



3590 Elm Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90807

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

[LINCHOUSING.ORG](http://LINCHOUSING.ORG)



2024 / VOLUME 20 / ISSUE 1

#### COMMUNITY

Growing Our Digital Literacy

#### PROGRAMS

Providing Our Seniors Practical Support

#### RESIDENTS

Connecting Residents with Resources



## Opening Doors to a Brighter Future



"The laptop has helped me to do anything I need from using the dictionary to making appointments or finding directions ..."

– Jacqueline, Cadence Resident



#### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### The "Linc" to Digital Equity

Thanks to continuing investment in Linc's digital equity initiative from City National Bank (CNB), we now have laptop lending systems at five Linc communities. Laptops are used during educational workshops and community meetings, but residents can also check one out to use independently. Gilberto, a service coordinator, says, "By having laptops available, residents are able to do things like fill out job applications without having to go anywhere physically." Empress, a resident at Mosaic Gardens at Willowbrook, is currently going to college and needed a device that would run special software for a class. Because she had access to a computer, she could do her homework and passed all her classes last semester. Another resident Jacqueline, who lives at Cadence in Watts, says, "The laptops help me to do anything I need, from using the dictionary to making appointments or finding directions to important places I need to go." Linc thanks CNB for their support of our digital equity initiative that has enhanced educational and career opportunities, increased daily productivity, and fostered a more connected and empowered community for our residents.

#### LIFE-ENHANCING SERVICES

### Laptop Liasons at Linc

At Springhaven in Willowbrook and Mosaic Gardens at Westlake, laptops are used by residents in collaboration with their case managers to help complete intake appointments with Enki Mental Health Services.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Mori

Mori Leshem is a nutrition coach and mother of three who first learned about Linc Housing when Linc Board President Jeff Lee encouraged her to get involved with our Welcome Home program. Welcome Home provides home essentials, including bedding, cookware, toiletries, and cleaning supplies to Linc residents who were formerly unhoused, helping to make their new apartments feel like home. But Mori did more than just write a check. She brought

her three children and niece out to help as volunteers at the Welcome Home event for The Nook in South Whittier during the summer of 2022. The family found the experience so meaningful that they continue to participate in Welcome Home days whenever they can. They’ve even recruited friends and family to help with other projects, like making the handmade “Welcome Home” signs Linc includes in every basket of housewares delivered.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Meet Gam

Gamaliel “Gam” Burruss has been a case manager with Linc since April 2021. He joined the team at Cadence before it opened in 2022. Speaking about the lease-up and move-in process, he said, “It’s a constant hustle; the goal is to get people off the street as quickly as possible.”

Gam grew up in Nickerson Gardens, right behind where Cadence is located today, and attended 112th Street Elementary nearby. He recalled, “The barber shop where I had my first haircut was in the same spot my office is now. I was here during the Rodney King Riots; I saw this neighborhood burn down and be rebuilt. I never thought I would be put on the Cadence team at Linc Housing. When I got here, I realized how much that part of my life is responsible for the person I became.”

In his free time, Gam explores his creativity by designing graphic apparel. One recent design declares, “Warning, I’m So Above Your Paygrade.”



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

From the Streets to SagePointe



On a crisp October morning in 2023, SagePointe in Wilmington welcomed its first new residents. The extraordinary efforts of the asset management, intensive case management services (ICMS), and resident services teams at the site ensured a smooth transition from referral to move-in for each new resident. Their dedication ensured that Linc’s newest permanent supportive housing community for seniors 55+ reached

full occupancy in record time. There are many more people experiencing homelessness in the region than affordable apartments available, and navigating the path from being homeless to housed is complicated. Someone may have relocated or lost access to a phone, hindering outreach efforts. Or, they may not have the necessary documentation to complete the paperwork. Barbara, the senior case manager, undertook extensive efforts to help potential residents. In one case, she searched four encampments to locate a woman who used a wheelchair and assisted her in obtaining crucial documents at the social security office. When it was time for a man who had been living under a bridge for four years to move in, Samuel, a case manager went to pick him up. As the new residents moved in, Kerry, the resident services field supervisor, provided a warm welcome and practical support. He showed each new resident how to use the amenities in their apartment, provided two meals and a folder with information about local resources. At Sagepointe, “whatever it takes” is more than our motto; it is a way of life.



Join the Hope to Home Circle, Linc’s recurring gift program, and your donation will help residents like Diane, who first moved into a Linc community as a child and is now attending college pursuing her dreams. Set up your recurring gift today at [www.linchousing.org/donate](http://www.linchousing.org/donate).

Watch Diane’s inspiring story here:



A (Bi)Cycle of Knowledge

When one of the young residents of Terracina in San Jacinto was given a second-hand bike, he asked Julieta, the resident services field supervisor, for help fixing it up. She quickly learned that he was not the only one in the community eager for help with bicycle repairs.

Julieta enlisted community volunteer Eddie Cumplido to lead a workshop on basic bike maintenance skills for the community’s younger residents. Participants learned how to check tire pressure, adjust seats and handlebars, and repair chains. The kids were eager not only to learn but also to assist each other, fostering a (bi)cycle of knowledge in the neighborhood.



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Meet Precious

Precious dropped out of UC Riverside after losing her housing and becoming pregnant. When she received the call about an apartment at The Palace, Linc’s community for transition-age youth in Long Beach, the voice on the other end of the line sounded like freedom to her. Struggling with outstanding student loan debt and dreams deferred, The Palace became her fresh start when she moved in October 2022.

From day one, Precious immersed herself in her new community, becoming a resident volunteer and taking advantage of every opportunity for growth and enrichment. “I was involved in an eight-week financial wellness program where we learned about credit, budgeting, and banking. Now, I’ve been able to pay off my student loan debt and am using what I learned to build my credit.” With determination in her heart and her now three-year-old daughter by her side, Precious is setting her sights on completing her degree and pursuing a career in child development or education.

After celebrating her 24th birthday and her one-year anniversary at The Palace, Precious secured a housing voucher and a new apartment in Long Beach. She is now embarking on the next chapter of her journey, balancing motherhood, education, and personal growth. And even though she is no longer a resident, she continues to be involved in The Palace community.

Reflecting on her journey, Precious shared advice for others facing similar struggles: “It is so important to be involved and connect with people because the help is out there.”



“It is so important to be involved and connect with people because the help is out there.” — Precious, The Palace

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SERVICES DIVISION DONORS



Active Discovery / Anders Plett / Aubrey Glazer / Bank of America / Bart McEntire / BSB Designs / Citizens Business Bank / CSULA CSULB / Digital Lift / ECF Boeing / Elk’s Lodge, Banning-Beaumont / First Citizens Bank / Honorable Janice Hahn / HSBC Bank, N.A. JCR Inspection Services / Jeff Lee & Clare Bronowski / Jeff Weller / John Given & Daphne Dennis / Josephine S. Gumbiner Foundation Kaiser Permanente / Kathy Dooley / Linda & Brendan Dooley / LISC LA / Mark & Jane Pisano / Mory Barak / PNC / Provident Savings / Ralph M. Parsons Foundation / Rotary Club of Long Beach / Scott Anderson / Shelter Partnership / The Book Truck / The Leshem Family / The Miller Foundation

