

LINC Cares

Summer 2019

Volume 14
Issue 3



A Decade of Summer Learning and Fun

This summer marks the tenth anniversary of LINC Cares' summer programs, and kids at LINC communities across California celebrated with six weeks of learning and fun. This year, thirteen communities offered Summer Club which provided engaging and educational fun for young residents. Children challenged themselves with science experiments, tested knife-free cooking recipes, read daily, played sports, enjoyed field trips, and more.

Field Supervisor Clare Ofield, who began LINC's first Summer Club, explains the importance of all this fun. "When the school year ends, children in high-poverty environments struggle not only with basic needs, like healthy food and safe places to spend their days, but with losing precious time to continue their learning. Students who continuously fall behind over the summer are less

likely to graduate from high school or go on to college."

Olin Paine, Resident Services Coordinator at Arbor Village in San Diego, had a great summer with kids in his community. "Wednesdays were STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) days with really cool activities, from homemade volcanoes to race cars built with household items and robots made from junk. Wednesdays were usually the messiest but also the students' favorite day."

All that mess is part of the plan, Clare explains. "LINC believes that providing opportunities for summer learning sets the stage for innovation, creativity, and leadership in every community."



Community Room Makeover

An enthusiastic Wells Fargo team kicked off summer by volunteering to give the Mosaic Gardens at Huntington Park community room a face lift! Their \$15,000 contribution through Wells Fargo Builds allowed LINC to refresh this program space.

Wells Fargo team members and their families worked collectively to unbox new shelves and sensory stations, organize books by age group, and paint the new dinosaur mural chosen by the children at the community. Wells Fargo team member Carmel Sella brought her two sons. She shared, "It was a pleasure to help out and see a bookshelf, closet, and beautiful mural come to life during our time together! It was great to learn more about the organization and all the work LINC does to help families and individuals."



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Summer Clubs

A Day at the Movies

With support from CSULB MSW interns Malcolm and Shantell, SEASONS at Compton Field Supervisor Carrie Bautista organized a special outing for senior residents to enjoy a day at the movies. The day came with an unexpected heavy downpour, but that didn't stop the crew - everyone was excited and ready to go! Residents enjoyed themselves and the time they spent with their neighbors, sharing laughs before, during, and after the movie. Sometimes, social work means exactly that - building community through social gatherings.



Staff Spotlight: Meet Asia!

Asia Bogan recently celebrated her one-year anniversary as Volunteer Program Coordinator, connecting volunteers with program opportunities at 31 LINC communities across the state. Asia loves helping people become involved and believes that volunteering helps communities thrive. "I enjoy being a catalyst for change," she adds, "A lot of our volunteers are students figuring out what they want to do. At LINC, they can try different fields, for example, by volunteering at the after-school program to see if they like working with kids."

Asia, a life-long Long Beach native, says her favorite program is the food bank distribution at The Palace, located in her own neighborhood. "I've lived in the area all my life and grew up going to food banks and soup kitchens. Being able to serve my neighbors has been one of my most rewarding experiences." Asia is currently studying social and behavioral science at California State University, Dominguez Hills and plans to obtain her master's in social work. The mother of two boys ages 10 and 12, Asia also loves attending music events and barbecuing with her large family so she can show off her famous fried chicken.



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Volunteer Spotlight

“Volunteers make it possible to create such a vibrant program”

Dave's Volunteering is Magic

Dave has been a regular volunteer at the City Gardens after-school program for three years, dedicating hundreds of hours to help students with their homework. Dave showers the children with warmth, affection, and humor, and the children love him. Dave also has a not-so-secret talent as a magician. Each week, he delights rapt audiences of youngsters with his magic tricks. Dave has even taught a handful of lucky residents how to play the piano and guitar. For his passion and dedication, he previously received Volunteer of the Year from LINC Housing. Dave has demonstrated his commitment in good times and bad. He shares that he struggles with some debilitating health conditions that make some days harder than others. However, as Field Supervisor Clare Ofield puts it, “He shows up week after week, always in touch, always reliable. Volunteers like Dave make it possible to create such a vibrant and inclusive program at City Gardens.”



Not One, but Two Centenarians!

Maria has been living at SEASONS at Compton since its doors opened in 2011. She enjoys the company of her neighbors and makes every effort to attend programs offered in the community room, especially programs that involve exercise. Once employed in a garment factory, she still enjoys sewing and crocheting. Recently, SEASONS at Compton residents and staff gathered in the community room in celebration of Maria's 100th birthday. Maria was thankful for the gifts, birthday wishes, and kind comments but was most grateful for the company that was celebrating with her. Maria loved the video collage that her grandson Francisco made for her, which included pictures of her family: 10 living children, 39 grandchildren, 69 great grandchildren, and even some great, great grandchildren! Her only advice for living to 100 years is to “live your life and trust in God.” Field Supervisor Carrie Bautista says, “Maria is a joy to be around, she always has a smile and inspires us to stay positive and active. I wish her the best for her birthday and many more to come.”



At SEASONS at The Hoover in Whittier, LINC Cares and property management teamed up to help John celebrate his 100th birthday. John has lived an impressive life. After being drafted by the U.S. Army at age 21, he later settled in Whittier where he raised his family and owned a farm. Now John shares that his formula for longevity is to “lead a simple life, sleep and eat well, no pills and no stress!” Sometimes, he can even be found carrying his walker up the back steps. John not only inspires those around him, but is a perfect example of how affordable housing can support our seniors with aging in place while living quality, independent lives. Happy 100th birthday, Maria and John!

Resident Spotlight



@LINChousing



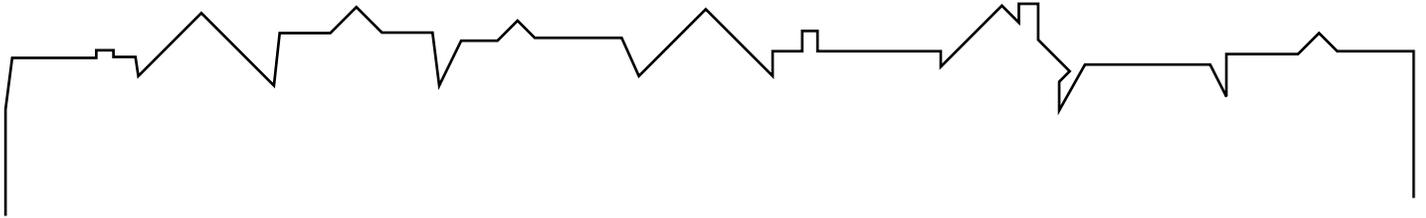
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www.linchousing.org/linccares

LINC Cares is the
Resident Services program of
LINC Housing



Making Slime with Summer Club at Diamond Street Apartments in Anderson

“Opening
Doors to a
Brighter Future”



Mission

LINC Cares provides dynamic services to enhance the lives of families, seniors, and people with special needs who live in our communities.

Volunteer

Looking to serve the community? Contact Asia Bogan to explore individual or group volunteer opportunities!
abogan@linchousing.org

Donate

Your one-time donation or recurring gift allows LINC Cares to continue life-changing programs.

www.linchousing.org/donate