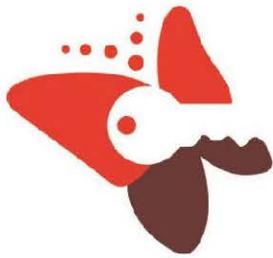


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## **DRC: Disabled Resources Center** *The Key to Independence*

**Independent Living Center**

*Autumn Newsletter 2025*



“Life isn’t how to survive the storm; it’s about how to dance in the rain.”  
(Taylor Swift)

## **Dear Reader,**

I wish I was gifted like **Taylor Swift**, so that I could write a song about each of my **DRC** work experiences, because I sure have plenty of good ones!

I would have to start with last month’s **49th Annual Awards Recognition Event**, held at **The Grand**.

The Event returned to the refurbished **Grand Ballroom**, with the disco lights on every table carrying out the theme of “**Celebrating DisCo**” (**Disability Community**).

A big thank-you to all of our **Sponsors and Donors**, and all of the lovely people that attended and made the evening so special.

Please see the link [\[LINK\]](#) for the full list of **Sponsors and Donors**. Also please see this link [\[LINK\]](#) for pictures of our awardees.

My superstar staff made sure that everything was meeting the scheduled plans.

Meanwhile the **Event Co-Chairs, Board President Jennifer Kumiyama and Board Vice-President Chaka Garbutt**, were presenting awards to the honorees onstage at the microphone.

Our Event Co-Chairs announced the excited winners of our Silent Auction items. Names were drawn for the delighted winners of the three Grand Prizes.

Old friends in attendance included a past DRC Board President, **Cathy Parsa**. In addition, **Dave Sanfilippo**, who served as DRC's Event emcee for many years, attended the Event with his wife **Laura**.

One long-time friend of the Center, **Al Buck**, was sorely missed this year, as he has moved to Arizona. However, we enjoyed seeing all of his sports memorabilia being auctioned off.

Last but not least, I would like to call your attention to a picture of myself with my long-time friend, **Shirley Wild**. She comes every year and takes pictures of our Event for her column, "**Seen at the Scene,**" in the **Press Telegram**. Please check out the link to her column that was listed in the **Press Telegram** on Sunday, July 27, 2025. [\[LINK\]](#)

With this year's Event behind us, we are busy with our continued processing towards becoming a fully accredited **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**.

The new director of the **Department of Rehabilitation, Kim Rutledge**, came on a business trip to Los Angeles from Sacramento.

I was invited to meet her and was thoroughly impressed. She has graciously offered to come to DRC next month and visit our amazing Center and staff.

**Richard Gibson, DRC's Financial Advisor and Board of Directors Treasurer**, has kindly offered to meet individually in September with all of the staff to discuss their 403b plans. He will sign up any staff members who would like to join the 403b plan.

We also had a nice site visit from our colleagues from **Blindness Support Services**, Riverside, this month.

Now, I am on to my job of helping people, while remembering **Taylor Swift's** quote on the importance of kindness and the impact that it has on others:

"No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind."

Sincerely Yours,  
Dolores Nason  
Executive Director

Thank you for attending our 49th Annual  
Awards Recognition Event

Disabled Resources Center, Inc.  
invites you to attend

49th Annual Awards Recognition Event

Celebrating the

**DisCO**

(Disability Community)



**The Grand Event Center**

4101 E. Willow Street  
Long Beach, CA 90815

**07.24  
2025**

**5:30  
PM**

*Hearing Loop installed, Closed Captioning and  
ASL Interpretation available.*

# Collage of our Event photos





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## New DRC Employee



My name is **Jennifer Guerrero**, the newest Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) worker here at Disabled Resources Center. I assist management and staff as needed, also responsible for compiling, copying, and maintaining consumer files.

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## **CONNECT WITH DRC AT OUR MOLINA HEALTHCARE ONE-STOP CENTER SATELLITE OFFICE**

Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at 6583 Atlantic Ave., Suite 110, Long Beach, CA 90805, Phone: (855) MOLINA1 (665-4621) Option 3

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## **DRC Assistive Technology Success Story**

My husband **David** is 97 years old and has always found joy in reading his daily newspaper. It was his way of staying connected to the world, small adventure into current events, both local and global. But over time, even with prescription glasses, reading became more difficult. After being diagnosed as legally blind, **David** slowly withdrew from his routines. He stopped going outside, lost interest in reading, and began showing signs of depression and memory loss. It was heartbreaking to watch.

I reached out to the Assistive Technology (AT) program through a referral from **Victor Mendoza**, hoping to find a device that could help **David** read again. The DRC AT staff was incredibly kind and responsive. She scheduled an appointment for us to visit the office and test out several low vision devices, since the equipment was too bulky to ship. With help from my cousin, we arrived on Monday morning.

The staff demonstrated two devices. The first, the Acrobat LCD 19" Magnification Unit, wasn't strong enough for **David** to read

comfortably. But then she introduced the Merlin OCR Elite Enhanced Vision Portable CCTV. She showed us how to power it on, adjust the reading panel, and zoom in using the remote. When she placed a document with small print under the camera and zoomed in to 24X, **David's** face lit up. For the first time in five years, he was able to read clearly. He didn't want to stop. It was as if a light had been switched back on inside him.

We borrowed the device, hoping insurance might eventually help us secure one permanently. Since then, **David** has returned to his daily reading, newspapers, books, and even manuscripts. He's happier, more engaged, and his memory has noticeably improved. Watching him sit at his reading table again, fully immersed, brings me so much joy.

We are deeply grateful for this program. Navigating insurance has been overwhelming, with endless requirements and delays. But the support we received at DRC went far beyond our expectations. After years of struggling with **David's** declining mental health, I finally see him calm, focused, and alive again.

Thank you for everything you do to support individuals with disabilities and limited income. You've given my husband a piece of his life back—and for that, we are forever thankful... **Barbara Tang**

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## **Building Bridges, Strengthening Communities: Team Up**

The Team Up Project, a nationwide initiative of Habitat for Humanity International, is proud to partner with Interfaith America, Catholic Charities USA, and YMCA of the USA to bring people together across lines of difference. This initiative is rooted in the belief that connection can bridge divides, foster cooperation, and build a more inclusive future for all. Team Up will train 10,000 Americans in transformative listening, storytelling, and relationship-building—empowering them to become bridgebuilders in their own communities. With the support of **Samantha Mam**, Operations Manager, and **Gino Elliot**, Independent Living Skills Coordinator, from Disabled Resources Center, Inc., Team Up is especially focused on reaching disabled and underserved populations. Their experience and advocacy ensure that the project remains inclusive, accessible, and community driven.

Join us in building stronger, more connected communities that serve the common good.



### **A Bright Future Together**

Our blind peer support group, strengthened by the leadership of **Gino Elliot** and his efforts as our Independent Living Skills Coordinator, exemplifies the power of community and shared experience. By exchanging problem-solving skills and coping strategies, we not only enhance our daily lives but also cultivate a spirit of empowerment and optimism. Together, we are proving that challenges can be transformed into opportunities for connection, growth, and resilience.



## **DISABLED RESOURCES CENTER, INC.**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Jennifer Kumiyama**, President, Citywide ADA Coordinator, City of Long Beach

**Chaka Garbutt**, Vice-President, Dial-A-Lift Coordinator, Long Beach Transit

**Margaret Vento-Wilson, Ph.D.**, Secretary, Assistant Professor, Speech-Language Pathology Department, California State University Long Beach  
**Richard Gibson**, Treasurer, Executive Director, Global View Capital Advisors  
**Cailine Y. Kim, Ed.D.**, Member, CWT SE Manager, Vocational Rehabilitation Therapy, US Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Long Beach Healthcare System  
**Gail Morrison**, Member, President of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Long Beach / Lakewood Chapter  
**Henry Broadbent**, Member, Healthcare Advocate  
**Vincent Ewing**, Member, Attorney at Law  
**Mary Zendejas**, Member, Long Beach City Councilwoman, 1st District

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## **DISABLED RESOURCES CENTER, INC.**

### **STAFF MEMBERS**

**Dolores Nason**, Executive Director  
**Mario Rodriguez**, Assistant Director/Housing Coordinator  
**Adrienne Crew**, Blindness Support Services/Job Developer  
**Betty Cruz**, Receptionist  
**Jennifer Guerrero**, Office Assistant  
**Antoinae Gray**, Office Assistant  
**Vincent Johnson**, Assistive Technology Coordinator  
**Gino Elliot**, Independent Living Skills/Peer Support Services/Transitional Youth Program Coordinator  
**Lupe Gracian**, Aging Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and Benefits Coordinator  
**Richard Hernandez**, Systems Change Advocate/Ticket to Work Specialist Cover California, Social media  
**Samantha Mam**, Operations Manager/Voice Options Program/Device Lending and Demonstration Center/Webmaster  
**Zaid Moges**, Employment Services Coordinator/Sign Language Interpreter Emergency Preparedness Program  
**Mugi Miyazaki**, Assistive Technology Lending Program  
**Khanny Ou**, Personal Assistant Coordinator/Mobility Training

**Gail S. Thomas**, Administrative Assistant/Gavel Club/Ticket to Work  
Specialist  
**Susan Pearson**, Accountant



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[PROGRAMS](#)

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[CONTACT US](#)

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**Ongoing  
Events**

**GROUP ORIENTATION**

*for new consumers*

WEDNESDAYS @ 9:30 AM

**HOUSING WORKSHOP**

FRIDAYS @ 9 AM

**COMPUTER CLASSES**

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

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

**JOB SEARCH**

*Every 2nd Monday @ 9 AM*

**MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND  
CO-ED SUPPORT GROUPS**

WEDNESDAYS @ 1 PM

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**Calendar Of Events**

## SEPTEMBER 2025

### 9/01—Labor Day Legal Holiday (DRC closed)

- 9/04—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 9/08—Personal Assistant Services Council (PASC) Governing Board Meeting @ The California Endowment Center
- 9/08—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 9/10—Long Beach Aging Services Collaborative Meeting @ LGBTQ Center
- 9/11—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 9/12—LISTOS Ready 2025 Summit @ Downtown LA
- 9/12—DRC Advocacy Group Meeting @ 2:30 pm. by Zoom
- 9/15—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 9/18—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 9/18—ADRC Core Partner Meeting
- 9/22—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 9/22—Disability Organizing (DO) Network All Advocates meeting @ Ventura CA
- 9/23—Disability Organizing (DO) Network All Advocates meeting @ Ventura CA
- 9/25—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 9/25—Aging and Disability Resources Connection (ADRC) Extended Partners Meeting
- 9/25—DRC Board of Directors Meeting (in person) @ DRC @ 5:30 p.m.
- 9/26—Site visit by Kim Rutledge, DOR Director @ DRC
- 9/29—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 9/29—Access LA Services Board of Directors Meeting @ El Monte

## OCTOBER 2025

- 10/02—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 10/03—Cerritos Senior Health Fair Outreach
- 10/06—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 10/06—PASC Governing Board Meeting @ Hahn Hall of Administration
- 10/09—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 10/10—DRC Advocacy Group Meeting @ 2:30 pm. by Zoom
- 10/12—READY Long Beach Disaster Preparedness Event @ Cal State LB
- 10/13—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 10/15—Fair Housing Foundation Board Meeting
- 10/16—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 10/20—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 10/20—Coping with Vision Loss Workshop @ Cerritos Senior Center
- 10/20—LA Care Health Plan RCAC 8 Meeting @ Wilmington
- 10/23—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 10/23—ADRC Core Partner Meeting
- 10/25—DRC Board of Directors Meeting (virtual) @ 5:30 p.m.
- 10/26—Walk to End Alzheimer's @ Long Beach Shoreline Aquatic Park
- 10/27—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 10/27—Access LA Services Board of Directors Meeting @ El Monte
- 10/30—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB
- 10/30—ADRC Advisory Committee Meeting/Extended Partners Meeting

## NOVEMBER 2025

**Note: There is no DRC Board of Directors Meeting in November.**

11/03—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB

11/06—Personal Assistant Services Council (PASC) Governing Board Meeting @ The California Endowment Center

11/10—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB

**11/11—Veterans Day Legal Holiday (DRC Closed)**

11/13—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB

11/13—ADRC Core Partners Meeting

11/14—DRC Advocacy Group Meeting @ 2:30 pm. by Zoom

11/17—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB

11/20—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB

11/20—ADRC Extended Partners Meeting

11/24—Molina Healthcare One Stop Center @ 6583 Atlantic Ave LB

11/24—Access LA Services Annual Board Meeting @ California Endowment Center

**11/27 & 11/28—Thanksgiving Day and Day After Thanksgiving Day Legal Holidays (DRC Closed)**

### Mission Statement

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

### DONATE

#### Donations

Your gift today helps DRC to continue to help its consumers toward independent living.

**DISABLED RESOURCES CENTER, INC.**

**DONORS LIST -- CLICK HERE**

PLEASE PRESS THIS RED BUTTON SO YOU CAN SEE ALL OF THE GENEROUS DONORS THAT HAVE HELPED DISABLED RESOURCES CENTER, INC. (DRC) PROVIDE SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



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