

# LINC Cares

Fall 2018

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Issue 4



## Up and RUNning

LINC residents played an important new role in this year's election cycle: housing advocates. Through a partnership with Residents United Network (RUN), LINC Cares has worked to increase voter engagement at our communities to support affordable and homeless housing initiatives. "This is a great example of how LINC Cares programs help residents build connections, gain confidence, and use their leadership skills in their communities," explains Ryan Roman, LINC Cares' Community Involvement Coordinator.

Michael Menjivar, SCANPH's Public Policy Organizer coordinating RUN's efforts in Southern California, believes that training residents to build political power, share their voices, and exercise their right to vote is

the best way to advocate for more affordable housing. "If we, as the affordable housing community, can come together to call for the solutions needed to address the housing affordability crisis, there's no limit to who we can help," he notes, adding, "residents have been incredibly enthusiastic about their advocacy work."

Resident engagement and voter training efforts have been underway at five LINC communities: Mosaic Gardens at Pomona and Westlake, and SEASONS at Compton, The Hoover, and Redondo Beach. LINC residents and staff recently put their voter training skills to use by attending a rally and press conference in support of Propositions 1 & 2 with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and dozens of other housing advocates.

## Farmer's Market Food Bank Provides Bountiful Harvest



LINC Cares is dedicated to ensuring LINC residents have access to healthy food. Recently, our staff began a "Farmer's Market" at SEASONS at La Palma in conjunction with Second Harvest Food Bank. Like any farmer's market, residents "shop" for fresh fruits and vegetables and a variety of meat and dairy products – in addition to the canned and boxed items that food banks typically provide. All this delicious and nutritious food is provided at no cost to residents. Longtime resident Henry views this twice-monthly program as a blessing, adding, "It's a nice supplement for those of us on a limited income."

Any leftover food is passed along to a nearby church that shares it with members in need. Property Manager Heather Harrison reports that the program has been extremely successful, explaining, "We are trying to simulate a grocery store. Honestly, when I am older, I hope they have a program like this for me."



**67**  
new bedrooms  
for veterans

## A Patriotic Welcome for Vets and their Families

With a presentation of colors by the Beaumont High School Air Force Junior ROTC and national anthem sung by the Beaumont High School Choir, residents were warmly welcomed during the Grand Opening at Liberty Village, LINC's first affordable housing community for low-income veterans. Liberty Village, a 38-unit complex, features a community garden, exercise equipment, playground, and ample community spaces for social engagement. Pat, a Vietnam veteran, exclaimed that he was "happier than an elephant in a peanut factory" to be living in his new home. Residents receive onsite support, programs, and services through LINC Cares and the VA.



## Staff Spotlight: Meet Haley!

With the grand opening of a brand-new community, Mosaic Gardens at Westlake in Los Angeles, comes the addition of a valuable new team member working on site: Resident Services Coordinator Haley Lastra. Haley brings her experience working with adults with developmental, physical, and learning disabilities in a recreation therapy environment. She has a BS in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration from San Francisco State and plans on earning her Master's degree in the same field.

Haley manages the after-school program, bingo, art classes, computer classes, and a weekly coffee and tea social. She has enjoyed her first few months at LINC, adding, "I like that LINC Cares provides meaningful programs and events that bring residents together. The best thing about my job is trying new ideas with programs. Every day is a new learning experience when working with diverse residents." Mosaic Gardens at Westlake houses seniors and families, including those who have experienced homelessness, from an array of cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Haley, who lives in Pasadena, loves exploring Los Angeles and attending music festivals and shows.

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Spread the holiday cheer!  
Donate to LINC Cares today!  
[www.linchoosing.org/donate](http://www.linchoosing.org/donate)



**#GIVINGTUESDAY**

November 27, 2018





# Volunteer Spotlight

Thank you  
Cultivé Insurance!

## Zero Waste Greens

LINC Cares partnered with Cultivé Insurance Agency to bring a green-living workshop to residents at both SEASONS at The Hoover in Whittier and Somerset Glen Apartments in La Mirada. Residents received hands-on cooking and gardening tips using everyday kitchen scraps to grow produce in their own kitchens. Using organic fruits and vegetables, facilitator Anita Gibson provided step-by-step instructions on how to grow carrots, green onions, garlic, apples, basil, and more by simply planting the ends of the produce that are typically cut off and thrown away. LINC Cares Field Supervisor Kellie Phillips says the residents were eager to try this new technique to save money and reduce food waste, while eating healthy at home.

## A Safe Spot to Enjoy Rainy Nights

For Deborah, living in a car with her son, daughter and granddaughter was a source of near-constant stress. “The hardest part was having to watch my baby granddaughter sleep in a cold car at night,” she said. “And it was also difficult to store my medicine and manage my diabetes.”

After more than a year living in motels and their car, Deborah’s family connected with case workers at Union Station Homeless Services and Foothill Unity Center. “I was afraid and ashamed,” she said. “But I knew we needed help.” When she learned that they qualified to live at Mosaic Gardens at Pomona, she felt relief. “It’s wonderful here,” she said. “It felt unreal at first. I’m so happy to have a safe place for the baby.”

Thanks to LINC’s Welcome Home program, the family received basic furniture and home necessities. Her teenage son is doing well at school and plans to join the military after graduation. Her daughter and granddaughter are thriving, and Deborah is better able to manage her diabetes, which she’s had since she was 16 years old. She hopes her health will improve enough that she can return to work. In the meantime, Deborah’s grateful that her family is safe and sound in their new apartment.

Deborah is also learning to enjoy the simple pleasure of home. “I used to hate the rain because I was afraid of being out in it, or getting sick,” she says. “Now, I can sit inside and watch it. I love the rain now.”

## Resident Spotlight



PC: EveryoneInLA



@LINChousing



@LINC\_cares



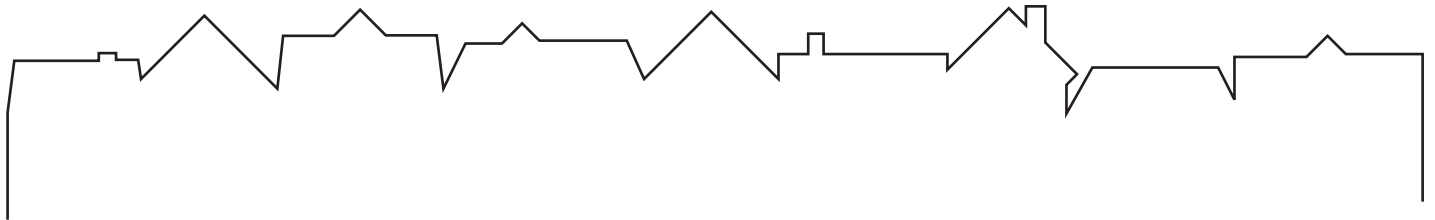
### NEW ADDRESS!

3590 Elm Avenue

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[www.linchoosing.org/linccares](http://www.linchoosing.org/linccares)

LINC Cares is the  
Resident Services program of  
LINC Housing



Bikes donated by Pedal Movement & Long Beach Recycles provide new transportation for residents at The Palace.

“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@linchoosing.org](mailto:abogan@linchoosing.org)

## Donate

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

[www.linchoosing.org/donate](http://www.linchoosing.org/donate)