



VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 9

NOV 2023

ACCESS

Newsletter



**JOIN
ACCESS**

INLAND REGIONAL
CENTER

*Service
Access
Equity*



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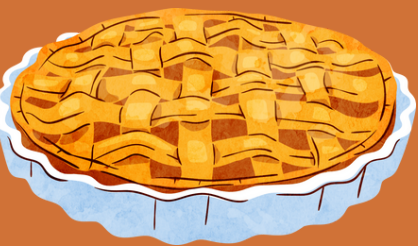
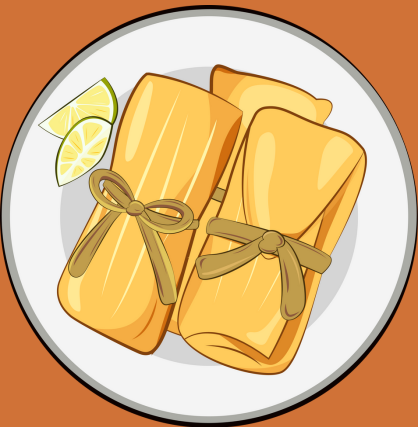
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Meet the Community Engagement Team



Dr. CJ Cook

Program Administrator

✉ community@inlandrc.org



Estefania (Fania) Pena

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Cultural Specialist



Maria Isabel (Mari) Rodriguez

Cultural Specialist



Marquis Quinton

Emergency Services Coordinator (ESC)



George Gonzalez

Consumer Support Technician III (CST III)

Meet the Community Engagement Team



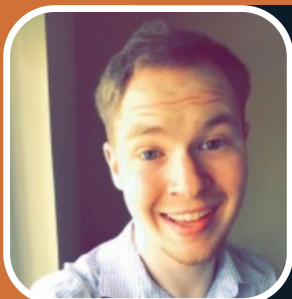
Ismeth Estrada

Consumer Support Technician I (CST I)



Gregory Harrison

Consumer Advocate



Stephen Donahue

Consumer Advocate



Taniale Sanchez

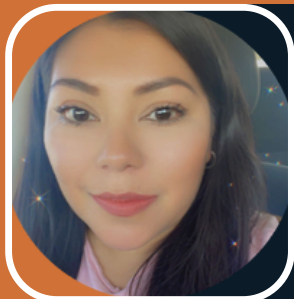
Events Developer Outreach Specialist



Martín Morales

Language Access and Cultural Competency (LACC) Specialist

Meet the Community Engagement Team



Janera Valdez

LACC Bi-Lingual Consumer Service Technician (CST) III



Amalia Barcelo-Huizar

LACC Parent Ambassador – Spanish Riverside County



Steven Serrano Yopez

Community Relations Specialist



Editor's Note

Community Engagement Role

BY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As IRC continue to promote several themes, in month of November we focus on that of the value importance community engagement plays within IRC and across the whole spectrum of society. In sense, if you reflect on our past month efforts you have seen the IRC focus on improving accessibility to of resources, vendors and community partners and much more. We are shown that all of these efforts in conjunction with of IRC events, is setting a seed to place for this foundation of community to be built upon.

With in mind, we do see the effort community engagement through out many events in the year such as our recent event last month being our Fall Festival, where we had several community partner organizations, nonprofit and local resources provided to residents of the community.

IRC continues to embody the importance of community engagement through internal resources being offered to IRC Clients and staff. IRC Clients are heavily encouraged to attend our Board of Trustees bi-monthly meeting where Clients are able to give public comments. Additionally, there are multiple trainings the community and IRC clients are able to participate such as us utilization of technology, understanding common service, learning how to provide public comment and advocating with data.

We at IRC will always uphold the value and role our IRC Clients & community partners play in everyday aspects of life in different ways. We encourage you the reader to take initiative and play role community by being the change. As Hellen Keller once stated, "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much"



SoCal ADAPTIVE SPORTS

By Steven Serrano Yopez

SoCal Adaptive Sports' mission is to enable people with disability to participate inclusively throughout society by creating greater equity and inclusion through developing, planning and implementing competitive and recreational sports and other opportunities. We envision a world in which everyBODY has equitable access to leading a fulfilling life.

SoCal Adaptive Sports, a California 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was established in 2020 to address the lack of consistent sports opportunities and to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities throughout Riverside County and other Southern California communities.

SoCal Adaptive Sports values to heart, working to ensure that we will be a leading adapted sport organization in California and a model to organizations throughout the United States.

By leveling the playing field and through our collaborations with public, private and non-profit organizations and individuals, SoCal Adaptive Sports is building a more equitable and inclusive society. Equity is a social justice issue and is part of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

People with disability face numerous challenges and barriers to inclusively participate throughout society. To help break down these barriers, we engage with a wide range of athletes with disability, offering customized approaches to them and their families—meeting them where they are in their life journey. We engage with athletes and their families on the playing field, in rehab facilities, hospitals, their homes and/or any other location that is comfortable.



SoCal Adaptive Sports accomplishes its mission by:

- Providing consistent opportunities to play sport and participate in other activities to be physically, socially, and emotionally healthy;
- Implementing our school-based program—Sports for EveryBODY—in multiple school districts;
- Collaborating in developing programs and implementing adaptive sport days throughout Southern California with a goal of creating adaptive sport hubs so that transportation is no longer a barrier to participation;
- Working on legislation and regulations to ensure that resources are available for adapted sport implementation; and
- Building multiple adapted sports leagues and creating more collegiate adapted sport programs throughout Southern California.

We have a diverse and inclusive board of directors and are actively seeking others with passion and a variety of skills to help us achieve and expand our mission.

As those are just some of the many programs offered by SoCal Adaptive Sports, Director Mike Rosenkranz broke down the process to apply to our program, one must contact their community service coordinator (CSC) which then application informing by SoCal Adaptive Sports is provided then Director. After having discussions with the parents and Client, one is evaluated to see where they are at such as sport interest and what the options offered by SoCal Adaptive Sports. As Mike Rosenkranz states is to be inclusive all of the activities and sports offered,

“the way that I coach is, I push people to do the best, at their ability level. That's important. We help people to find their inner athlete. We'll find a sport for you or an activity for you”

As we focus on this month theme of the newsletter community engagement, we can proudly say SoCal Adaptive Sports is one of the many IRC vendors our IRC Clients could be involved in their event and activities throughout both Riverside and San Bernardino County. For any further questions about SoCal Adaptive Sports please visit their website <https://socaladaptivesports.org/> or email them at info@socaladaptivesports.org.



ASL CLASS MENIFEE

By Community Engagement
Team

On Wednesday October 25th IRC wrapped up the final ASL classes in the city of Menifee. These ASL pilot classes were offered for those Clients who sought to learn more about ASL through the funding from Department of Developmental Services (DDS) through the LACC project. As these classes were offered with the intention parents for parents and children age 15 year and older. Where the participants were required to commit to the entire duration of the course, and parents were encouraged to bring their consumers, aged 15 or above, to the classes. The presence of consumers in the class fostered engagement and provided an opportunity to practice ASL, effectively dismantling the communication barrier. Our IRC Community Relations Specialist had the opportunity to visit and interview some of the attendees on their experience of the classes.

The first IRC client stated, he needed help on learning ASL; his challenge was he was familiar learning sign language but wished to learn more so he can improve his sign language. The second IRC Client stated he enjoyed the class environment overall that allowed him to grow. As this IRC client was able to improve his own sign language but also create new friendships due to the creation of these classes, he felt the sense of belonging within the community. Even one of the caregivers for the IRC Clients, was able to share her own experience in attending the classes; where she stated she was able to improve her own communication with her IRC Clients in sense breaking the barrier of communication being a burden. Additionally, care giver stated, these classes pushed her to stay consistent in practicing ASL with her Clients but on her own time with the intention of serving Clients better by being able to communicate with them much better.

These few testimonies from the ASL classes demonstrate the overwhelming need once again for ASL classes not just Menifee but across region both Riverside and San Bernardino County. We encourage you all stay update by checking out our social media, linktree and IRC event calendar on the website for future ASL classes that may be offered near you.



SAFETY TIPS FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

Community Engagement Team

As the holiday season is right around the corner one must keep in mind to be safe during the holiday season. California Governor Office of Emergency Services states these are some of the following tips one must keep in mind:

- Keep potentially poisonous plants – mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis – away from children
- If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled “fire resistant”
- If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, remember to water it and remove it from your home when it is dry
- Place your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, radiators, and other heat sources, making certain not to block doorways
- Avoid placing breakable ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower tree branches where small children can reach them
- Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and choose the right ladder for the task when hanging lights
- Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections
- Follow the package directions on the number of light sets that can be plugged into one socket
- Never nail, tack, or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house



The Federal Emergency Management Agency or in other words FEMA, does recognize this year holiday season will be busy time of the year, but encourages you to not be distracted and keep in mind simple precaution while traveling or staying in town for the holiday season. FEMA encourages to keep the stress at minimum and enjoy the holiday season but also follow their tips:

- Be a prepared traveler. Know the risk of inclement weather for your trip before you leave home. Listen to the radio or television for the latest weather forecasts and road conditions. If bad weather is forecast, drive only if necessary and keep your gas tank at least half full at all times. Talk with family about who to call and where to meet in an emergency. Visit www.ready.gov/plan for tips to get started.
- Pack an emergency supply kit. If you're driving, keep an emergency supply kit in your vehicle with necessities you may need in case you're stranded somewhere. If you're packing for a flight or train ride, consider a small kit in case of emergency: flashlight, batteries, & a spare USB power bank.
- Protect against home fire risks. Put working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms on every level of your home and inside and outside sleeping areas. Before guests arrive for the holidays check your smoke and CO alarm batteries. Also, keep in mind: more than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. Think about using battery-operated flameless candles this season. If that isn't an option, place candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns and ensure they cannot be reached by children or pets.
- Practice smart cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food and turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so they won't get bumped. Clean cooking equipment after each use—crumbs in a toaster or grease on the stove can catch on fire.
- Heat your home safely. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from fireplaces, wood stoves, portable heaters and radiators. When you leave a room or go to bed, turn heaters off or unplug them.

For more readiness tips, visit www.ready.gov , www.usfa.fema.gov



Vendor Fair
NOVEMBER 2ND 2023



Congrats
**TO VENDOR FAIR RAFFLE
WINNERS**





"RECOGNIZING CHAMPIONS OF INCLUSION: IRC'S CULTURAL PROFICIENCY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD HONORS THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

We are thrilled to unveil our month of October winner "Elsa Espinoza" for the IRC Cultural Proficiency Employee Recognition Award, proudly sponsored by the Language Access and Cultural Competency (LACC) Team. This award aims to celebrate individuals who embody the spirit of equal access to services and make a significant difference in our Clients' lives.

We invite parents, vendors, Clients, and community partners to participate each month by nominating outstanding IRC team members for this important recognition. The Client and Parent Advisory Committee will select the winners, ensuring a fair and transparent process.

The monthly winners will receive a well-deserved gift card and a coveted chance to win the ultimate prize: the Annual IRC Cultural Proficiency Employee Recognition Award.

The grand prize will be awarded at the end of the Fiscal Year (FY), highlighting one exceptional individual within our agency who consistently surpasses expectations and dedicates themselves to improving the lives of our valued Clients. The lucky recipient will be rewarded with a special gift provided by the LACC Team.

Furthermore, we are delighted to announce that all nominees will be invited to an exclusive end-of-FY luncheon, where they can engage with a distinguished keynote speaker. This event promises to celebrate excellence, unity, and the profound impact we can create together.

We extend an enthusiastic call to the community, including Community-Based Organizations, vendors, parents, and Clients, to actively participate in this inspiring initiative. Nominate a deserving candidate on social media throughout the month of July, and let's recognize and celebrate those exceptional individuals who go above and beyond to make a difference.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require further information. Let's celebrate the champions of equal access and cultural competency within the IRC family!



FALL FESTIVAL RECAP

IRC & Taniale Sanchez IRC Event Developer was proud to bring back an event that was last hosted in person before the pandemic known as "Fall Festival"

Our Clients & community partners had the opportunity to join us October 28th in the City of Riverside at the Riverside Convention Center.

Where we had over 2,000 Clients, staff and community residents attend our Fall Festival .

Our Clients and community residents had the opportunity to learn more about the vendors who partner with IRC in both Riverside and San Bernardino County. Additional to that, we had local community partners also, where we had partners such as the city of Riverside Police Department & City of Riverside Fire Department among many more local community partners attend in effort to inform residents and Clients of resources their organization and department offer to residents within region. Clients had the opportunity to enter to our annual costume contest where our vendor and community were able to provide awards such as gift baskets, gift cards and many more items.

IRC would like to give a shout out to the following members who attended and supported this event, without these staff members and partners events such as these are not possible so thank you all for your role in this event:

- Taniale Sanchez, IRC Event Developer
- Community Engagement Team
- IRC Volunteers
- Partner Volunteers from In-Roads Creative Program Inc. & 24 Hour Care
- Assemblymember Dr. Corey A. Jackson



Do you have a public event, conference, or resource you wish to reach a broader audience?

Send it our way and it may be featured in our digital calendar of events!



Check Out Our GENERAL GUIDELINES

1

Requests by outside agencies must be relevant to IRC

IRC's digital communications' primary function is to promote IRC's mission, message, and brand. Events or resources must be deemed relevant by IRC's Web Team and have approval from the Community Engagement Manager.

2

Send requests 30 days prior to the event

To ensure sufficient time for review, approval, and distribution, we only accept requests at least 30 days prior to the event's date.

3

Requests must be sent to community@inlandrc.org only

We only accept post requests through our Community Engagement Unit's email contact. Any requests sent through social media channels will not be accepted.

4

Make sure to include all details of the event/conference

Please make sure to include all relevant details of the event such as date, time, location, and contact information.

5

Send graphic/flyers in both English and Spanish

We ask for Spanish and English materials. All marketing material should be culturally sensitive and must promote inclusion of all ethnicities, race, and gender.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUR DIGITAL COMMUNICATION POLICY AT:

www.inlandrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Digital-Communications-Policy-Update-2022.pdf



UPCOMING EVENTS



DO YOU WANT TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT

UPCOMING EVENTS?

CHECK OUR DIGITAL CALENDAR!

www.inlandrc.org/calendar



FIESTA EDUCATIVA MINI-CONFERENCES

"Together We Thrive"



Making an effort to bring this conference to the nearest location for you.

Tools for today
and hope for the future.

The purpose of the Fiesta Educativa Mini-Conferences

is to provide information,
training, resources and
parent-to-parent support
for Latino families who have
children with special needs
in a relaxed family-friendly
environment.

*English and Spanish interpreters are
available for each session.*



LIMITED SPACE

SAVE THE DATE:

OPTION

01

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Murrieta Riverside County
Office of Education (RCOE)**

38670 Sky Canyon Drive, Suite 200
Murrieta, CA 92563

OPTION

02

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023 1:00
p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

RCOE Conference Center

4280 Brockton Avenue
Riverside, California 92501

OPTION

03

Tuesday, February 13, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Indio RCOE

47336 Oasis St
Indio, CA 92201

If your son or
daughter is not an
IRC Client, call,
Fiesta Educativa
at (323)-221-6696

If your son or
daughter is an IRC
Client, call your
service coordinator to
enroll.
Provider number:
PJ4651



Register at:

bit.ly/48H4NOz

For more information call Fiesta Educativa, Inc.
at (323) 221-6696

HWH Presents



Upcoming Events

**We welcome all Women, Men and Youth
to the following workshops:**

**CHILDREN
AGES
5-12 YRS**

Project H. E. A. L.

Learning about healthy interactions and how to create great friendships. How to be treated and treat others.

3 PM - 4:30 PM EVERY MONDAY

**YOUTH
AGES
13-21 YRS**

Project H. E. A. L.

Intimate partner violence education and prevention. Boundary setting for you and the people in your life.

4 PM - 5:30 PM EVERY TUESDAY

**Funded by the Social Recreation Grant Project for enhanced
community integration for children and adolescents**

CONTACT US:

(909) 927-5389

436 W. Fourth Street, Pomona, CA 91766

contactus@healedwomenheal.org

healedwomenheal.org

**REGISTER
NOW**



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PURCHASE OF SERVICE - HOW IRC SPENDS MONEY ON PROGRAMS

Tell us about your experience with IRC services.
Help us better meet the needs of our clients and their families!
Share your input, suggestions, and ideas with us!

FEBRUARY 15, 2024 · 5:00 - 6:30 PM

English Session

**IRC Conference Center
1425 S. Waterman Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92408**

Presented by the Inland Regional Center Community Engagement Team

LET'S DANCE TOGETHER

FREE ZOOM DANCE CLASSES FOR
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. GREAT
EXERCISE! GREAT FUN!

EVERY SATURDAY

AGES 0-3 FROM 10:00-10:30AM

AGES 4-7 FROM 10:30-11AM

AGES 8-12 FROM 9:30-10AM

Zoom Information:

Meeting ID- 773 8415 4263

Password - Dance

TAUGHT BY ELLIANA KIM

For questions email ellianakim@gmail.com



Inland Regional Center

Focus Group Sessions

For IRC Purchase of Services 2022-2023



IRC and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) gather information on how IRC funds client services on an annual basis. Join us for a virtual focus group to discuss the data and provide input.

www.inlandrc.org/live



January 17, 2024 • 5:30-7:00 PM English
(Vietnamese/Tagalog/Arabic/Chinese interpretation available*)

January 24, 2024 • 5:30-7:00 PM Spanish

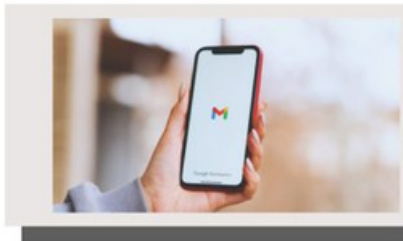
January 31, 2024 • 5:30-7:00 PM ASL 

Meetings will be held in the primary language. If you need an interpreter, please email community@inlandrc.org at least 14 days prior to the event.

IVES TORRES FOUNDATION

TECHNOLOGY CLASS

Would you like to learn how to use your email from your cell phone and also be able to connect to your workshops by zoom? Sign up for this class that will give you the tools to do it yourself.



**10:00 am
to
12:00 pm**

**Friday
December 1st**

**Childcare
available**

**TO REGISTER
CALL:**



951-283-6446

**CNUSD Parent Center
152 E. 6th St
Corona, Ca. 92879**

**Interpretation and
accommodations
provided upon
request 15 days prior
to event.
Call
951-283-6446**

IN PERSON CLASS





IVES TORRES FOUNDATION



Invites you to its



2nd TALENT SHOW

Participate in our Talent Show !
If you have a special talent that you want to
show to the world, this is your chance.

Saturday

December 2nd

3:00 PM - 6:00PM



**293 N D St,
San Bernardino, Ca.
92401**



Register now using this link::

<https://forms.gle/djd4d278ATNuYt5v5>



**LAST DAY TO REGISTER
NOVEMBER 27th**



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Presented in American Sign Language By:
Estefania Peña, IRC Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist

December 6, 2023

5:00-8:00 PM

IRC Conference Center

1425 S. Waterman Ave

San Bernardino, CA 92408

Please email asl@inlandrc.org to RSVP

Dinner will be provided. Free Go-Bag for those who qualify.

Voice interpretation available upon request.



Are you new to Inland Regional Center



Join us for an Orientation!

FOR FAMILIES FOUND ELIGIBLE FOR REGIONAL CENTER SERVICES

IRC welcomes all to come to the training to learn more (or refresh what you know) about IRC. During the training organized by IRC Training and Development, families will hear a brief history of the regional center system and an overview of how case managers provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities. There will be a time for questions at the end should a family have a personal or detailed question for the trainer.

New Parent Orientation will be provided on January 29, 2024 .You will need to access the training using Zoom on a computer, a smartphone, or a tablet. Questions? Contact Sarah Hartsell at shartsell@inlandrc.org or Ruth Armstead at ramstead@inlandrc.org.

DO YOU HAVE STORIES TO SHARE WITH US?

Contact us at community@inlandrc.org

INLAND REGIONAL CENTER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



 **WHAT'S**
YOUR
STORY?



our
STORY
BEGINS
here



Inland Regional Center

www.inlandrc.org



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[@company/inland-regional-center](https://www.linkedin.com/company/inland-regional-center)



**Inland
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