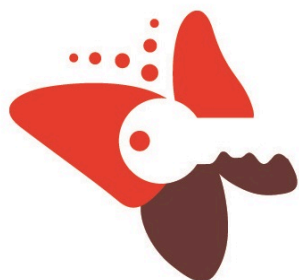


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DRC: Disabled Resources Center
The Key to Independence

Independent Living Center | Spring 2026 Newsletter

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.

Donate to the DRC, Inc. Today!

Meet Our New Executive Director

Jennifer Kumiyama



We are thrilled to announce that Jennifer Kumiyama has joined the Disabled Resources Center, Inc. as our new Executive Director. Jennifer brings a profound commitment to disability advocacy and a wealth of experience spanning over two decades.

Born with Arthrogryposis and a daily wheelchair user, Jennifer embodies the intersectional beauty of our community as a queer Asian, Pacific Islander, and Black woman with a disability. Her remarkable journey in disability activism began in 2002 when she made history as the first performer in a wheelchair at Disney California Adventure Theme Park, in “Aladdin: A Musical Spectacular.” As Ms. Wheelchair California 2010, Jennifer utilized her platform to empower youth with disabilities,

unforgettable experience of appearing on 'Celebrity Undercover Boss.' Most recently, Jennifer lent her voice to the character 'Dahlia' in Disney's animated feature film, WISH.'

Jennifer has served Long Beach as a former Commission Chair to the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Disabilities and on the Long Beach Transit Board of Directors. Jennifer is a recent inductee to the Long Beach City College Alumni Hall of Fame and the founder of Long Beach Disability Pride, an annual celebration that honors the vibrant and diverse voices within the disabled community.

A proud graduate of Long Beach City College with an AA in Communication Studies, Jennifer is currently continuing her education at California State University, Long Beach. Most recently, she served as the Citywide Accessibility Coordinator at the City of Long Beach.

We are excited for Jennifer to lead our organization and are confident that her passion, experience, and vision will greatly enhance our mission. Please join us in welcoming Jennifer to the Disabled Resources Center, Inc.!

Dear Reader,

Executive Director Dolores Nason's Farewell Address, after 33 Years of Service at the Disabled Resources Center, Inc.



This will be my last correspondence with all of you. As of Tuesday, March 31, 2026, I will be retiring after 33 wonderful years as the Executive Director of Disabled Resources Center, Inc. (DRC).

I decided to retire after my husband, George, got so ill, and I wanted to stay at home to take care of him. Unfortunately, the love of my life, George, passed away on October 13, 2025. Since I had already submitted my resignation, and the Board of Directors had begun their search for my successor, I carried forward my plans.

I wanted to let you know that leaving DRC is one of the hardest things that I have ever had to do. I love the Center. I love my amazing Staff. I love the consumers that I work with. I love my Board of Directors. Our Mission Statement provides me with continued inspiration. DRC and all of you thoughtful and considerate friends and colleagues will always be a vital part of my life.

I love the transit boards and committees that I served on, Long Beach Transit and Access Services. I was proud to serve for Supervisor Janice Hahn, Long Beach Transit and Global Paratransit. I was also proud to serve for Long Beach City College and the Bob Murphy Access Center at California State University, Long Beach. All of you have made me proud to be an active part of the community.

my position as the new Executive Director. She is an amazing young woman that will be carrying DRC to new and inspirational heights. Please give her the same courtesy and respect that you have given to me all these years.

Fondly and respectfully,
Dolores Nason

DRC's 50th Annual Awards Event

DRC's Event honors advocates, both organizations and individuals, whose lives and community activities reflect their concern for and championship of the potentials and achievements of people with disabilities. If you know or have heard about someone who exemplifies that concern and championship, please nominate them.

Nominations will be reviewed by the Annual Awards Recognition Event Committee and selected by DRC's Board of Directors. DRC has designated four areas highlighting our commitment to the community:

Jerry Stein Independent Living Award
Civic Leadership Award
Community Service Award
Outstanding Military Veteran Award

All nominations are due no later than April 30, 2026.

For more information on award nominations, please click [HERE](#).

SUPPORT THE DRC! To become a Sponsor please click [HERE](#) or email jkumiyama@drcinc.org.

Meet our new Team Member!

Meet **Jonesha Cunningham**, the Center's newest employee, who has come to DRC from the Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) Program. She is working as an Office Assistant, while gaining work experience. Welcome to the Center, Jonesha!



Consumer Comment

Good afternoon, Samantha,

Thank you so much for arranging Daniel's AAC device and getting it shipped so quickly. We truly appreciate your support. It means so much that he will have his device in time for his birthday!

I'm incredibly excited for Daniel to begin using it and to share our positive experience with the Voice Options program. Thank you again for helping Daniel find his voice.

We are deeply grateful for the Voice Options program. This program has given my nonverbal son the ability to communicate his needs and wants in ways we never imagined. For example, he can now tell us when he needs to use the bathroom, something that amazes me every time. He also uses the device to share what shows he wants to watch or which games he wants to play. Knowing that he *has* a voice, even if it's through his device, is truly life-changing for our family.

Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Donate to the DRC, Inc. Today!

Calendar of Events

April 2026

4/01—Voice Options Program-11:00am
4/02—Device Lending Demonstration Center at 9:30am
4/02—Youth Toolbox Committee 2:00pm
4/03—Good Friday
4/07—PASC Board Meeting at The California Endowment Center
4/09—AT Advocate Training at 2:00pm
4/10—DRC Advocacy Group Meeting at 2:30pm by Zoom
4/23—DRC Board of Directors Meeting

May 2026

5/05—Cinco de Mayo
5/06—Voice Options Program-11:00am
5/07—Device Lending Demonstration Center at 9:30am
5/07—Youth Toolbox Committee 2:00pm
5/08—DRC Advocacy Group Meeting at 2:30pm by Zoom
5/08—PASC Board Meeting at The California Endowment Center
5/09—Downey Special Needs Awareness Resource Fair Outreach
5/14—AT Advocate Training at 2:00pm
5/25—Memorial Day Legal Holiday (DRC closed)
5/26—DRC Flex Vote Center
5/27—DRC Flex Vote Center
5/28—DRC Board of Directors Meeting
5/29—DRC Flex Vote Center

June 2026

6/01—DRC Flex Vote Center
6/01—PASC Board Meeting at The California Endowment Center

6/11—AI Advocate Training at 2:00pm

6/12—DRC Advocacy Group Meeting at 2:30pm by Zoom

6/19—Juneteenth Day Legal Holiday (DRC closed)

6/25—DRC Board of Directors Meeting

DISABLED RESOURCES CENTER, INC. STAFF MEMBERS

Dolores Nason, Executive Director

Jennifer Kumiyama, Incoming Executive Director

Mario Rodriguez, Assistant Director/ Housing Coordinator

Jonesha Cunningham, Office Assistant

Adrienne Crew, Blindness Support Services/Job Developer

Betty Cruz, Receptionist

Jennifer Guerrero, Office Assistant

Vincent Johnson, Assistive Technology Coordinator

Lupe Gracian, Aging Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and Benefits Coordinator

Richard Hernandez, Systems Change Advocate/Ticket to Work Specialist Covered 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

Gino Elliot, Independent Living Skills/ Peer Support Services/Transitional Youth Program Coordinator

Mugi Miyazaki, Assistive Technology Lending Program

Khanny Ou, Personal Assistant Coordinator/ Mobility Training

Susan Pearson, Accountant

Gail S. Thomas, Administrative Assistant/ Gavel Club/Ticket to Work Specialist

On Going Events

GROUP ORIENTATION – for new consumer every Wednesday's at 9:30 AM

HOUSING WORKSHOP – every Friday's at 9:00 AM

MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND CO-ED SUPPORT GROUPS – Wednesday's at 1:00 PM

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

BENEFITS WORKSHOP – 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00 AM

DISABLED RESOURCES CENTER, INC. BOARD of DIRECTORS

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

Mary Zendejas, Vice President, Long Beach City Councilwoman, 1st District

Maricela de Rivera, Secretary

Richard Gibson, Treasurer, Executive Director, Global View Capital Advisors

Henry Broadbent, Member, Healthcare Advocate

Vincent Ewing, Member, Attorney at Law

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



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The Key to Independence

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