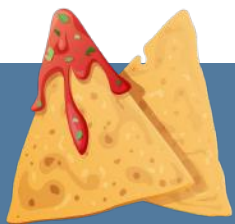
Blood Drive!

Wednesday, Oct. 8th
9am - 2:30pm
Ruffin Road parking lot

Please make a commitment to save a life!

Schedule your appointment today:
https://www.mysdbb.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/83360

Don't miss the Nacho Social Fundraiser!



October 8th at 11:30am
Main office boardroom

Indulge in a bowl of yummy nachos at our Nacho Social Fundraising event! All proceeds raised go directly back to our **Adopt-A-Family** Committee that will support families during the holidays!

Community LINK

Linking Individuals to a Network of Knowledge



Let's Get Better Informed!

From Brenda Bello Vasquez

Community LINK (**Linking Individuals to a Network of Knowledge**) is a series of monthly webinars that provide information about our community's many resources.

This will be a great platform for you to ask questions and learn about the services and supports that our clients and families can access, often at no cost. **These webinars are open to ALL STAFF** and aim to equip you with the resources that can help you address the unmet needs of clients and families.

Registration and descriptions: Community LINK - October 2025.pdf / DEIA Team

Lorelee Bada (continued from page 6)

What is the best advice you ever received?

Invest in yourself at an early age, but continue to invest in yourself throughout your life. Not just financially, but also your health, your emotional well-being, your relationships and in learning new skills.

What is your favorite quote?

Lately one of my favorite quotes comes from one of our team members, Viri Salgado – “Communication is an expectation, not an accommodation.” Since she first said it, it has resonated with me and it is a reminder that we should always be communicating with the individuals we are supporting.

Tell us one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

I went into labor with my second child at a Padres game. While I thought it would have been a fun story to say I delivered my baby at the ballpark, my husband was more practical and made sure we left in the middle of the game.

September Tributes



Congratulations to Our Recognized Staff!

Chessa Burke	Karen Melowitz	Aline Ramirez
Elliot Walker	Liz Garcia	Suzy Hernandez
Bernadette Boren	Juvelyn Garcia	Patricia Dunatte
Kara Corona	Angelica Morales	Bianca Landgrave
Ernestina Rodriguez	Geneva Montanez	Mara Stardust
Necol Shabazz		

Recognize Someone Today!

Each tribute will be thrown into a monthly drawing for a chance to win an SDRC t-shirt or a \$30 stipend! Winners will be announced via email.

Congratulations August drawing winners:

Joshua Drake	Iveth Madrigal
Silvia Garibay	Lorileigh Paul
Durell Anthony	Lindsey Acosta
David Jaime	Lhory Jagers

[Download the staff tribute form here](#)



Get a \$1000 Bonus!

Please refer qualified applicants to posted SDRC positions and receive a \$1000 bonus in appreciation. \$1,000 – taxable stipend on paycheck and subject to taxation. It is not retroactive. If more than one current employee made the successful referral, the amount will be evenly divided.

The referral bonus is paid after the completion of the 180-day introductory period.

[Referral Bonus Program](#)



SDRC

NEWSLETTER
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