



THE LOOP

A COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM AROUND CALIFORNIA

APRIL 2022

ISSUE 107

VOLUME 8



WestCare Family,

With April being both **National Internship Awareness Month** and **National Volunteer Month**, it holds a very special place for myself and for other members of our team who proved themselves first by giving to eventually call WestCare their permanent home.

My introduction to WestCare was first as a client at MLK Residential and after graduating the program, I returned in 2009 as an intern while attending Fresno City College's Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) program. Less than a month later, Angie Jenkins notified me of an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) position in which I would serve 2,080 hours in a year, earn a meager stipend that was less than minimum wage, and was awarded additional funding to continue my education. In this role, Angie was my new supervisor and while this opportunity was certainly challenging, it allowed me to carry my own caseload of clients and ultimately grow as I learned and worked alongside professionals in the field. I truly believe that I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for that opportunity 13 years ago. I am humbled and I am blessed. To all who took me under their wing, thank you.

For all of our current interns, I urge you to please take this opportunity seriously and treat it like a job. Whether you are an intern, a volunteer, or a staff member and whether you know it or not, every day is an interview for your next position. This journey that you are currently on is not only about the experience that you will gain through your service, but the mistakes that you will make and the lessons that you will learn from them – good or bad. Hang in there and thank you for helping us Uplift the Human Spirit.

To our WestCare family, thank you for your support of our interns and volunteers. Through your continued guidance, patience, and lessons - you are helping groom new bringers of change within this life-changing field that we are so fortunate to serve in! Thank you for all that you do and until next time, take care.

P.S. See a fun throwback photo from a 2009 alumni event inside this issue of The Loop!



Cleadus Shelton, Vice President, WestCare California



[westcare.com](https://www.westcare.com)

Program Spotlight: OUR WestCare MATTERS

WestCare California, Inc.'s **OUR WestCare MATTERS** provides evidence-based Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for individuals enrolled in a residential or outpatient treatment program within Fresno County using FDA approved medications and recovery support services. With a combination of counseling and therapies, MAT can help individuals sustain recovery through a whole-person approach.

Their services include:

- Medication-Assisted Treatment:
 - Vivitrol and Buprenorphine
- Individual and group counseling
- Recovery support services offered by residential and outpatient programs including:
 - Employment readiness
 - Case management
 - Relapse prevention
 - Housing referrals
 - Life skills training
 - Linkage to family reunification and parenting classes
 - Substance use education



3.17 - MLK Celebrates St. Patrick's Day!

This past **St. Patrick's Day**, our **MLK Residential** staff and clients celebrated Irish culture with a delicious meal that consisted of corned beef, seasoned potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and green cake. **The Learning Center** was also visited by a mischievous leprechaun that left some yummy treats for the little ones! Thank you to our wonderful staff at MLK for making this day special. Our clients are truly lucky to have you!



Kudos to Adrienne Macri, Case Manager, OUR WestCare MATTERS

"Since her hiring and return to WestCare, Adrienne has been invaluable in setting up the counseling and case management segment for OUR WestCare MATTERS (MAT) program. She has also provided input for other aspects of the workflow of the program. Her energy, drive to serve clients, and caring manner are apparent. We are extremely pleased to have Adrienne as a part of our team."

— Jeannette Sawyers, Nurse Practitioner, OUR WestCare MATTERS

Did You Know: SJVV – Hanford Has Officially Moved to Tulare!

Our San Joaquin Valley Veterans (SJVV) team in Hanford has officially moved to Tulare! They can now be found at:

1384 E. Tulare Ave.
Tulare, CA 93274

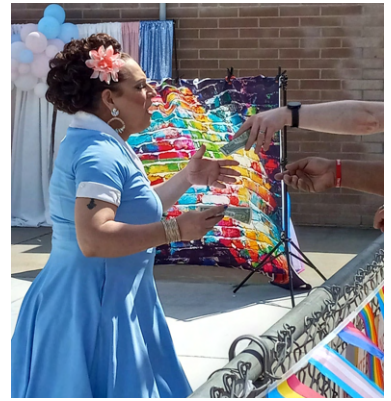
New phone number:
(559) 510-6300



3.29 - SJVV - Fresno Salutes our Vietnam Veterans!

This past **National Vietnam War Veterans Day**, our **San Joaquin Valley Veterans (SJVV)** team in Fresno was proud to attend a special drive-through ceremony presented by the Fresno Vet Center in honor of the courageous women and men who served during the Vietnam War!

Our team shared our love and appreciation for our Vets as they passed by and vow to continue to honor all that they have done through the services that we are so proud to provide every day! To all who have served to protect the freedoms that we are so fortunate to enjoy - thank you for your service!



4.2 - TLR and BEAT Celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility Through Awareness

In April, we attended a special **Transgender Day of Visibility** event in Fresno hosted by Trans-E-Motion on behalf of our education and prevention programs, The Living Room and BEAT! In addition to sharing about our services for those infected, affected, or at risk of HIV/AIDS, we were able to network with other local providers, and enjoy performances from local entertainment!



Our Vice President of Operations, Cleadus Shelton, with fellow WestCare California Alumni in 2009!



FRESNO AIDS WALK

NOVEMBER 5 AT 8:00AM

Woodward Park - Parkview Shelter

FRESNOAIDSWALK.ORG





Employees of the Month



Samuel Alonzo, Program Coordinator, Bakersfield Residential

We'd like to give a very special shout-out to one of our most recent recipients of the Employee of the Month award, our Program Coordinator for Bakersfield Residential and Outpatient, Samuel Alonzo!

Whenever anything is needed on behalf of their program, Samuel is always quick to respond and does so every time with genuine enthusiasm and a desire to help. In recent years, our Bakersfield campus has seen many improvements from the facility to morale, which are a testament to the positive atmosphere that he and Bakersfield's Program Director, Dwayne Gotay, have collectively fostered.

It is abundantly clear that this is more than just a job for Samuel. It's his calling and it truly shows in all that he does! Thank you for continuing to be a positive force of change within our Bakersfield programs and for all that you do to help Uplift the Human Spirit of all whom enter the facility's doors!



Vartanush Mesrobian, Receptionist, Administration

We'd like to congratulate our Receptionist for Administration, Vartanush, for recently receiving the Employee of the Month award. She is always willing to roll up her sleeves and pitch in to assist with anything that she is asked to do. She is tenacious in her completion of her duties as well as anything else that is asked of her, even if it is outside of her regular scope of work!

Thank you, Vartanush, for all that you do to support our Administration and Housing Services teams! Your helpfulness, organization, and attention to detail are truly valued and help us continue to do what we do best! Congratulations, Vartanush!

Kudos



Hassan Driver, Case Manager, Day Reporting Center - Second Chance

"I want to thank Hassan Driver for taking the lead in a situation with a child in the program. Thank you for going the extra mile!" - **Jenny Magdaleno**, Program Director, MLK Residential



Vincent Monk, Men's Coordinator, MLK Residential

"I would like to recognize Vincent Monk for assisting in taking proactive steps in ensuring the safety of our clients and staff. Thank you, Vincent for going above and beyond!" - **Jenny Magdaleno**, Program Director, MLK Residential

Promotions



Chris Kirkpatrick was promoted to Program Director for the Richmond Health and Wellness Center



Vincent Monk was promoted to Men's Coordinator for MLK Residential