

LINC Cares

Summer 2018

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Paint in Numbers

As Henri Matisse said, “Creativity takes courage.” Residents at Mosaic Gardens at Huntington Park displayed both creativity and courage during a ten-week art workshop led by Painted Brain, a nonprofit dedicated to building community and promoting mental health through art.

The group included residents of all ages, from both family and transition-age youth apartments. As the burgeoning artists tried their hand at different art forms, from painting to stencil graffiti, group leaders created dialogue and connection among the group.

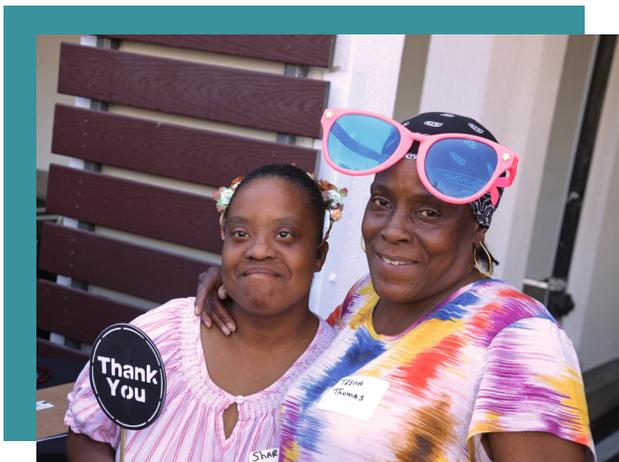
“At Painted Brain, we believe that everyone has something to offer, and that sharing artistic talents or interests is a

great place to start healing and communicating,” explained art instructor Ashley Payne.

While the art directives were the same for everyone, each experience was unique. Some residents enjoyed having the time to work on their art projects quietly while other residents used the time to bond with their children. LINC Resident Services Coordinator Jorge Ventura added, “One resident, Dennis, really appreciated the time he was able to spend with his 5-year old daughter and thought the life skills taught in the class, such as sharing and patience, will help her when she starts kindergarten this fall.”

“The community enjoyed the classes very much, and we hope to offer it again soon,” said Jorge.

Peace for Mother-Daughter Duo



Before moving into Mosaic Gardens at Willowbrook, Trena and Sharena experienced shared living, which Trena describes as “problematic.” The mother-daughter duo shared a room with strangers and had no private space of their own. Trena especially feared for her daughter, Sharena, an adult with Down syndrome. That fear, however, quickly dissipated in their new home. As she opened the door for the first time, Trena exclaimed, “I’m in heaven! This place is huge!” When asked, “On a scale of one to ten, with ten being the safest, how safe to you feel living here?” Trena quickly responded, “Ten!”

Now, Trena takes computer lessons, attends financial workshops, and enjoys monthly birthday parties. Sharena likes to stop by Resident Services Coordinator David Magana’s office and help in the community garden. David notes, “I am so grateful these two ladies live here. It feels good seeing this family thrive.”



800 lbs.

of food distributed at LINC properties each month

Volunteers Make a Warm Welcome

More than 75 volunteers lent a hand at Mosaic Gardens at Westlake for our recent Welcome Home Day in preparation for the community's Grand Opening. Volunteers from U.S. Bank, BBVA Compass, Walton Construction, Citi, Wells Fargo, Good Samaritan Hospital, and individual LINC supporters filled baskets with home essentials to give all residents at move-in. Volunteers also delivered baskets with housewares such as cooking utensils and bedding for residents who have been homeless and often move in without any possessions. A special thanks to U.S. Bank for sponsoring the event!



Staff Spotlight: Meet Clare!

When it was time for finishing touches on Mosaic Gardens at Pomona, LINC had the perfect artist in mind to commission the community artwork-- our own Field Supervisor, Clare Ofield.

Clare's art skills are a not-so-secret talent, as she earned her degree in design and taught high school art prior to joining LINC in 2011. "Clare painted an incredible mural at another LINC property, and we knew she'd create something residents would love," explained LINC's Project Manager Frances F. Sarmiento, who oversaw the building's construction.

Clare was given a lot of artistic discretion on the four installations in the stairwells and community room. Her only direction was to add warmth and make the space welcoming for residents and visitors. "I wanted to explore the concept of home and painted different types of buildings that can make a home," she said. To celebrate the Pomona community, Clare also included four locally famous landmarks. "I've never taken on a project of this scale, but I'm really proud of it."

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Shelter Partnership * United Way California Capital Region *

Volunteer Spotlight

“I’m so grateful to work with our residents...our programs enhance their lives.”

A Two-Way Street

While LINC Cares staff work hard to support residents, residents also bring joy to LINC Cares staff. Gwen, a resident “social butterfly” and frequent volunteer at SEASONS at Los Robles in Anderson, is an example of the mutually fulfilling relationship between community members and staff. Gwen is known for her “happy dance,” which she does even when participating in simple tasks such as holiday party set up. She brings life to her community, notes Resident Services Coordinator Julie Clare. “Gwen constantly cracks everybody up. She loves helping me out, especially at Bingo, where she always tries to change the rules to make the game more interesting.” Julie adds, “I am so grateful to work with our residents. I know our programs enhance their lives, but really, working with them enhances mine, too.”



Ready for Work

Randy, a Mosaic Gardens at Huntington Park resident and recent participant in the LINC Cares Job Readiness Program, has a new reason to rise and shine-- work! Through the 8-week program, Randy, who experienced homelessness prior to moving in two years ago, updated his résumé, wrote a cover letter, participated in mock interviews, and searched for job openings. His hard work and dedication paid off, and Randy is now working as a security guard!

With a steady paycheck in hand, Randy also signed up for LINC Cares’ Money Management workshops. “I learned ways to manage my money better, lay out a spending plan, visualize how much money I’m making, and how much I can save. It’s helped me a lot to know where I stand every month,” Randy explains, adding, “I’m all about anything that’s bettering myself.”

“Randy is such a thoughtful, hardworking individual and living proof of the success a ‘housing first’ approach to homelessness can bring; he exemplifies what is possible when people are given time, space, and resources to get well,” notes LINC Cares Resident Services Coordinator Jorge Ventura.

Resident Spotlight



Fresh Prints

Kids enjoyed the beautiful remodel of the community room at the Lorena Heights community in Boyle Heights! New paint, new mural, new books for the library, and new games made for many big smiles from our young residents and their families.

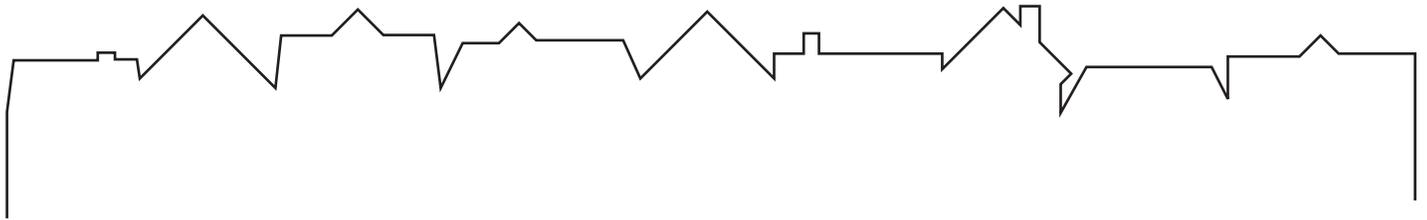




555 E. Ocean Blvd. • Suite 900
Long Beach • CA • 90802

www.linchousing.org/linccares

LINC Cares is the
Resident Services program of
LINC Housing Corporation



Life's a game! Board games provide fun for all ages at SEASONS at Ontario and Mosaic Gardens at Pomona.



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