



THE SDRC REPORT

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



January 2022

STAY INFORMED

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Legend Visits Home Of Guiding Hands

By Albert Fulcher

The Alpine Sun/East County Californian/The Star-News

Home of Guiding Hands received a holiday treat with a visit from former HGH CEO Mark Klaus, who brought author and motivational speaker Dr. Temple Grandin to speak to the organization’s front-line workers and their clients.

Mark Klaus is currently the executive director for the San Diego Regional Center, so it was a bit of a homecoming for him also, said HGH Vice President of Operations Falon Leszcynski.

Grandin authored “Emergence: Labeled Autistic,” which gave an inside narrative by someone diagnosed with autism. Now a prominent author with several books, Grandin is a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. She writes and speaks on both autism and animal behavior and is a successful consultant on livestock handling equipment design and animal welfare.

[Continue reading on page 5](#)





CHEERS TO THE COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Jennifer Levin | Sheila Minick |
| Gabby Carmon | Sara Thorpe |
| Cynthia Esquivel | Christina |
| Niguel Larios | Alexander |
| Karely Mendez | Joanne Mull |
| Shelly Gonchoroff | Sarah Ponce |
| Irene Juarez | Ursuala Montes |
| Gigi Bautista | Isela Garcia |
| Kris Madrigal | Angie Garcia |
| Amy MacKenzie | Joab Gonzalez |

Adopt-a-Family *Fundraiser*

The 2022 Adopt-a-Family Fundraiser brought a lot of joy to the families we serve. Thanks to the efforts of the Adopt-a-Family committee, the generosity of the Foundation for Developmental Disabilities (FDD), and the service coordinators who thoughtfully selected the deserving families, more than 200 families had a brighter holiday. We also want to mention the kindness of the 28 SDRC staff who adopted families this holiday season.



In Imperial County, the sheriff and fire department adopted two families and showed up in their fire truck and squad car, bringing lots of smiles to the kids. The staff in Imperial decorated a Christmas tree where presents were waiting so the family could enjoy the holiday spirit. The day was very meaningful to the grandfather and caregiver of the families-it and brought tears to their eyes.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Meet the Community Services Department

The Community Services Department provides a variety of services to people served by the San Diego Regional Center (SDRC), current and potential service providers, as well as staff of the agency.

Resource development

Responsible for the identification and development of needed community resources and programs to support individuals with developmental disabilities. The team works closely with current and potential businesses and organizations to enable them to become service providers by developing and reviewing programs that meet the needs of the people served by SDRC.

Vendorization of services

All services funded by SDRC go through a stringent review process. Service providers' program designs are closely reviewed by Resource Coordinators to ensure the program meets all of the federal, state, and regional center requirements for service delivery. A few examples of the different types of programs vendors are: Residential Homes, Day Programs, Supported Living Services, Behavioral Support, Early Intervention, Respite and Day Care, and many, many others.

Risk Management and Mitigation

The Community Services Department participates as members of the SDRC Risk Management team. The team reviews Special Incident Reports (SIRs) for trends and identifies training needs for staff and service providers. They develop Risk Assessment tools for service providers and Service Coordinators to use to address health and safety concerns for people served by SDRC.

Quality Assurance Services

Conducts annual facility monitoring and biannual unannounced visits per Title 17 requirements. They also conduct formal investigations of complaints for all services.

For our most recent organizational chart please click on the link: <https://bit.ly/3jEaasH>

"10 Things About Terri Colachis & San Diego Regional Center"

From GB's Feel Good Friday Segment

"The San Diego Regional Center is one of 21 regional centers in California that provides support and services to persons with developmental disabilities. Services are based on the client's individual needs and intended to maximize their independence, full potential, and quality of life. Terri Colachis is a Board Member as well as a past Chair for the San Diego Regional Center."

Continue to the full segment



GB Magazine
Giving Back · Grandes Benefactores
Bi-Lingual · Bi-National · Multi-Cultural

Board Member SPOTLIGHT Matthew Storey

My name is Matthew Storey, and I am a special education and civil rights attorney here in San Diego. It has been such an honor and privilege to serve on the Board of Regional Center. I have never met a group of people more devoted to helping others and selfless in their actions.



Serving on the Board of the Regional Center is personal for me. I became a special education attorney, like most in our field, after watching the struggles my parents went through with my brother, who has cerebral palsy. Thanks to the hard work of my family and help from the Regional Center, my brother has grown tremendously. He has a great career and was married two years ago! It is important to note this was a young man that doctors said would never walk or talk. This is one of the many reasons why I believe deeply in the mission of Regional Center.

Immediately after law school, I began practicing in the field of special education and have had the privilege of helping families for over ten years throughout California. I have always found the best way to help families is to give them the tools to advocate for their loved ones. To that end, I spend a large amount of time training families and professionals about special education and advocating for special needs students. I also teach in the SELAS program at the University of San Diego School of Law.

I grew up in Long Beach and Riverside County, and prior to becoming an attorney, I served in the United State Air Force as a crew chief. Following my service, I attended the University of California San Diego and then Thomas Jefferson School of Law. During that time, I met my wife, Alina, with whom I have two beautiful boys together. When we are not working, we enjoy the beach (or anything outdoors), traveling, and eating, and San Diego is the best location for all three.

December Tributes

Congratulations to Our Recognized Staff!!

Stacy Hardifer
Karina Adame
Gina Rodriguez 
Ysabeel Yumol
Vanessa Smith
Sonia Griffin
Rob Grijalva
Jane Tat
Jamie Michlski

Each tribute will be thrown into a monthly drawing for a chance to win an SDRC t-shirt and water bottle or a \$30 stipend! We'll draw 10% of each month's entries. Winners will be announced via email.

RECOGNIZE SOMEONE TODAY!

 Congratulations to last
month's drawing
winners: Elizabeth
Almeida and
Cynthia Esquivel


Do not let what you
cannot do interfere
with what you can do.
- John Wooden



A MISSION MOMMENT

Way to go Jayden!

Dear Eden, SDRC Service Coordinator,

I wanted to share the positive experience my client, Jayden, had with an oral health assessment.

Jayden has a fear of going to the dentist and has not been seen by a dentist in close to 15 years. At every annual meeting since I have been working with him, I have always brought up doing an oral health referral to get Jayden de-sensitized to the oral health exam.

I would explain to Jayden it would be done in the comfort of his own home, hoping it would calm some of the anxious feelings he was experiencing. In 2021, this service was again offered to the family and Jayden, but due to the pandemic, they did not feel comfortable having others in the family home, but Jayden seemed more open to the referral.

Finally, in 2022, Jayden took me up on my offer. With the help and agreeing Jayden would be an appropriate candidate, a referral was made. Jayden's mother was so appreciative of the services. Shortly after the oral health assessment was completed, Jayden went to his first dental appointment in years! Mom was also happy to report Jayden also had a deep cleaning done in November.

Thanks for all of your help and support, Eden! This was a great success story, and I am so happy Jayden finally got the oral health services he needed.

Lorelee Bada, B.A.
Service Coordinator, Unit 18

Legend Visits Home of Guiding Hands *(continued)*



Edward Hershey, CEO of Home of Guiding Hands with Temple Grandin

“Many of our staff were very excited to just be in her presence, to hear her speak,” Leszcynski said. “She did a little impromptu Q&A session, allowing staff to ask questions, and much of what was talked about is what she is seeing in the industry right now, what motivates and drives her. She allowed staff to take pictures. She signed her book for many of them. She is very influential in our industry.”

Leszcynski said with the dual visit of Grandin and Klaus being at HGH that there was a “lot of sentiment going on,” and that Grandin provided a lot of encouragement to the team.

Klaus said HGH has been a regional partner with SDRC for many years.

“I think it was a really great opportunity,” he said. “I thought it would be good for her to talk with some local providers. Grandin was aware, and is a big advocate for early start services, birth to 3-year-old children, and wanted to go to a provider that provided early start which HGH does. I thought it was a good opportunity to meet her and see her. I think it went exceptionally well.”

[Continue reading full article](#)



Human Resources Director, Christine Lux-Whiting

About Christine

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

I was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. My father was in the Air Force, so growing up we lived in many different places including Massachusetts, Michigan, Japan and Germany where I went to high school. I have two brothers and two sisters. I am the second oldest.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy hiking/walks and watching movies most kinds except horror and science fiction. I also like to do Sudoku and word puzzles.

How many kids and grandkids do you have?

I have two sons, Van and Stephen. Van met his wife Melissa when he was a teenager working at a Boy Scout camp. They have one daughter who calls me Gammy. She turned two last September. Stephen just returned from traveling in Columbia for several months with his girlfriend. They volunteered on farms. He had been teaching gardening at a public school through AmeriCorps.

Why did you get into this business?

I majored in sociology in college, which made me want to work in a helping profession. After a number of jobs in direct service, including community organizer, social worker and vocational counselor, I went to graduate school and got a master's degree in human services management. After graduation, I landed a position as the Director of Personnel and Administrative Services at an international aid agency based in Rhode Island. After that, I just stayed with human resources in the non-profit sector.



What is one of your greatest accomplishments?

I am proud of raising two independent children who are smarter than I am.

What is the most important characteristic of a good leader?

I think a good leader must embody a number of important characteristics such as vision, dedication and the ability to influence others. It is too difficult to narrow it down to only one.

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

I have a trip planned with my siblings to Honduras in March. On my proverbial bucket list is seeing the Northern Lights. I still have a lot of travel to do as I have only been to a few of the destinations listed in the book 1000 Thousand Places To See Before You Die.

What do you value in a person most of all?

Those who follow the Golden Rule.

What is the best advice you ever received?

You need to do the right thing even if it makes folks upset with you.

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

With gratitude to the Wampanoag tribe, I am a Mayflower descendent.



LEAP

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.

Benefits of Online Training:

Online training provides convenience and time efficiency. The on-demand training is self-paced, convenient, and competency-based (most training modules have activities that assess competency).

Relevant: Course content includes current topics, and e-Learning ensures training applies to your career path.

By providing an interactive environment with dynamic content, e-Learning not only effectively keeps people up-to-date but interested as well.

LEAP reporting tools help managers by monitoring staff progress and heightening accountability.

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!](#)



MANDATORY STAFF TRAINING

Log on to LEAP for your mandatory training!

MESSAGE FROM THE SAFETY COMMITTEE



Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. Winter storms including blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds.

Know your winter weather terms:

Winter Storm Warning

Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

Winter Storm Watch

Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm Watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.

Winter Weather Advisory

Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

Read more on ways to reduce risk and remain safe during this winter.

[How to Protect Yourself From Winter Weather](#)

Birthdays

JAN 1

Jordan Meek

JAN 2

Mariana Plata
Matthew Smith

JAN 3

Megan Daniels

JAN 5

Lariah Otey

JAN 6

Adriana Rivas
Anh-Tu Pham

JAN 7

Paul Quinones
Crystal Reyna

JAN 8

Lucia Arroyo

JAN 9

Guadalupe Carter
Flore-Julia Miezán

JAN 11

Miguel Larios
Shanelle Palop
Angie Pena
Elaina Pumpelly

JAN 12

Ernest Robrecht
Yaxara Sandoval Ledezma

JAN 14

Alicia Calderon

JAN 15

Tamara Crittenden
Danalyn Ngo

JAN 16

Miki Ford
Claudia Lopez
Mina Nguyen

JAN 17

Tanya Andreotti
Nidia Dorsey

JAN 19

Loni Marcus
Carol Martin
Cornell Richardson
Luis Prado

JAN 20

Patricia Prado
Claudia Perez

JAN 22

Lydia Ruiz
Alicia Trujillo

JAN 23

Eduardo Arzate
Mireya Chavez
Brian Current
Yesenia Jimenez

JAN 24

Tim Edgington
Gaye Harris
Christina Longoria
Alexis Manchego
Isabel Moreno
Rene Pena

JAN 25

Sarah Low

JAN 27

Jorge Malone
Sabrina Mathisen
Evan Sterk

JAN 28

Linda Amy Mackenzie
Barbara Parra

JAN 29

Debra Reid

JAN 31

Theresa Barragan

Anniversaries

20 YEARS

Alma Gonzalea

15 YEARS

Ivett Loaiza

5 YEARS

Carolina Aguilar
Mizuki Goto

1 YEAR

Korie Almanza
Kristine Calalang
Jane Gonzales
Brian Perez
Michael J Bell
Jessica Crain
Adiel Galvan
Amanda Maksim
Victoria Cazares
Kara Corona
Shari Jackson
Chessa Burke
Erika Diaz

LET'S

Celebrate

SDRC Holiday Schedule 2023

Monday, January 2 - New Year's Day
Monday, January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, February 20 - Presidents' Day
Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day
Tuesday, July 4 - Independence Day
Monday, September 4 - Labor Day
Friday, November 10 - Veterans Day
Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 24 - Agency Day
Friday, December 22 - Christmas Eve
Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

A total of twelve (12) holidays per calendar year includes one (1) employee-selected elective holiday.

Farewell to Margie

We are happy for Margie McLaughlin as she is retiring. Margie has been an integral part of Early Start and we have been working for months on cross training staff we called it, "a day without Margie". Margie has been a reliable part of Early Start for 21 years and is well known by our community partners. Margie has amazing work ethics rarely missed a day of work, actually she never missed work so we had to encourage her to take time off. She helped and trained so many new staff as well as office managers. We will celebrate her on January 5, 2023 join us in the board room to wish her goodbye as she begins a new journey.

January Events

Leading the Charge Conference - Collaborating for Effective Services

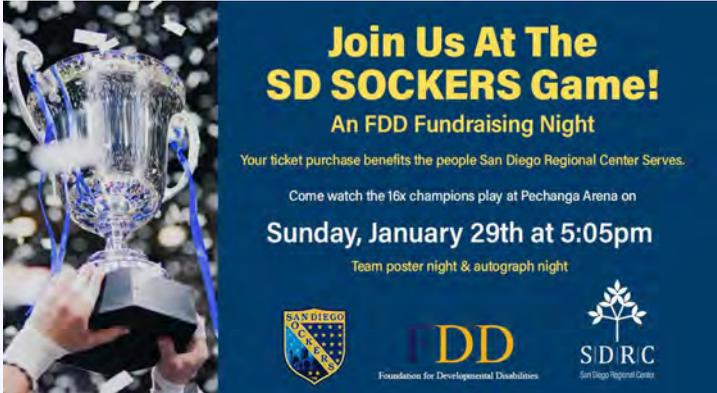
Wednesday, January 11, 8:30 am - 3:30
Location: Town & Country Conference Center

SDRC's Annual Board Meeting

Registration ends Monday, January 9 at 12:00 pm
Tuesday, January 17, 12:00-2:30
Location: Sycuan Casino Resort

San Diego Sockers Game

Sunday, January 29 at 5:05
Location: Pechanga Arena



Join Us At The SD SOCKERS Game!
An FDD Fundraising Night

Your ticket purchase benefits the people San Diego Regional Center Serves.

Come watch the 16x champions play at Pechanga Arena on
Sunday, January 29th at 5:05pm
Team poster night & autograph night

Volunteer for an Event!

We're looking for staff who enjoy meeting people and the opportunity to do something different. Sign up as an event volunteer to represent SDRC. Complete the [Event Volunteer Form](#) located on Wiki and submit it to communications@sdrc.org.

For event information please visit Wiki's [Resource Events](#) list.



NEWSLETTER
CONTENT SUBMISSIONS

CONTACT US

