



3590 Elm Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807

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

[LINCHOISING.ORG](https://linchoosing.org)



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COMMUNITY

Community Garden
Leads to BBQ

PROGRAMS

Summer Club
Celebrations

RESIDENTS

Finally Finding
a Home



Opening Doors to a Brighter Future



“To plant a
garden is to
believe in
tomorrow.”
– Audrey
Hepburn



LIFE-ENHANCING SERVICES

Somerset Glen Sit and Be Fit

The seniors at Somerset Glen Apartments in La Mirada kicked off fall with fitness. Participants enjoyed the seated workout class so much that it is now offered two times a week.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

BSB Design Architects

Friday, August 26, seven volunteers from BSB Design Architects hosted a barbecue for the residents of Fairview Heights in Inglewood. In addition to contributing and preparing all the food and drinks, the volunteers organized games and raffles with prizes.

Fairview Heights Resident Services Coordinator Bernie met Jim Williams at another Linc community and invited him to the community garden launch at Fairview Heights last May where they planted tomatoes, squash, basil, rosemary, thyme, and cucumbers. Since then, BSB Designs has been volunteering at the community regularly.

At the barbecue, residents and volunteers got to see the work that they had put into their community garden come to fruition when some of the veggies they had grown made their way onto the menu.

BSB Design plans to return to the property in the upcoming months to help with Thanksgiving and holiday celebrations.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Lauren and Mary at Terracina in San Jacinto

At Linc Housing, we are fortunate to have many wonderful resident volunteers, like Lauren and Mary at Terracina in San Jacinto. During the pandemic, Lauren went out of her way to ensure that her neighbors had access to food, picking up produce boxes and hand-delivering food to homebound residents. She is known for baking holiday treats that she shares with the after-school program participants and during community events.

However, Lauren does not serve her community alone. Her dog, Mary, is also a very popular neighbor and accompanies Lauren when she volunteers. Mary makes everyone she meets feel special, greeting the staff when they arrive at work and stopping on her walks to get pets from all the neighborhood children. Lauren and Mary continue to bring joy to their community.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Meet Bernie

Bernie Tamayo is Linc’s Resident Services Coordinator at Fairview Heights in Inglewood. His favorite part of the job is being around people. He loves that his role allows him to get to know and connect with residents from different backgrounds. Connecting the residents to each other is something he is working toward, and Bernie thinks that the holiday season is the perfect time. He is looking forward to providing the events and settings for them to reflect and express gratitude as a new community. In his free time, Bernie likes to write and play music, spend time outdoors, and play with his four chihuahuas, Peter, Waffle, Lucy, and Mini. Jim Williams from BSB Design Architects and his team recently volunteered at a community event Bernie organized. Jim said, “I was very impressed with the environment that Bernie has helped create among the residents; they clearly trust him a lot. It feels like he is making something special there.” Thank you, Bernie, for your dedication to understanding what residents are going through and meeting them where they are.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Summer Club Celebrations



This year, Summer Club included daily reading time, nutritious snacks, and physical activity. Other activities focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math), civic engagement (community service and event planning), entrepreneurship (business planning, market research, and budgeting), and wellness (social-emotional learning, nutrition, and fitness).

The program is designed to mitigate summer learning loss and provide participants with mentoring and enrichment opportunities. The fact that they gained new skills and built friendships is a bonus.

At the end of the six weeks of Summer Club, it’s time to celebrate. At Terracina in San Jacinto, that meant a Flamingo Friday-themed summer wrap-up party.

Summer Club is one of Linc Housing’s favorite summertime programs. For six weeks, young residents at many of our affordable housing communities gather for a day-long program to learn, explore, and grow.

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Getting to Work at The Palace

Linc’s new Financial Empowerment for Transition Age Youth program is being piloted at The Palace in Long Beach. The program seeks to address the financial education needs of our residents to enable them to become self-sufficient and live more independently. The program includes workshops on job skills, budgeting, and financial planning, as well as 1:1 support. Through a partnership with Pacific Gateway, a majority of residents are participating in the HOME Paid Work Experience program, in which eligible participants are paid \$15 per hour and can work up to 200 hours at a local, identified worksite, such as a community-based organization, restaurant, retail store, warehouse, or other location.



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Meet Brehima

“I’ve had a house. I’ve had an apartment. But I’ve never had a place to call home,” said Brehima, a resident at Cadence, one of Linc’s newest supportive housing communities in Watts. Brehima immigrated to the United States from Ivory Coast in Africa at 17. He spoke French and six other languages. He learned English, graduated high school, and attended two years of community college. In 2018 he moved to Los Angeles, where he lived with a roommate and worked two jobs. In December 2019, he was in a terrible car accident while visiting his sister in New York. He suffered severe injuries with a broken back, broken neck, and a broken leg. During the long recovery, he lost everything. After the accident, Brehima became reliant on pain medication to numb his physical pain as well as his mental anguish. Over time, he became addicted. With a settlement from the car accident, he returned to Los Angeles, hoping to get back on his feet. Unfortunately, the pandemic was in full force, and he couldn’t find a home or work. Eventually, the money ran out. He overdosed. In the hospital, he was connected with a service provider that helped him get sober and find interim housing. He moved into Cadence in April 2022. “Having this home means opening the gate to freedom,” Brehima said. “Since I’ve been here, I’ve been able to believe in myself more – to work on myself. And also see the good side of myself. I have all this potential. I want to inspire other people so they can do better in their lives – and to know that no matter what you do – no matter what you’ve been through – there’s always an opportunity to start all over.”



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BREHIMA, RESIDENT,
CADENCE

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