

UPSTREAM

A Publication of Communities Actively Living Independent and Free



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WINTER 2021



CALIF TURNS 20!!

Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF) celebrated its 20th year at the Redondo Beach Marina for a day of sun, food and fun to only a small crowd due to Covid-19 restrictions. CALIF started in September 2001 for Central Los Angeles. After months of bidding and negotiations, CALIF formerly known as IHSS Recipients and Providers Sharing (IRAPS) won the bid to restart the Independent Living Center for the disability and senior community of the Central and South Los Angeles area. In very dramatic circumstance, as the airplanes were crashing into the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon on 9/11 in Washington D.C., CALIF pioneers were on the 8th floor of what used to be the building for Central Los Angeles area Independent Living Center, moving furniture to take to the Mezzanine floor of the new CALIF offices on the mezzanine level of the building on 9th Street and Broadway. CALIF had a start-up crew of ten staff and seven Board members, tasked to build a responsive Independent living center promoting the seven core services of housing, benefits,

peer counseling, assistive technology, independent living skills training, personal assistance services counseling, systems change advocacy.

Through the years, slowly but surely, CALIF made a name for itself building innovative programs, staking new territory and improving services:

- CALIF developed “Positive Wheels”, an Assistive Technology Wheelchair repair, maintenance and loaner project as a vital resource for the wheelchair riding public. CALIF picks up, fixes and maintains equipment and prepares them for delivery.
- CALIF has made legal inroads for ADA compliance through the CALIF Sidewalk lawsuit in the Willits Case. The case settled with a promise from the City of LA to fix 30,000 miles of inaccessible and/or destroyed sidewalks;

- CALIF compelled the City of Los Angeles to include people with disabilities in disaster and rescue planning, following the “nothing about us, without us” kind of urban and transit planning.

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If we had a family tree, you can trace us to Ed Roberts who headed the Rolling Quads of UC Berkeley, a group of students in wheelchairs who demanded more access on campus and who founded the Disability Rights Movement in the mid-70s. That generated over 300 independent living centers (ILC) in the United States and thousands more all over the world.

In the mid 80's, my friends and I were very busy advocates fighting for accessible public transit. We travelled with ADAPT all over the country and Canada, getting arrested and demanding the use of wheelchair accessible buses. Then we got busy pushing for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. On both counts, we won. I personally witnessed the power of the Disability Rights Movement—finally, the world was listening. We were no longer the passive “patients” needing care and treatment. With a bullhorn on one hand and a protest sign on the other and in large numbers, we made demands in the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.’s non-violent civil disobedience and compelled changes to the physical environment, schools, the work place, the public square and wherever we were and are present.

I was an ILC consumer of the former Westside Center for Independent Living in the late 90's when the Department of Rehabilitation announced the Request for Proposals for the establishment of the ILC for Central Los Angeles. We were young and green but as people with disabilities, we certainly understood the need for Independent living services. I ventured to start CALIF with our group IHSS Recipients And Providers Sharing (IRAPS) and answered the bid. We were awarded the grant in September 2001 and started setting up from a tiny room of barely 300 square feet on 9th Street and Broadway. Many did not think we would make it. Some even thought that we would fall flat on our faces on our third year. But like the little train that could, we made it past our 3rd, 4th, and 5th year. Fast forward a couple more years and here we are now, our 20th year implementing 18 grant programs.

Continued from cover:

- CALIF, along with two other plaintiff organizations won a major housing lawsuit with a promise from the City of LA to build 4,000 accessible housing units and another 250 units from the now defunct Community Reinvestment Act.
- CALIF just won the designation to be the Aging and Disability Resource Connection, with partners like 211LA, LA Area Agency on Aging and St. Barnabas Senior Center. The ARDC is a no-wrong door service organization providing a helping hand to anyone needing assistance from whichever health care and social service source they are seeking help from.
- CALIF also is in its 2nd year working with Health Net and COLARC in providing restorative care, independent living services and housing search for the frequently homeless and ill at the hospital.
- CALIF has recently joined LA vs HATE as a community partner in its fight against discrimination and violence directed at all peoples, especially minorities and other protected classes of Los Angeles County. Led by the Human Relations Commission, LA vs Hate partners with community partners from all five County districts, representing a diverse coalition of voices committed to ending hate. By tracking and reporting hate we can ensure that resources are allocated appropriately, that those targeted by hate receive the support they need, that offenders are held accountable, and that together, we can build respectful and resilient communities.

“DIVERSE COMMUNITIES, DIVERSE ABILITY, ONE HUMAN FAMILY”

NO WRONG DOOR!

Tired of calling around everywhere and not getting what you need?

Try calling 211 and asking for the Aging and Disability Resource Connection. Our team of service providers are experts in getting you connected to Long Term Care Services and Supports.

Long Term Care Services help you stay in your own home even if you need supports such as home modification, a wheel chair, a special hands free phone or to hire a personal assistant. Or if you need to move from your home, the ADRC can connect you with peer counselors who can help you decide what kind of living situation best suits you.



“Soul” by M Recinos

EMERGING LOS ANGELES SOUTH CENTRAL AGING DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION

Los Angeles Aging Disability Resource

Connection—The Emerging South Central Los Angeles Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) is one of 11 “Emerging” and six “Designated” ADRCs in the State of California.

The partnership that we have garnered with our core partners, Los Angeles Area Agency on Aging and 2-1-1 has enabled us to complete the required tasks on our road to becoming a Designated ADRC.

Our mission for the program is to provide information to consumers and their families on available long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs and to assist older adults, caregivers, and persons with disabilities in accessing LTSS programs at the local level through ADRC programs operated jointly by area agencies on aging and Independent Living Centers.

We are aware of the silos between the many programs and service delivery systems, and the burden has been placed on Californians to navigate the “maze” of systems to access choices of care. ADRCs are here to help bridge those silos through coordinated networks of partners forming multiple entryways (“NO Wrong Door”) for Californians to learn about and access available options for their LTSS needs.

We strive to providing consumers and their caregivers access to information and services, regardless of income, benefit level, or age.

The program is committed to person-centered practices and empowering individuals to make informed decisions and exercise control over their long-term care needs. We provide the following minimum services functions:

Enhanced Information & Referral
Options Counselling
Short-Term Service Coordination
Person and Family Centered
&
Transitions

DESIGNATED

The State designates the Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Central and South Los Angeles

We are pleased to announce the Designated ADRC that will help kick off the 2022 New Year. CALIF, The City of Los Angeles Department of Aging and 211 L.A. in partnership with St. Barnabas Senior Center, have been approved to become a designated ADRC starting in July 2022 for Central South Los Angeles. The process was not easy, and it took a great deal of work from all partners to get it done. ADRC partnerships, new and established, will assist in the development of a more integrated, person-centered system for older adults and persons with disabilities to access the available services in their communities. Through their efforts, ADRCs will serve roughly one-half of the state’s population. Through our core partners, The City of Los Angeles Department of Aging, 211 L.A., and CALIF look forward to the challenge of providing enhanced and improved services to older adults and people with disabilities in the Central South part of Los Angeles. A special thanks to Cosette Case, and The City of Los Angeles Department of Aging for putting the final touches on the application to become designated. Truly a great partner to have along with 211 L.A.

CALIF BOARD of DIRECTORS 2021

Mr. Darryl Eversole—President

Mr. Scott Chang, Esq.—Treasurer/Secretary

Mr. Fernando Roldan—Member

Ms. Alexandra Robertson—Member

Ms. Kristy Madden—Member

OUR NEW Board Members

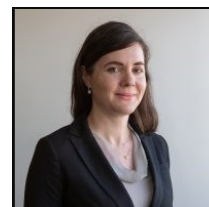


Scott Chang

Director of

Litigation for Housing Rights Center Los Angeles, Mr. Chang was previously counsel at Relman, Dane & Colfax located in Washington D.C. With a background in fair housing and litigation of hate crime cases against Asians, amongst others, he is a proponent of fair housing for people with mobility & sensory disabilities.

Alexandra Robertson

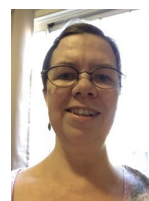


joined the Disability Rights Legal Center as a senior staff

attorney in the Civil Rights Litigation Program in 2020. As part of the litigation team, she works on impact litigation to obtain full and equal access for individuals with disabilities.

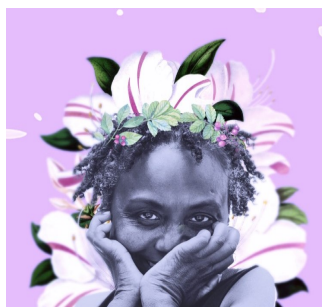
Kristy Madden

I have been politically active since I



could vote, but never found any groups working for disabled rights. Then, I saw Lillibeth Navarro and Cynde Soto on TV prompting me to

take Leadership and Advocacy Class at CALIF and from there, my involvement grew. I hope to help make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.



Remembering Engracia Figueroa

That morning she was not feeling well but she decided to proceed to work and she usually takes the morning train—the Bart to the office. As it was coming, Engracia lost consciousness and fell many feet below on to the train tracks. The accident left her a double amputee—the accident cut off a leg and paralyzed her on all 4 limbs.

That was 35 years ago. The train accident did not kill Engracia—in fact, she stared at it with courage and rose from the tragedy. She went through rehab and was fitted with a custom made motorized wheelchair. She learned a lot of independent living skills from a wheelchair so she can live on her own and she did so with ease and good humor. A few years later, she moved to Los Angeles and continued her involvement with the Disability Rights Movement and here we met her at CALIF. We enjoyed her company, her insights and intelligence, her joy and depth of character. We enjoyed her confidence, did a lot of sharing of experiences and good will. She eventually became our CALIF Board President and she was taking off straight up toward national leadership had it not been for the horrendous mishandling of her wheelchair by United after a trip to Washington, D.C. to represent our community. Ironically it was not the train accident but an airplane ride that led to her untimely passing last month. At the airport, she was made to sit on furniture with steel netting which seriously threatened her skeletal muscles. The wheelchair loaner given her caused her wounds long healed to reopen and created new ones. She felt excruciating physical pain and during her last surgery, she died, to the total shock of her family and community.

But in her death, Engracia seem to have attained immortality: she was on Twitter, the Los Angeles Times, Facebook and other media channels national and international. Her story and her fight against the airline industry's record of breaking wheelchairs has gained prominence and exposure. With her death Engracia continues to fight the good fight but this time, untethered and from above!

By: Lillibeth Navarro, Executive Director

CALIF'S WELCOMES ...



ALLEN CHAMBERS—ACCOUNTING

"When I moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles, I hoped to find a company that provides free services to members of our society. CALIF is the perfect place for me. It is an honor to be part of a CALIF, a non-profit organization that takes care of people who requires assistance with shelter, food, and mobility. I am proud of the achievements that CALIF made in the past and will make in the future."



BRIGETTE WALLMAN —ADRC PROGRAM ADVOCATE

As the ADRC Advocate, my focus is on resolving issues that affect people with COVID-19. With the addition of a weekly peer counseling group, we are able to address social isolation due to COVID-19 as well as provide resources and guidance to assist the elderly, disabled and organization as well as the consumers we serve.



DINORAH SANCHEZ— RECEPTIONIST

Glad to be a part of a fantastic team.

VIKKI VICKERS—ADRC COORDINATOR



My first month at CALIF has been amazing! The first minute I walked in the door, the staff has been warm and welcoming. The care and support for consumers is not an employment obligation of procedure. Consumers are realistically cared for and supported with every resource that can be found. I look forward to many more years at CALIF.



In Memorial of an Amazing Life. Choon Cho passed this past December 2021 at age 84. She had 20 years Independent Living experience and volunteered many years at CALIF as a Deaf Services Worker. Her faith, tenacity and joyful spirit enabled her to live a full life where she touched the lives of many. We at CALIF will truly miss her.

CALIF STAFF

Lillibeth Navarro—Executive Director.

Alma Ducusin—Financial Officer

Keith Miller— Program Director

Gordon Blacknell—Grants/Admin

Cynde Soto-Systems Change Coord.

Carrie Madden— System Change Adv.

Allen Chambers— Finance Assistant

Justice Pak-Korean Outreach

Michael Martinez-Housing

Lily Sanchez-Benefits

Yolanda Ramirez-Housing

Sergio Garibay— Assistive Technology

Brigitte Wallman— ADRC Advocate

Young Kwong —Positive Wheels

Evelinda Uy—Clerical

Victoria Lim—Clerical Support

Vikki Vickers—ADRC Coordinator

Yolanda Aviles— Reception

Dinorah Sanchez— Reception

MY CLIMATE CHANGE STORY By *Kristy Madden*

Climate change has certainly impacted the lives of disabled people where I live in Southern California. Let me start by saying that I have lived here for most of my life (57 years) and have definitely seen things worsen. I have a form of muscular dystrophy which makes me very sensitive to heat. Temperatures over 100 makes my heart race and makes me susceptible to fainting spells. At the other end of the spectrum, our periodic heavy rain makes it hard for me to leave my house because my power-chair can't get very wet and keep running.

But I'd mainly like to focus on the wildfires because they have the most severe impact on me. With muscular dystrophy comes weak lungs and, in my case, asthma. While growing up, the smoke and ash from wildfires was a minor nuisance, causing a little breathing difficulty but no big deal. But, in the last 20 years, the amount of smoke has greatly increased. I have 2 costly HEPA air filters, but they can only do so much. During fire season, my asthma inhaler is in constant use and my eye irritation lasts for weeks. Compounding my fear is the actual danger from the fire itself since they now burn closer into the valley where I live. There are no clear indications of where a power-chair user like me should go to evacuate. Any place I go would need to have a disabled-accessible bathroom which I can use and which would be large enough for a large power-chair to fit into. Also, the transportation there would have to accommodate my power-chair which is about 400 pounds without me even in it.

Ideally, we disabled residents would have a clear emergency plan where we'd know where to go and/or who to call during one of these disasters. It would be great if there was someone knowledgeable about dealing with disabilities to coordinate our response. Otherwise, we have to trust that we'll be lucky enough to stumble upon the best way forward when disaster strikes. Also, the poorer members of the disabled community would benefit greatly from a program to distribute air purifiers to avoid lung damage during wildfires. Such a proactive measure would help keep us out of hospitals and save money.

A HOME THROUGH CALIF& COLARC: by Vikki Vickers



I met Mr. Bennett at our partner recuperative care site (COLARC) in Pacoima. Mr. Bennett is a very friendly man, polite and cordial. I was very surprised at his happy attitude as he began to share his story of being homeless. Mr. Bennett had been living in his RV in one of the roughest parts of South Central LA for several years with his wife and daughter. He had broken his back while working as a ranch hand a few years prior and could no longer work. Everything he owned and loved was with him in that RV.

One day he woke up feeling strange, he tried to make it to the bathroom, but passed out. His wife was there and called 911. Keith had a stroke, and a heart attack all at the same time. He spent months in the hospital and almost died three times. In this awful time of trying to recover, his wife abandoned him and took his daughter and RV. He does not know why. He tried to locate her. He could not. He was afraid, alone, and without a home. Thankfully COLARC found him and enrolled him into recuperative care.

Mr. Bennett explained he was just grateful to have a roof over his head! As part of Mr. Bennett's services with Health Net I was assigned as his housing transition through CALIF. He was hesitant at first in interacting. I asked why he seemed nervous one day, he explained that he "didn't want to get his hopes up." I addressed his worries with things we needed to do to start the housing process. ID was first. That a challenge in the middle of the pandemic but we pushed through. After receiving all necessary documents of ID, we applied to a unit at the Hotel Hayward. A historical building with a Section 8 voucher attached to his rental.

Continue on page 7.

SERVICES AT WORK

Assistive Technology (AT): Sergio Garibay and Mr. Young Accomplishments-AT Success Story:

A 74-year-old man, with a left leg amputation below the hip, was referred to CALIF by the Disability Rights California. Consumer's mobility scooter broke down and needed to be fixed. Consumer could not afford to fix it because he was behind on his gas bill and needed to pay that first. In addition, consumer called a vendor that fixes wheelchairs, and takes Medi-Cal, but it was going to take them about a month to go help him. Therefore, the CALIF AT Advocate and Support Service Worker went to the consumer's home, brought the mobility scooter to CALIF, checked it and determined that it needed a pair of new batteries. CALIF had some new batteries in stock that were bought with the Open Bank grant. We were able to get the scooter in working order and delivered it to consumer at no cost.



A disability needs not be disabling

Benefits: Lily Sanchez Accomplishments-Success Story:



A senior with a disability came in to the office very distraught and upset. After I met with her and assessed her situation it was identified that consumer had been diagnosed with a Mental and Physical Disability. She is a person who would be considered high at risk for institutionalization and a possible target for those who prey on the most vulnerable. We immediately registered her as a client and began the case management service for her. It was established that she needed a referral to counseling and psychological therapy, Benefits Counseling, assistance from our ADRC Program, Housing, Assistive Technology and Peer Support. By CALIF being able to offer a variation of Independent Living (IL) Services, we were able to assist her with all of her needs, we found a Mental Health clinic under DMH. Her Food and Cash benefits have been reinstated. She received the essential service from our ADRC program, she continues to work with our Housing Department to find the Low Income apartment she needs. She was able to get an accessible phone, and she is a regular at our UNETE peer support group. The client still has challenges but with our comprehensive services she is able to remain in her home and increase her IL skills.

A HOME THROUGH CALIF: continued

He was approved in three weeks. Since it was a transition case, CALIF assisted Mr. Bennett with new furniture and other start up needs. The unit is small, but functional for Mr. Bennett. His Hospice care nurses are able to come three times a week. He is learning the area and bus routes, He is making new friends in the building. After a year, Mr. Bennett could move to a bigger unit if he chooses to do so. When I opened the door for Mr. Bennet on move-in day, he looked at me, and the apartment and said, "I never thought this would happen for me. I thought I would be homeless and living in a tent." I was so happy to take his picture with his apartment keys in his hands!

ADVOCACY WORKS

Systems Change Coordinator Cynde Soto and Advocate Carrie Madden



California's older adults and people with disabilities on SSI have held jobs, provided caregiving to children and elders, continue to make valuable contributions to society, and have dreams for the future. Due to gender and racial discrimination, most SSI recipients are women and people of color. The COVID-19 Pandemic has exacerbated these injustices.

Ending state budget cuts that have forced poverty & hardships on the 1.1 million Californians who rely on SSI/SSP grants will make a significant impact in meeting their basic needs and reversing these inequities.

In 2022 SSI cuts were partially restored but, they will still remain below the poverty level. In LA County, the grant will not cover the cost of a studio apartment. For those who can obtain housing, grants cannot provide for utilities, food, medicine, toiletries, clothing and other necessities. This has pushed people into homelessness and hunger, and is a significant reason why California has the highest percentage of seniors and disabled living in poverty. We must accelerate the restoration of the grants, and ask they be fully restored in the 2022-2023 budget.

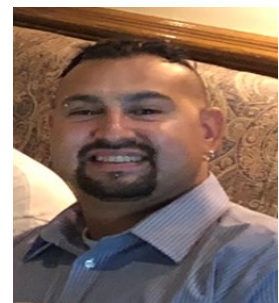
JUSTICE PAK - Korean Outreach/Peer Counselor

Three years ago, consumer suffered incorrect glaucoma and cataract surgeries. He had to quit his work as a tailor because of the surgeries. He became depressed and angry because he couldn't get a job. But most of all, he was angry because the doctor didn't apologize to him properly. But with my help, consumer filed a consumer complaint against the doctor and sent an email to the doctor. Eventually, consumer received a reply from the doctor. In December of 2020, he met the doctor and received an apology and \$3,000. Consumer said that he no longer wants to live in the past and angry and will somehow find a way to live with courage again.



Housing Advocates - Michael Martinez and Yolanda Ramirez

Applicant is a 63 year old male who has severe health issues. In 2017, he experienced a severe fall causing him to break his Spinal Cord in several places. In October 2019, he contacted CALIF, requesting assistance to locate a low-income accessible apartment. CALIF's housing advocate provided the applicant with Independent Living Skills training, and other resources to on how to do a successful housing application. We placed the consumer's name on the City of Los Angeles Affordable and Accessible Housing Registry and other waitlists. It was determined during the intake process that the applicant has the ability and support systems to live independently. The applicant also had some savings to help with move-in fees but need assistance with several household items. In August 2020, applicant was contacted by the manager at the Florence Mills Apartments with news that his pre-rental application was accepted. In October 2020, CALIF's housing advocate accompanied the applicant during his tour of the complex and apartment. The applicant informed the property manager that he would accept the apartment. In January 2021, the Rental Lease was approved. With assistance and the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation grant, consumer was able to purchase the items needed for his apartment.



HOW ADRC HELPED DURING THE PANDEMIC

The ADRC had received a portion of [The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act] to best help our community in one of the most challenging moments of our lives. Congress had passed H.R. 748, which distributed \$50 million in funds to the State Aging and Disability Resource Centers to focus on aiding individuals 60 years or older and individuals of all ages who have a disability. California had allocated \$3,005,454 to 16 ADRCs.

As of March, the ADRC identified a need for our at-risk population. So, with the help of our partners, we created a virtual and in-person Spanish and English peer support group called “Lets Connect” to address the social isolation that COVID-19 presented. The people who attended the support group said that it helped them tremendously.

The pandemic also threatened people's livelihood by increasing the chance of eviction. A portion of the money was used to help people transition into a stable living situation to avoid ending on the street. The CARES funding was also used for people who may need assistive technology, like an oral navigator for visually impaired people to help them read signs and updates about the pandemic.

As the economy reopened, many people still needed access to the vaccine. Part of my role as the ADRC Program Advocate is researching how to use CARES and Vaccine funding to help people struggling to get the vaccine and educate the community. With the help of the Personal Assistance Services Council, we hosted a vaccine education teleconference where we spoke with 4,839 people. We had a licensed Doctor answer any questions or concerns the audience may have about the vaccine. In addition, we partnered with Los Angeles City to help people arrange in-home vaccination for individuals who cannot leave their homes. We also partnered with Los Angeles Christian Health and Watts Community Labor Action Committee to host a pop-up site in Compton. We helped vaccinate a Senior Apartment Complex, where people could come outside and socialize and get vaccinated with their community. We attended community events and handed out vaccine educational materials throughout Los Angeles.

Our work still continues, and we are proud to help people through an unprecedented point in time.

CALIF along with the South Central Los Angeles ADRC, LA Christian Health and Watts Labor Union provided COVID-19 resources to 32 individuals and vaccinated 18 people at the Senior residential complex.

Photo: B. Wallman



ADA MOMENT —by: G Blacknell

While parked on my lunch break today I saw a man parking his car in a disability spot without a disability placard. I thought, “why do drivers often use that parking spot with no consideration for the disabled?” But I said nothing to him as he exited his car. This was not the first time I have seen him before but I never spoke up. After all, people these days don’t want to be approached even when they are at fault. However, this was different, as he exited his car, he tossed out trash onto the pavement.



This prompted me to ask him, “Sir, you are not going to leave that trash on the ground, are you?” He answered, “What did you say” as if I had insulted him. I repeated, “Sir you are not going to leave that trash on the ground are you? He then replied in an irritated tone, “Do you work here?” I said “Yes” and then he replied “Where?” I replied ...”In that building” Much to my surprise he said “I got you” and gathered up his trash and took it away while eyeing me, still visibly irritated. “Thank you!” I said as he passed by, still mum about his illegal parking.

Well, much to my surprise, 10 minutes later the parking patrol came by, 2 gentlemen in uniforms. They looked around as if looking for the car’s owner to spare from having to issue him/her a ticket. After several minutes of exploring the immediate area, the enforcement officer wrote a \$421 Disabled parking violation ticket and placed it on the windshield of the fancy sports car.

“Karma!” I thought, and I didn’t even have to raise a finger! I felt bad that I didn’t have a way of alerting him after I just cited him for littering. Would he have listened, though? I guess the expensive ticket may have served as a lesson. \$421 is expensive but definitely not even half as much as the struggle a truly disabled driver goes through when cheated of a parking space.

CALIF is funded by:

California Department of Rehabilitation

California Department of Aging

Department of Health & Human Services

Pacific ADA Center

Open Bank

Southern California Edison

HealthNet

Keith Miller, Program Manager accepts \$8,000 donation from Jehwan Seong of Open Bank that funds Positive Wheels.



***CALIF's ANNUAL APPEALS GOAL 2021 of \$10,000
While we came short of our goal, we raised \$5,741.34
which is the most we have ever raised thus far thanks to YOU!***

\$1000—\$500

Anonymous, Gordon Blacknell

\$400—\$200

Patricia Millington, CJB Group, Engracia Figueroa, Shalom Ministries,

\$150—\$100.00

Scott Chang, Esq, Keith Miller & Lana Chow, Milagrosa Cabana, Lenora Blacknell, Carl Cooper, Hermilo Layug, Gail Kass Esq., Juan Turcios, United Way, Romanico Galvin, Alma Ducusin,

Marie Navarro

\$50—\$25

Complete Access. Linda R, David Serbin, Perla Santos, H David, Inta Kipper, Damian Paras, Faye & Maurice Washington, Delores Allen, John Ramos, Lynette Austin, Hazel Ryan, A Network for Good, Apoinario & Honorina David

\$20—\$5.00

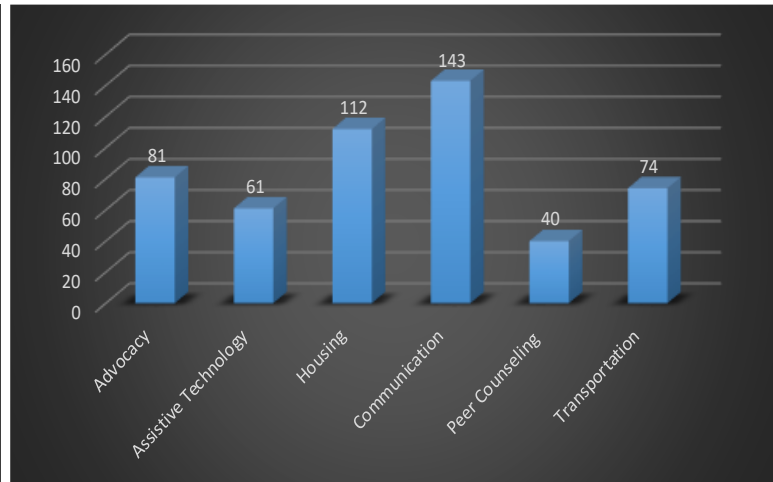
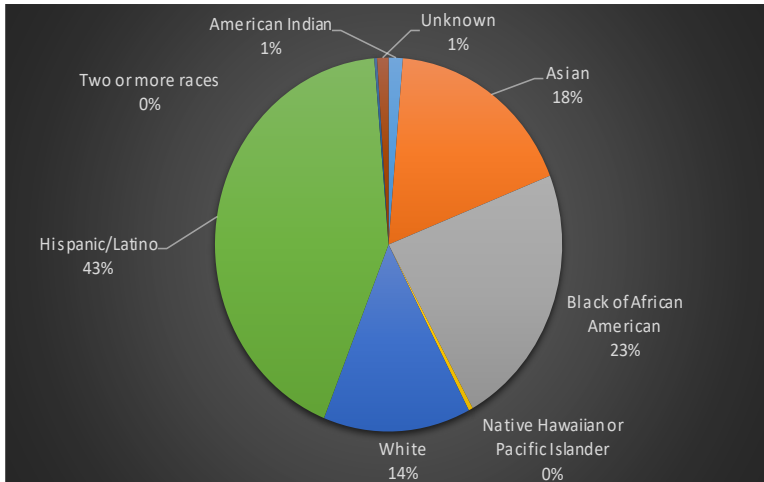
Janet Canterbury, Gwaine Mayden, Teresita Lora, Josefina N, Fe M.Fortunato, Paul Yoon, Teresita Navarro, Marusko David, William See, Angelina Espinosa, Virginia Castelo, Hazel Ryan, Alberto Navarez, Dana Gabbard

In Memory of Ms. Engracia Figueroa

Rachel Peterson, Cassidy Santamaria, Paige Brodsky, Emily Braveman, Cara Nadler, Laura Dickson, Florella Lopardo, Samantha Goedde, Rebecca Woodworth, Lindsay Stenberg and Catherine Perullo

CALIF'S CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS

On the left is our consumer ethnic profile and on the right are our most requested services:



UPDATES ON CALIF'S LEGAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS:

SIDEWALK CASE:

CALIF as the organizational plaintiff in the Sidewalk Willits' Case has been following the progress of the Settlement agreement with the City of Los Angeles. The class action lawsuit sought to ensure better access for persons with mobility disabilities to the city's sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, pedestrian crossings and other walkways. CALIF was the organizational plaintiff, joined by individual plaintiffs Mark Willits, Judy Griffin, Brent Pilgreen.

Progress on the work on the Settlement Agreement was stalled many times, the biggest hurdle being the pandemic but community advocates and activists have followed up with zoom calls faithfully. The City of Los Angeles made periodic reports on their street work progress and discussion was exhaustive. There were unforeseen problems that put a serious dent on the work progress like the uncontrolled mushrooming of homeless tents which in many instances, totally cut off many streets' accessibility, forcing the disabled to risk life and limb just to get from point A to point B. Other problems were the environmental concerns about the cutting of trees that broke sidewalks and problematic ordinances that inadvertently worsened the sidewalks. But as of date, many advocacy organizations calling their group the Sidewalk Squad like LA Walks, Investing In Place, CALIF and others are working with the City of LA's Public Works Department to get the work back on track.

HOUSING CASE:

Nearly 5.5 years into the Settlement Term, CALIF and other Housing plaintiffs have recently received the first certifications of compliance of approximately 80 Accessible Units. On the housing case, where the promise was to build and/or retrofit a total of \$4,250 accessible housing units, the work was stalled by the pandemic and the bureaucracy. Still our attorneys and advocates kept pushing for Settlement Implementation as the need for housing grew exponentially.

We petitioned the Judge to accelerate the City's efforts and as a consequence, the City of Los Angeles was compelled to bring in more new staff with very clearly stated mandates. Committees were formed: to complete the survey of the buildings to fix and prioritize for rehab work; a committee to plan and deliver the accessibility and housing rights training for managers and residents; a committee to write the policies and procedures for the proper application and the fair and equitable assignment of accessible units to those who qualify; a committee to work on a City-wide accessible housing website that people can use to aid them in their housing search; and a committee on the Coordinated Entry System.



At home in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF) has been providing services to people with disabilities and Seniors for more than 20 years. Despite the onset of Covid-19, CALIF's doors remained open, serving people with all types of disabilities regardless of age or disability type. Our advocates are available to assist with a vast array of services to increase independence and self-sufficiency such as; peer advocacy, housing

resources, housing placement assistance for those with income, assistive technology and through the Voice Option Program, we can provide technology to assist the hearing and visual impaired consumer to be to access the internet to increase their independence and social interactions.

CALIF is also proud of our AT Reuse Program and Positive Wheels Program. Through these programs we are able to loan our or provide free or at a discounted cost to our consumers equipment to enhance their physical access in their home and community.



CALIF on Spring & 6th
Office is on the 2nd floor

UPSTREAM NEWSLETTER

Editor-In-Chief

Lillibeth Navarro

Layout/Asst. Editor

Gordon Blacknell

Featured Articles

Sergio Garibay

Kristy Madden

Lily Sanchez

Brigette Wallman

Program Updates

Keith Miller

Photos by:

Victoria Lim

Michael Martinez

Yolanda Ramirez

Brigette Wallman

Cartoon by:

Mario Recinos



634 S. Spring Street -2nd floor
213-627-0477
Los Angeles, CA 90014-3921
Email: Info@calif-ilc.org
www.CALIF-ILC.ORG

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