



# Disabled Resources Center, Inc.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER

SUMMER 2013



## Dear Reader

Many small miracles occur with our consumers at DRC. These miracles make worthwhile all of our dedication and hard work.

Frequently, when a consumer first comes to DRC for our services, their shoulders are drooping, their head is down, and their eyes reflect little hope. This often reminds me of the caterpillar in one of my favorite books, *Hope for the*

*Flower*, by **Trina Paulus**. In the early part of the book, the caterpillar says, "How can I believe there is a butterfly inside me when all I can see is a fuzzy worm?" Our job is to make each consumer believe that he or she can become a butterfly.

In addition to the 18 core services we offer at DRC, we are always seeking new and improved ways to make sure each consumer gets the very best possible assistance. Here are a few of the things we've been doing lately to ensure that each consumer gets the individualized help needed to achieve more independence.

To keep up with the latest technical advances, we are preparing to add "looping" services to our large and small conference rooms. This new technology will allow our consumers with medium to severe hearing loss to "hear" everything that is said in real time.

Our new intern, **Don Edwards**, is now leading the DRC Group Orientation each Thursday.

With the addition of **Ana Ruiz Clark**, an employee of Health Net who recently joined our board, we now have a full board. As an expert in the management of Public and State Health plans, she can assist us with up-to-date information in that area.

The monthly get-togethers for young adults with disabilities who are getting ready to "fly" toward an independent life are getting larger each month. To become part of this fun, educational, benefits group, interested young adults can contact **Andrew Swinton**, extension 23. DRC is looking forward to the planned Summer Youth Week Program for youth ages 14-24.

The DRC staff has been blessed with some special training on "*Roberta's Rules of Order*." The Red Cross will be doing a two-day in-house Disaster Training that includes First Aid and CPR certification. We also learned more about ADA benefits from a webinar conducted by **Mark Potter**, an outstanding attorney who specializes in that field.

Our Volunteer Awards Luncheon this year was a huge success. We honored 27 DRC volunteers and our board members, who are among our most active and long-serving volunteers. Each volunteer received an individualized plaque that included the number of hours they volunteered in 2012, which totaled 4,841.3 hours for the year. We've enclosed a photo of this event on an inside page, so you can see the "joy" the large crowd had at this event.

Of course, the DRC staff does not accomplish their successes alone. Just as it takes a lot of butterflies to keep the world full of flowers, it takes the support of many in the community, including individuals, corporations, grantors, and business owners, to keep DRC successful. Only when we all work as a team can we make the best progress toward a world of justice and acceptance for all.

We are once again so grateful to the Boeing Employees Community Fund, which sponsors our "Build Your Own Computers." The graduates of this class are each given the computers they build to take home for personal or business use. We are also indebted to those companies who are supporting our Awards Dinner through donations and in-kind services.

Our dedicated board has been busy preparing for the Annual Awards Dinner. As shown in the copy of the invitation cover below, our theme for this year is butterflies. We are proud to recognize these people who are true advocates for people with disabilities: **R.J. Ross**, selected for the Jerry Stein Memorial Independent Living Award; **Anthony Candela**, who will be honored with the Community Service Award; and **Laurence (Larry) Jackson**, who is receiving the Civic Leadership award. We will also recognize the DRC Volunteer of the Year, **Oscar Casillas**, and **Edrich Pagunsan**, a military veteran who has returned to college. See the invitation cover below and the invitation text inside on page two.

Your personal invitation to the dinner, along with some opportunity tickets for exciting prizes, will soon arrive at your home. These tickets are going to cost \$5.00 each, with the grand prize being a 7-day trip to Hawaii. This wonderful adventure will include a rental car and airfare. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Reef on the Water on Thursday, June 20, at 5:30 p.m., when the reception and silent auction will begin.

These are just a few of the exciting adventures we've undertaken this year, but they are indicative of the ongoing innovative services we offer to our consumers. The majority of these services are offered without charge to all. We do ask those who can afford to do so to pay a modest fee for our computer classes, but no one is ever denied this learning opportunity that ranges from basic beginning to advanced procedures.

Continued on pg. 2



## DRC Invites You To Our Annual Dinner



The Board of Directors cordially invites you to the  
 37th Annual Awards Dinner  
**HONOREES**  
*Jerry Stein Memorial Independent Living Award*  
*Rj Ross, Community Advocate*  
*Community Service Award*  
*Anthony Candela, VA Long Beach Healthcare System*  
*Civic Leadership Award*  
*Laurence Jackson, Long Beach Transit*  
*Volunteer of the Year Award*  
*Oscar Casillas*  
*Special Recognition Scholarship for Military Veteran*  
*Edrich Paqunsan*



Master of Ceremonies David Sanfilippo,  
 Director of Disabled Students Services CSULB

Date: June 20th, 2013  
 The Reef on the Water - Harbor View Ballroom  
 880 Harbor Scenic Drive Long Beach, CA 90802

Reception and Silent Auction: 5:30 p.m.  
 Dinner and Program: 6:30 p.m.  
 Attire: Business Casual  
 Music by Blue Coral



## \* Opportunity Drawing \*

- 1st Prize:** 7 Night Hawaiian Package for two in a Luxury Condo on the Big Island of Hawaii. (Lodging, airfare, and rental car included.)
- 2nd Prize:** Large flat screen 47 inch 3D T.V. with soundbar
- 3rd Prize:** 4 tickets to Knotts Berry Farm.

**DONATION: \$5 each or 5 for \$20**  
 Ticket printing Courtesy of Bee Specialties.

Drawing held June 20, 2013, at the DRC Annual Awards Dinner.  
 Proceeds support Disabled Resources Center, Inc., a non-profit 501 (c) (3) agency.

Tax ID# 51-0204442  
**Winners need not be present.**



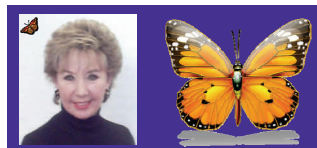
## Continued Dear Reader

When our consumers are ready to face the world on their own, they once again remind me of the caterpillar in the book I described above. At the end of the book, after becoming a beautiful butterfly, the former caterpillar said, "Imagine. I didn't even know I could do this." DRC is proud to offer the encouragement and help needed so that people who receive our services leave feeling like they are "on the right track."

If you or someone you know needs some TLC and encouragement to become more independent, like a butterfly, please share the news of DRC with them.

We look forward to helping them make this journey.

Sincerely Yours;  
**Dolores Nason**  
 Executive Director



## Consumer Comments!

What made this experience enjoyable was the kindness you show each other and have shown me, as well as, working with the other part of the DRC family, the volunteers. I am looking forward to further assisting you in the role as volunteer and being a part of this family. Thank you again for the opportunity.

Don Edwards, DRC Intern



Grace:  
 I can not thank you  
 people's sake enough. God will  
 bless, prosper & thrive you for  
 all you have done.  
 Blessings & Grace,  
 Lori

## DRC Welcomes New Board Member



**Ana Ruiz Clark** is affiliated with Health Net of California, Inc. and we welcome her to DRC's Board of Directors.

## Two New Employees at DRC



DRC would like to introduce its two newest additions. **Susan Pearson** is the new Bookkeeper and **Gail Thomas** is the new Administrative Assistant.

## Volunteers Blossom At DRC



We are happy to announce the following new volunteers to DRC: **Christina Gonzalez, Yulandria Pearson, Frances Khoury, Laura Hillyer, Elizabeth Garcia, Tony Prince and Claudia Boyle.**

## DRC's Volunteer Luncheon



Volunteer Luncheon Class of 2012



Cake with all of the volunteers' name

## Peer Counseling/Stepping Stones to Employment Graduation



## Congratulations Greg



**Greg Kozlowski**, DRC volunteer and Special Olympics athlete, has been chosen to play golf in the 2013 Summer Olympic Games. Congratulations!



# Calendar of Events

## JUNE 2013

- 3<sup>rd</sup>- BOD Basket Making Party 5:30pm
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 5<sup>th</sup>- ILC Directors Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 12<sup>th</sup>- DRC Advocacy Group Meeting @ NRC 3:00pm-5:00pm
- 13<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 14<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 19<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 20<sup>th</sup>- DRC's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner @ The Reef 5:30pm
- 21<sup>st</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 26<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 27<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 28<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am



**DRC: Disabled Resources Center**  
*The Key to Independence*

**Disabled Resources Center, Inc.**  
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**Non-Profit**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
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**Long Beach, CA**  
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Return Service Requested

## JULY 2013

- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 4<sup>th</sup>- Fourth of July Holiday (Center Closed)
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 8<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Summer Youth Leadership Week @ DRC
- 10<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 10<sup>th</sup>- DRC Advocacy Group Meeting @ NRC 3:00pm-5:00pm
- 11<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 16<sup>th</sup>- Peer Counseling Class 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 19<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- Peer Counseling Class 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup>- DRC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm
- 26<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 30<sup>th</sup>- Peer Counseling Class 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 31<sup>st</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm

- 7<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup>- DRC Advocacy Group Meeting @ NRC 3:00pm-5:00pm
- 8<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 9<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 13<sup>th</sup>- Peer Counseling Class 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 14<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 15<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 16<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 20<sup>th</sup>- Peer Counseling Class 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 21<sup>st</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup>- DRC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 27<sup>th</sup>- Peer Counseling Class 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 28<sup>th</sup>- Women's Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 29<sup>th</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 30<sup>th</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am

## AUGUST 2013

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Co-Ed Peer Support Group 1:00pm-2:30pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 6<sup>th</sup>- Peer Counseling Class 1:00pm-2:30pm



## DRC Mission Statement



**To empower people with disabilities to live independently in the community, to make their own decisions about their lives and advocate on their own behalf.**