

DRC: Disabled Resources Center
The Key to Independence

Independent Living Center
Summer Newsletter 2023



Dear Reader,

You're invited to enter the realm of **"Endless Possibilities,"** by participating in **Disabled Resources Center, Inc.'s (DRC) 47th Annual Awards Recognition Event**, at 5:30 p.m. on **Thursday, July 27, 2023** ...

*"Every new day begins with possibilities."
Ronald Reagan*

All of us at **DRC, the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers,** are so excited to salute life's **"Endless Possibilities,"** by hosting our yearly **Event**, again in person! We hope you will join us for an inspiring evening that both honors advocacy and presents academic scholarships. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the beautiful, out-of-this-world **Invitation**.

Jennifer Kumiyama, DRC's Board Secretary and Event Chair, the Board of Directors, and the Event Committee, have compiled an inspiring program, which is sure to launch us towards tomorrow's prospects and opportunities. **Dave Sanfilippo** returns as **Emcee of the Event**.

Congressman Alan Lowenthal, a longtime friend of **DRC,** leads the roll of the evening's honorees as the recipient of the **Civic Leadership Award**. **Molina Healthcare of California** will receive the **Community Service Award**. **Miryam Fernandez** will accept the **Jerry Stein Memorial Independent Living Award**, named in honor of one of the three men with severe disabilities who founded **DRC** in 1976 as a place where people with all disabilities could realize their dreams and potentials.

Through the awesome generosity of **Councilwoman Mary Zendejas, 1st District, Long Beach City Council,** five students will be awarded academic scholarships: **Daniel "Doc" Jacobs, Outstanding Military Veteran Scholarship; Joshua Kwak and Rachel Ng, Long Beach City College; and Mary Duc Nguyen and Evelyn Scarfe, California State University Long Beach.**

For their diligent work through COVID and beyond, four **DRC** volunteers will be honored with the **Ellard & Fofoa Volunteers of the Year Awards: Henry Broadbent, Britt Gause, Greg Kozlowski, and Theresa Onwukeme.**

With all that said, please come join us for an evening of out-of-this-world inspiration!

Fondly,

Dolores Nason Executive Director

Visit DRC to RSVP

The Board of Directors invites you to
**Disabled Resources Center Inc.'s
47th Annual Awards Gala**


"Endless Possibilities"

Thursday, July 27th, 2023

The Grand Event Center
4101 East Willow Street
Long Beach, CA 90815

Master of Ceremonies
David Sanfilippo

5:30 pm Reception & Silent Auction
6:00 pm Dinner & Program

Hearing Loop installed, Closed Captioning and
ASL Interpretation available.

Purchase Tickets at drc2023.rsvpify.com

Honorees

Civic Leadership Award
Congressman Alan Lowenthal

Community Service Award
Molina Healthcare of California

Jerry Stein Memorial Independent Living Award
Miryam Fernandez

Outstanding Military Veteran Scholarships
Daniel 'Doc' Jacobs

Long Beach City College Student Scholarships
Joshua Kwak & Rachel Ng

CSULB Student Scholarships
Mary Duc Nguyen & Evelyn Scarfe

Ellard & Fofoa Volunteers of the Year
Henry Broadbent, Britt Gause,
Greg Kozlowski, &
Theresa Onwukeme

In a very real sense, the dedicated and civic-minded organizations and individuals that **Sponsor DRC's 47th Annual Awards Recognition Event** provide the wherewithal and the impetus that thrusts the Event into the stratosphere of **"Endless Possibilities."** All of us at **DRC** join in thanking and saluting our steadfast and caring **Sponsors**.

Once again, **Molina Healthcare of California** leads the Sponsor list at the **Diamond Level, \$8,000.00 and above.**

At press time, our generous and valued Sponsors include:

- **Molina Healthcare of California**, Diamond Sponsor
- **Global Paratransit**, Gold Sponsor
- **Councilwoman Mary Zendejas**, 1st District, Long Beach City Council, Gold Sponsor
- **Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Braly**, Silver Sponsors
- Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, Long Beach County Board of Supervisors
- **LA Metro**, Silver Sponsor
- **Long Beach Transit**, Silver Sponsor
- **MTM Transit**, Silver Sponsor
- **Access Services**, Bronze Sponsor
- **Rich Archbold**, Hearing Now USA, Bronze Sponsor
- **Farmers & Merchants Bank of Long Beach**, Bronze Sponsor
- **Foothill Transit**, Bronze Sponsor
- **Jennifer Kumiyama**, Bronze Sponsor
- **Mobility Advancement Group**, Bronze Sponsor
- **Specialized Transportation Consultants LLC**, Bronze Sponsor
- **Anonymous**, Bronze Sponsor

There's still time to support



You are invited to come along on the voyage as we journey to the land of "Endless Possibilities!"

[Learn More](#)

To buy OPPORTUNITY TICKETS

Visit DRC Monday - Friday

- Dinner Ticket \$100
- 25 Opportunity Tickets \$100
- 5 Opportunity Tickets \$20
- 1 Opportunity Ticket
- Table of 8
- RSVP: Can't Make It



Meet Our New DRC Staff Members

Malanee Kodituwakkuge

Malanee works at DRC through the DOR AWE Program of Employment Services. She is originally from Sri Lanka and her first language is Sinhala. Her goal is to work as a Personal Assistant and Caregiver. Towards that career objective, she has enrolled as a Provider in In-Home Support Services.

Sister Carol Chilaka

Sister Carol is a Benedictine nun who came to the United States from Nigeria. She is interning at DRC as part of a doctoral program in Psychology. She speaks perfect English with a lovely, velvety accent. Sister Carol is delighted to be working with Gino Elliot in his Transitional Youth Program.

Jessica Vasquez

Jessica comes to DRC from the Transitional Subsidized Employment Program. She is bilingual in English and Spanish and has previously worked in clerical and counseling positions in hospital settings as well as in retail customer service. At DRC, she works as an Office Assistant.

Bobbiemarie "Maria" Fields

Maria is working at DRC through the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Adult Work Experience (AWE) Program of Employment Services. She is originally from Germany and speaks French and German, in addition to English. She has a background in nursing and healthcare administration, and is serving as an Office Assistant at DRC.

Photo Gallery



Zaid Moges presents Emergency Preparedness Workshop to GO LBC Transitional Youth students.



Representatives of Long Beach Job Corps Center visited DRC 4/23/2023 Center Dolores Nason, DRC Executive Director, and Dr. David Post, L.B. Job Corps Center Executive Director.



Genesis Jara and Johnico Peraza, Field Representatives to Congressman Robert Garcia, made a site visit and presented DRC with a Congressional Certificate of Recognition, 3/7/2023.



Betty Cruz, Receptionist, gives Emergency Preparedness Go Kit to DRC Consumer.



DRC Staff took at Abilities Expo at Staples/Los Angeles Convention Center, 3/15/2023, and a group photo with Kathrine Crowley, Executive Director, California Council on for Independent Living Centers (shown at far left).



Two proud graduates of DRC's "Build a Computer Class" display their Certificates of Completion, 5/5/2023. Left to right: Jose Ortiz Hutton, student; Vincent Johnson, AT Coordinator; Priscilla Tapia, student; Samantha Mam Operations Manager.



Zaid Moges presents Emergency Preparedness Workshop to GO LBC Transitional Youth students.



"DRC staff, Samantha Mam and Gino Filini, from the GO LBC Program, coordinates with the Adult Career Transitioning Program, working with Long Beach Unified School District students and staff."



Lupe Gracian, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and Richard Hernandez, Systems Change Advocate, distribute PPE, disaster kits, information on Edison utility assistance programs, DRC's programs, services, and disaster preparedness, Apollo Park, Downey, 5/3/2023.



Khanny Ou, Mobility Trainer/Personal Assistant Coordinator, gives Mobility Training Presentation at Lutheran Social Services, Long Beach, 2/16/2023.



[CALENDAR](#)

[PROGRAMS](#)

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Ongoing Events

GROUP ORIENTATION
for new consumers
WEDNESDAY'S @ 9:30 AM

HOUSING WORKSHOP
FRIDAY'S @ 9 AM

SMART DEVICES WORKSHOP
Every 3rd Wednesday of the month @ 1 PM

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
JOB SEARCH
Every 2nd Monday @ 9 AM

MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND CO-ED SUPPORT GROUPS
WEDNESDAYS @ 1 PM

COMPUTER CLASSES
Every Wednesday through Friday at 9:30 AM or 1:30 PM

JUNE 2023

- 6/3—Superheroes Carnival and Resources Fair at Tichenor Clinic for Children
- 6/6—Stephens Middle School Environment Day
- 6/6—PASC Board Meeting
- 6/8—Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Meeting
- 6/9—Vocational Workshop (Zoom)
- 6/9—DRC Advocacy Group Meeting (ZOOM) 2:30pm
- 6/13—Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Meeting
- 6/19—Juneteenth Holiday (legal holiday, DRC closed)
- 6/22—DRC Event Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- 6/22—DRC Board of Directors Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 6/23—Vocational Workshop (Zoom)
- 6/26—Access Services Board of Directors Meeting

JULY 2023

- 7/3—PASC Board Meeting
- 7/4—Fourth of July Holiday (legal holiday, DRC closed)
- 7/5—Access Services Board Operations Committee Meeting
- 7/7—Vocational Workshop (Zoom)
- 7/13—DRC Event Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- 7/14—DRC Advocacy Group Meeting (ZOOM) 2:30pm
- 7/15 to 7/18—American Public Transportation Association Transit Board Members Seminar, Birmingham, Alabama
- 7/17—LA Care Health Plan RCAC
- 7/20—DRC Event Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- 7/24—Access Services External/Stakeholder Relations Committee Meeting
- 7/27—DRC'S 47 TH ANNUAL AWARDS RECOGNITION EVENT, "ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES," 5:30 P.M., THE GRAND EVENT CENTER, LB

AUGUST 2023

No DRC Board Meeting in August

- 8/7—PASC Board Meeting
- 8/11—DRC Advocacy Group Meeting (ZOOM) 2:30pm
- 8/12—Meals on Wheels Car Show
- 8/28—Access Services Board of Directors Meeting



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