

3590 Elm Avenue Long Beach, CA 90807

Linc is a 501(c)(3) builder of sustainable affordable housing with life-enhancing services.

LINCHOUSING.ORG

# Opening Doors to a Brighter Future



"Home is the starting place of love, hope, and dreams." – Anonymous



### LIFE-ENHANCING SERVICES

### Yoga for Everyone

Once a month, Diamond Street Apartments in Anderson holds yoga and mindfulness workshops. The workshops are open to all residents; however, most of the regular attendees are the younger residents at the community.



#### COMMUNITY

Welcoming Equa Residents Home

#### P R O G R A M S

Building Bridges to Financial Empowerment RESIDENTS

Finding Joy in Every Moment





#### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

## CVS/Aetna & Union Bank

MUFG Union Bank and CVS/Aetna volunteers donated their time and some elbow grease on January 31 to help Linc prepare to welcome residents home at Equa, our newest affordable and supportive housing community near La Puente.

Volunteers packed, organized, and delivered baskets of home essentials, including cookware, food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and a handmade "Welcome Home" sign for every new apartment. Along with these baskets, volunteers provided towels, bedding, dishes, and cookware to 34 supportive housing apartments reserved for residents who have experienced homelessness. All the welcome signs were handmade by the Leshem family and friends, recurring Welcome Home volunteers.

Because of our amazing volunteers, MUFG Union Bank's \$10,000 event sponsorship, and many individual donors who contributed to the purchase of these supplies, the residents of Equa were welcomed into new homes stocked with the essentials needed to start their journey toward housing stability.



### Love and Kindness at Redondo Beach

April and Daniel (seen top left) have been volunteering at Seasons at Redondo Beach since 2016, facilitating monthly birthday celebrations at the community. The couple loves interacting with residents and helping as much as they can. For example, when the pandemic started, both Daniel and April ran errands for residents who couldn't risk COVID exposure. They would also drop off snacks for anyone in need

during those stressful months. Now that regular in-person programming has resumed, they have resumed facilitating the monthly celebrations, often bringing their young daughters with them, which residents love. We are very appreciative for their seven years of service and all the joy they bring to our residents.



#### STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### **Bobbie Medina: From Volunteer to Employee**

#### Bobbie Medina has always had a passion for helping others.

She began volunteering at Linc communities six years ago, organizing activities such as bingo, coffee breaks, arts and crafts, and food banks. "I knew as soon as I began my volunteer position, it was something I would love to continue doing," she said. Last summer, after graduating from CSU Fullerton with her bachelor's degree in psychology, she joined the Linc staff as a part-time activities coordinator for Mosaic Gardens at Whittier, Somerset Glen, and Mosaic Gardens at Monterey Park. In January, she began working fulltime as the resident services coordinator for the new Linc community, Equa, near La Puente. In her free time, Bobbie likes to hang out with her family. They enjoy watching movies, trying new places to eat, and going to the beach.Her favorite part of her job is "to be the safe place a resident could turn to when they want to talk about their day, need guidance, and direct them to any outside sources they may need."



#### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### **Building Bridges to Financial Empowerment**



As part of Linc's Life Pathways Initiative, financial empowerment workshops started at Linc's properties in South LA. The workshops are hosted by California Reinvestment Coalition (CRC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to building an inclusive and fair economy that meets the needs of communities of color and lowincome communities by providing culturally relevant workshops for the neighborhoods in which they work.

Workshops began at both Cadence and Springhaven in January. In the initial sessions, participants focused on looking at their financial mindset to understand their relationships to money. Once that work had been completed, the next three weeks focused on budgeting, credit, and how to read a pay stub. The final sessions addressed entrepreneurship and the basics of starting a small business.

By equipping community members with the skills and confidence they need to find economic & financial success, these workshops aim to give residents tools to make the choices that will help them succeed. Cadence and Springhaven plan to repeat the series later in the year. In addition, CRC will bring its workshop series to The Palace and Fairview Heights later this spring & hopefully to more Linc communities in the near future!

### Join our Hope to Home linc **Circle!**

One of the best ways to support Linc Housing is by becoming a recurring donor.

Your recurring monthly gift - large or small - will add up to make a big difference in the lives of people who need a stable, affordable home.

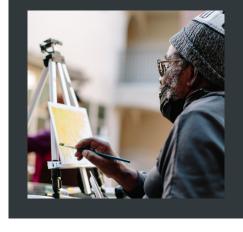


### Artistic Inspiration

Every other month, Mosaic Gardens at Pomona holds a painting party where residents can sip sparkling water or lemonade, enjoy healthy snacks, and create their own masterpieces.

RSC, Priscilla, instructs participants in both English and Spanish. Some of the subjects they have painted include a sunset with palm trees, a "Joy" ornament for the holidays, and a house with balloons inspired by the Disney movie "Up." Priscilla says, "I let them know that it's art. It doesn't have to be exactly like the sample."

Oscar, a senior resident who is originally from Cuba, likes to add his own pizzazz. For example, instead of a house, he added cabanas to his "Up" painting.



Carmen is now settled into her Linc home and is an active member of the community. She's enrolled in a program that delivers food to seniors and distributes the deliveries with her neighbors. Sometimes she makes tamales to share. She is studying to renew her driver's license and recently participated in a workshop on health insurance. Carmen is a bright light at HiFi Collective, showing everyone what it looks like to be of service and to find joy in every

#### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS



moment.

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#### **RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT**

# **Meet Carmen**

Carmen's face lights up when she describes how happy she is to finally have a home at HiFi Collective. For three years, Carmen lived in her car. It was often either too hot or too cold, and she struggled to be comfortable with no bathroom or a place to stretch out when it was time to sleep.

Carmen came to the United States from Guatemala seeking asylum in the 1979. She worked hard to support herself and her family, sometimes taking on three jobs at a time. In 2009 she began to experience numbness in her arms and legs, the result of severe nerve damage. Her daughter cared for her, but then her daughter fell ill and passed away in 2018 at the age of 34. Carmen, who was in her late 60s at the time, couldn't keep up the rent. Friends would offer her an occasional place to shower and rest, but because they were struggling too, they couldn't offer a permanent home. When she learned about the possibility of getting an apartment, she worked diligently with the case managers to ensure she gathered all the necessary documentation. She was determined to get off the streets.



**"She was** committed to getting off the streets."

### **Union**Bank





