

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



"We love to see our residents engaging with our partners and each other." - Lizet Mariscal



#### COMMUNITY

Engaging with our Residents

#### PROGRAMS

Empowerment through Youth Literacy

#### RESIDENTS

Valuing our Communities





### LIFE-ENHANCING SERVICES

## Healthy Eating at City Gardens

Chef Angelina from Ebony Vegan taught the Summer Camp kids at City Gardens in Santa Ana the benefits of plant-based eating. They learned how to make falafels and got to take a meal home for their parents to try.





### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### **SIPA at HiFi Collective**

HiFi Collective, in the Historic Filipinotown neighborhood of LA, is special for many reasons. One reason is the unique partnership between Linc and Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA), the nonprofit organization serving the community from their headquarters on the ground floor of the building. Not only does SIPA offer wonderful programming to the entire community, they're also bringing their expertise upstairs to HiFi residents specifically.

Once per month, SIPA has been offering health and wellness workshops to Linc's residents. "The residents often comment on how welcoming and comforting the SIPA team is when they facilitate the workshops," said Lizet Mariscal, senior case manager, Linc Housing. "We love to see our residents engaging with our partners and each other."



### **Youth Residents Volunteer at Linc Summer Camp**

Linc Summer Camps are a great experience for campers; they also allow teen residents

Youth volunteers help with set-up and clean-up, read to younger non-readers, lead activities, run outdoor games, and track attendance. Using a strength-based approach Terrace in Sacramento was a reading buddy encourages volunteers to feel confident in leading various aspects of the program.

Hamahnie at Terracina in San Jacinto helped set up the room, assisted with reading, and the opportunity to become leaders in training. helped with outdoor play. Rehana and Medina at Mosaic Gardens at Holly Courts in West Sacramento led a STEAM activity where campers made their own slime. Kelly at Taylor with Mia. We love seeing our young residents taking leadership roles in their communities.



#### STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### **Meet Selah**

Selah Baker has been an activities coordinator at Holly Courts Apartments in West Sacramento since August 2022. Although she only works part time at the property, she is big-time in making a positive impact on the lives of those served. The joy in her voice was unmistakable when she said, "My favorite part about my job is the kids. The kids and my relationships with them are the best part of my day.'

She is looking forward to the Fall Festival at the property. "Last year, the kids really stepped up and were the hosts. This year, I want to involve them more in the planning and see what they come up with."

A graduate of UC Berkely with a bachelor's degree in African American Studies, Selah completed her Master of Social Work degree this past May and is in the process of registering with the Board of Behavioral Health as an Associate Social Worker – the next step to accomplishing her goal of becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.



#### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

## **Linc Summer Camp**



Summer may be over, but the memories of summer camp are warm in the hearts of Linc's campers. Summer Camp is a six-week youth empowerment program to help Linc youth have fun, experience new things, make friends, and most importantly, gain literacy support to avoid the "summer slide."

Research shows that kids who don't read over the summer fall behind an average of two months in reading proficiency. At Linc Summer Camps, each day includes dedicated reading time. Altogether, a total of 121 campers at 12 communities read 18,445 pages over 242 hours. A big thank you to Sun Country Builders for underwriting our literacy program component in 2023.

At Mosaic Gardens at Whittier, campers made kaleidoscopes out of Pringle cans and earned Linc Bucks by being helpful and kind toward others

At Pepperwood Apartments in Rancho Cucamonga, campers engaged in team-building activities where they learned to communicate and work together.

At Mosaic Gardens at Taylor Terrace in Sacramento, it was the first classroom experience for Mia, Ava, and Brooklyn, who are all five years old. They made new friends and learned how to read and write.

# GI**₩ING TUESDAY**

### It's not too early to give the gift of giving!

Your generosity matters. All donations go toward supporting our residents, staff and programs here at Linc. Get a headstart on Giving Tuesday and support Linc today!



### Literacy is Community

One of many Summer Camp literacy activities that funding from Sun Country Builders supported, was Write Brain's "Published Authors Kit" program. Through the program, campers at each site collaborated to write a story that was then published, and then every participant received their own copy of the book! Campers at Mosaic Garden at Holly Courts came up with the theme, "literacy is community" for their story.





"When I first entered my home, I knew I wanted to be involved with my community," said Ramona. She talked to Bobbie Medina, Linc's resident services coordinator, about becoming a resident volunteer and began setting up the coffee bar in the community room every morning. She also began networking with local businesses. "Every time I went to our local grocery store, Grocery Outlet, I would speak to the owner, Enrique Mercado," she said. "He thought Equa would be a great place to donate. Recently, he donated over 100 food bags, which the residents loved." With support from Bobbie and her case manager, Gloria Martinez Luna,

Ramona is getting the lay of the land and mapping out the rest of her path. She has enrolled in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, a five-year program designed to help people achieve economic selfsufficiency. She wants to get a job and save enough money to go back to school and buy a car. Ultimately, she would like to work as a phlebotomist.

#### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SERVICES DIVISION DONORS





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#### **RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT**

It was a long path to Equa for Ramona, but once she entered her new home in La Puente, she realized a new journey had begun.

The last time Ramona, who grew up in nearby Whittier, had a stable home was in 2016. In 2021, Helpline Youth Counseling connected her with Union Station Homeless Services where she was able to find the support that ultimately helped her obtain new, stable housing at Equa for herself and her bird CuTie.

### Meet Ramona at Equa



**"When I first** entered my home, I knew I wanted to be involved with my community." – Ramona. resident at Equa

MUNZERFOUNDATION



