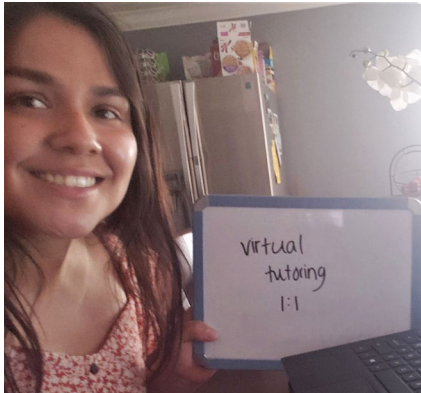




# Opening Doors to a Brighter Future



Linc staff created safe ways to continue giving young students academic support, as well as a chance for some fresh air and creative expression.



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### Home for the Holidays

This winter, continued health precautions required a bit of ingenuity to ensure residents still received holiday meals and festive cheer to keep their spirits up.

At The Palace in Long Beach, a holiday dinner from South LA's Urban Comfort Food was generously sponsored by Netflix. Each meal was individually packaged to be safely delivered and enjoyed. Residents chose from chicken, salmon, or a vegetarian pasta dish. For dessert there was sweet potato cheesecake and peach cobbler.

Liberty Village residents also got a special Christmas gift delivery. For the third year in a row, the gracious donors of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 233 in Beaumont collected a holiday wish list from all the family residents, ranging from scooters, tablets, and dinosaurs to books and games.

This season we are thankful for our community partners and prouder of our residents' resilience, spirit, and dedication to their neighbors' safety.

## LIFE-ENHANCING SERVICES

### Financial Empowerment

Adults and young students alike have been increasing their financial knowledge, thanks to free virtual empowerment classes generously offered via Zoom by Linc partner Beal Bank.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Starting Off Fresh for the New Year

Residents at The Nightingale started the new year with fully equipped house cleaning kits. Resident Services Coordinator Kelly commented, "These kits are perfect for residents who might have a cleaner and better organized home as one of their New Year's resolutions!"

Cleaning kits were assembled for each and every resident, including an

assortment of liquid and powder cleaners, dish soap, air freshener, duster, sponges, cloths, gloves, toilet paper, paper towels, and sanitizing spray. Each one came in a handheld basket making it easy to keep them organized and accessible.

House cleaning kits were available for pick up during the community's bi-weekly food bank distribution. Residents were very excited that they were getting not only food but a full of basket of household essentials. Many had to make two trips to get of all their goodies upstairs to their apartments!



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Meet Marcy, Data Entry Operator

In charge of data collection, entry, auditing, compilation, and analysis, Marcy is also continually identifying process improvements for more efficient and effective data systems. Marcy says, "What I find meaningful in my work is the way that I get to use data to tell the story of all the hard work and efforts that are put into our communities."

Marcy is a single mother who spends the majority of her time either with her daughter or working. She enjoys helping others, having meaningful conversations, and making sure others feel heard. While working remotely, Marcy has had the opportunity to build deeper relationships between the data team and field staff, which has been the highlight of her work at Linc.



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### Cooking for Life with Common Threads



At Linc Housing, we are big believers in collaboration, and we know that we could not provide the level of support that we offer our residents without some fantastic community partners. Common Threads certainly falls in that category.

A national nonprofit, Common Threads provides children and families cooking and nutrition education to encourage healthy habits that contribute to wellness.

Our partnership is especially exciting given that Common Threads normally works with schools and our work with them has been their first connection with housing communities. They've been like family ever since they started providing professional chefs to teach onsite family cooking classes in 2017. They later brought the Small Bytes program, a youth education curriculum that would spin off into "Bite Size", Linc's own Summer Club nutrition module.

When the pandemic hit, James Bell, the Associate Director of Programs at Common Threads, got in touch to offer

a fantastic opportunity: Cooking For Life meal kits in collaboration with the With Love Café in LA. Each box contained three healthy recipes with all ingredients, as well as two prepared meals, freshly cooked that morning by a Common Threads chef. They brought this program to our residents in Willowbrook on multiple occasions.

The meal kits directly inspired the youth education Chef Box Challenges that were run throughout Linc's eight remote Summer Clubs in 2020, and have continued into this school year at several communities. Resident Services Program Manager Joseph Cabral shared, "It's always a pleasure working with the team at Common Threads but the creativity and adaptability they've brought to our partnership over the last year has been awesome."



## Ten Years of Care!

We are proud to celebrate ten years at Seasons at Compton! This special community serves a unique blend of limited-income and special needs seniors, who are often unable to afford the clean, safe, supportive housing they need. Seasons at Compton provides both the privacy and independence of an apartment as well as the group support of neighbors, Linc staff, and on-site case managers. The Compton Collaborative — a group of asset managers, property managers, and service providers — meets monthly to identify, discuss, and address issues affecting residents.

Field Supervisor Carrie commented, "All the years I have been at Seasons at Compton have given me the opportunity to see how residents support each other: gestures such as doing an errand for their neighbor or simply checking in on each other." It is a community in the truest sense of the word.



### RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Telling Our Story

Vanessa, a third year student at UCLA, longtime Linc resident and participant in Linc's mentorship program, has big dreams. Currently studying Film and Television with a minor in Linguistics, she shares what drives her forward:

"For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to be someone I'm not. My earliest childhood memories consist of me pretending to be a wizard or a waterbender, or even Indiana Jones. I was obsessed with creating characters and stories where I got to be the hero, because in all honesty, there weren't many stories on TV with girls like me as the main character. There still aren't. The lack of representation for people of color and LGBT+ people in the media is disheartening, to say the least. As I grew up I began to notice these disparities more and more. I was raised in a predominantly Latino community, with some of the most caring and generous

and hardworking people I have ever known. It was a shock to consistently see a twisted version of my community on the screen: we're all criminals, drug dealers, gang members, pregnant at sixteen; we're always violent, aggressive, college drop-outs. These stereotypes are what the media like to portray, but we're more than that, our stories are not all tragedies and charity cases.

My dream is to contribute to this change. Diversity should be more than just what we see on screen, it should also run behind the scenes, it should be in its creators and writers and industry professionals because that's how you get authentic and accurate stories from people who actually care.

**"My dream is to tell a story that is reflective of my own experiences and that of my community."**

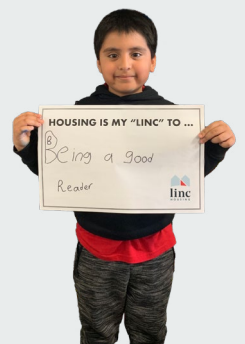
**VANESSA,  
CITY GARDENS**

My dream is to be one of these creators, to tell a story that is honest and true, because it's reflective of my own experiences and that of my community. Appealing characters who share the same story as you can be validating and encouraging. Ultimately, I want to be a part of that world, where the stories have the power to be more than stories, especially for those who have been kept out of the light for too long."

### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS



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Telling Our Story