



THE LOOP

A COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM AROUND CALIFORNIA

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June is a time for several different and equally essential observances, one being **Father's Day**. Father's day is a time for us to show appreciation for our fathers or the fatherly figures in our lives. As part of an annual tradition here at WestCare California, staff shared some heartfelt Father's Day sentiments. I hope you take a moment and read about all the fantastic fathers who helped shape us into who we are today! On that note, I would like to share a personal sentiment about my father, James Ralph Jenkins.

James Ralph Jenkins, the man whom everyone called Jim, was the man that I called Dad. He was not always an easy man to live with, as his moods could change rapidly, but I always knew he loved me, and when I needed him, he was there for me. While my father was not highly educated, there was rarely a subject he couldn't speak on and, even more, nothing he couldn't fix if broken. He was a Veteran of the Korean War, a licensed aircraft mechanic, and a well-known and respected agricultural pilot, better known as a crop duster pilot. He taught me the meaning of hard work, hard love, and the value of honesty and standing up for myself. He was very understanding and supportive when I made big mistakes or what I call, life's lessons, but was highly critical of the little mistakes. I later came to understand what I felt were significant mistakes or life lessons were simply events that I had not experienced before. My father was understanding and supportive of this. Now, the little

mistakes were a different story as he knew that I knew better than to make those and his expectations of me were rightfully higher. Our relationship changed over the years, as happens when you age. He witnessed my marriage, the birth of my two sons, Dylan and Giovanni, and my transformation from a son to a father. The love and lessons received by my father (and my mother) helped shape me into the man that I am today. He prepared me for the day when he was no longer here and even though I didn't think I was ready for that day, he knew I would be sad, but I'd be okay. Dad, I love you, miss you, and know that you hear me when I communicate with you. I know in society's eyes, they would call you stepdad or stepfather, but to me, you will always be Dad and you were the Dad that you didn't have to be. I know that when it's my time, we will see each other again, but until that day, I will continue to prepare my children so they will be okay when I am no longer on this earth.

I'd also like to recognize the fathers that we serve and our staff who are fathers themselves. Your gifts of time, patience, and guidance to your loved ones should always be celebrated and never taken for granted. For all that you do, we thank you. [\(Continued on Page 4\)](#)



Shaver L. Josa
COO - Western Region



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Program Spotlight: The Holy Cross Health & Wellness Center / Day 1 Families Fund

By Stephanie Perez, Program Manager, Day 1 Families Fund

The **Holy Cross Health & Wellness Center**, located on the grounds of **The Poverello House**, holds three of the 15 programs that make up Housing Services. The Day 1 Families Fund is a housing program that serves individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Our program provides financial assistance for security deposits, rent, utilities, transportation, and moving costs. Through case management services, clients are provided with linkages to referrals that may benefit them. Participants can attend our Day 1 Family Fund life skills classes which primarily focus on sustaining housing. Through the Day 1 Families Fund, clients have the tools for success!

Our educator on-site provides weekly classes such as quality tenancy, budgeting, and resume building. All clients served by our housing team have access to this resource. Holy Cross also stations the **Fresno Madera Continuum of Care's (FMCOC)** community coordinator and housing matcher on site. The focus of these roles is to process individuals experiencing homelessness through our Coordinated Entry System (CES). They monitor the referrals coming through the community and ensure that each individual/family is matched to the appropriate housing opportunity. These roles monitor clients progress through the community until they are successfully placed in permanent housing. We also have our Warm Handoff team on site which serves formerly incarcerated individuals. Through case management, education, vocational training and linkages, formerly incarcerated individuals can reintegrate back into society.

We are also proud to work alongside fellow community-based providers, who utilize the facility for their unique services. **Saint Agnes Medical Center** operates their **Saint Agnes Women's Center**, which is a drop-in location that provides clothing and diapers to women and children. Additionally, **Kings View Behavioral Health Systems** provides mental health services.

COMING SOON

Outpatient treatment services to be offered soon by WestCare California! Stay tuned for more details!



Staff Kudos: Vanessa Padilla, Navigator, Day 1 Families Fund

Vanessa has exhibited that with perseverance and advocacy, anything is possible! Amidst a housing crisis, Vanessa has advocated for her clients with various barriers including a lack of income and managed to get them housed. Vanessa builds up her clients' strengths and works with them towards reaching their goals. She is not afraid to ask questions to ensure she is assisting clients in the best way possible. Vanessa uplifts the human spirit out in the field as well as in the office with her peers.

A Day 1 Families Fund Success Story featuring Jane:

Jane and her five children were referred to the Day 1 Families Fund in May of 2022. She was fleeing an abusive relationship and came to Fresno to start over. She had exhausted all of her funds paying for hotel and Airbnb stays. Her and her family only had what could fit in their car. Once she was connected to Day 1, we were able to secure housing for her within two days of enrollment. Our navigator placed a referral to **Wings Advocacy Fresno** to provide her family with furniture including beds for her little ones. Jane continues to be connected through case management while receiving rental assistance. Our program is currently assisting her with rental assistance, utility assistance, and monthly budgeting. Jane will be working on building her savings to sustain housing and is on track to successful permanent housing.

The Day 1 Families Fund is currently seeking donations of personal care items such as:

- Deodorant
 - Toothpaste
 - Toothbrushes
 - Soap
- If you would like to make a donation, please call (559) 284-7030



5.27 - The Women of HomeFront GPD Honor our Fallen Heroes on Memorial Day

Our team at our **HomeFront GPD** (Grant Per Diem) transitional living program for female Veterans, took some of the women that they serve to this year's Memorial Day ceremony presented by the **Fresno VA** and **Hinds Hospice** and held at RiverPark in Fresno. At their ladies' request, their team bought flags and took them to a cemetery to place flags by the headstones of some of their fallen comrades. Thank you for your service and for this kind gesture!

6.11 - The Living Room Helps Commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the AIDS Memorial Quilt

In June, the staff of **The Living Room** were absolutely honored to join over 400 readers in San Francisco and help read the names of those that we have lost to AIDS at the 35th-anniversary event for the **National AIDS Memorial Quilt**! The historic outdoor display held in Golden Gate Park's Robin Williams Meadow featured 3,000 panels of the quilt - the largest presentation of the quilt in San Francisco history! They left feeling empowered by the display and filled with pride for the important work that they do for those who are infected, affected, or at risk of HIV/AIDS!





1 - MaryAnn Knoy, Vice President of Administration, WestCare California - "For as long as I can remember, my dad has always been my hero. He was my biggest cheerleader in life and as he looks down on me from Heaven, I continue to feel his love and know that I will always make him proud."

2 - Gabriela Espinosa-McNiell, Vice President of Marketing & Communications, WestCare Foundation - "My dad has always been my hero and my teacher. He instilled in me the importance of fighting for others - especially my family. He is the greatest example of what a father is and should be, a fierce grandfather to my boys, wonderful husband to my mama, and is described as one of the best uncles and ninos ever!"

3 - Rosemarie Duarte, Program Manager, Housing Services - "My dad is very supportive of all of his children and provides unconditional love."

4 - Roy Perez, Facilitator, MLK Residential - "She is my source of strength. Being that Delores had to fill all parenting duties due to circumstances out of our control, Delores wore many hats and had to show boys how to be men."

5 - Jessica Holthouser, Bookkeeper, CCTRP San Diego - "My dad, a retired Navy chief and now a high school teacher, has been my rock and an incredible role model in life for not only me, but my brothers as well. He raised me into the person I am today and for that I am forever grateful. I love you, Dad."

6 - Danyelle Jones, Housing Specialist, Housing Services - "I found my biological father on Ancestry three years ago. I've found my twin! Since then, we've made so many memories that will last a lifetime."

7 - Justin Gardner, ESG-CV Program Manager, Housing Services - "My father means so much more to me than he knows. He not only cheers me for my accomplishments, but stood with and guided me through my tribulations."

8 - Maria Rodriguez, Program Director, Housing Services - "My dad is the most hard-working man that I know and I hope to be as active as he is when I reach his age. He has taught me to be independent and humble and has shown the importance of family values."

9 - Enrique Rosario, Case Manager, Housing Services - "My dad was the best example I could have ever had for being a good human being. His wisdom and guidance have carried me throughout my adult life."

10 - Tommy Maez, Case Manager III, Housing Services - "My Dad is my role model on how to grow old in a cool way."

11 - Pamela Long, Employment Development Liaison, STOP: Area 3 (Fresno) - "My dad passed away seven years ago. He was my encourager and my protector - the epitome of what a father is! He was also a father and grandpa to everyone else. He took care of my mom when she suffered from Alzheimer's and she passed away in his arms. I love and miss him every day!"

12 - Mary Greene, Mental Health Clinician, MLK Residential - "My dad has always been such a hard worker. You can never tell when he needs help because he does it all. He had always put my sisters and I first and now to see him do that with my niece is a testament of a true man. He always took my sisters and I out for Valentine's Day and stressed how we deserved to be treated as women. I will always treasure him teaching me how to fish and instilling faith into my life."

13 - Raymond Trody, Driver, STOP: Area 1 (North Highlands) - "My dad was like an all-knowing guru of information. 'I don't know' was never an answer. He taught me to always be curious and to never stop learning."

14 - Tim Garzelli, Maintenance, Bakersfield Residential - "My Dad was extremely tough on us growing up, but has turned out to be one of the best friends/father figures one could ask for. He's a Vietnam Vet, retired chief of police, and was in the FBI academy as well. He's been through so much in life including losing a daughter at a very young age, but he has taught us to keep getting back up when life knocks you down and to always be kind and companionate to others even if it meant gritting our teeth through it!"

15 - Robert Church, Deputy Administrator, Administration - "My biological father struggled with addiction and was absent after the age of five. But a man who I call 'Dad' stepped in and treated my mother and I with kindness and love. Every day, he got up early to work and provided us with a good life. He always treated me like I was his blood. Step fathers need more credit."

Jacque Martinez G., Counselor Tech, MLK Residential - "My father is the person I look to when I need the most help and wisdom in my life and struggles."

Happy Father's Day!



April 2022: Above & Beyond
Melissa Spray
Case Manager
STOP: Area 3 (Stockton)



May 2022: Leadership
Gerald Stith
Admissions Specialist III
Belmont Health and Wellness



May 2022: Leadership
MaryAnn Knoy
Vice President of Administration
WestCare California



May 2022: Leadership
Stacy Ortiz
M2M SOD
MLK Residential

Our CORE
(Characteristics
of Remarkable
Employees)
Recipients



(Continued from Cover) Much like my father taught me to always stand up for what I believe in, our organization is proud to stand in firm support of June's observances of **Black Lives Matter Month**, **LGBT Pride Month**, and **Juneteenth**. The phrase, "Black Lives Matter," is not a political stance for us, but a declaration of uncompromising dedication to fighting racism and anti-Black violence. As a behavioral health and human services organization, we will continue to advocate for the equal treatment of **all**. Within this issue, you will see examples of our teams coming together to walk in support of our LGBTQIA+ brothers, sisters, and those who do not conform to a gender; because everyone has the right to be comfortable and respected for who they are and who they love. You will also see recaps from local Juneteenth events that we were proud to participate in to celebrate June 19, 1865, in which the last remaining slaves in Galveston, Texas, received word that they were truly free from the shackles of servitude. We will look to the future forever, but we will always be mindful enough to learn from our past.

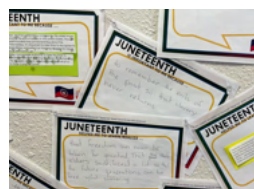
In closing, thank you for all you do for your fellow staff and those that we serve. Through our work and the positive examples that we set, we all play a tremendous role in making this world a better and more equitable place for **everyone**.



6.4 - Fresno Rainbow Pride Parade & Festival

After two years due to the pandemic, we were proud to once again be a part of the **Fresno Rainbow Pride Parade and Festival**! We were also honored to see our dear friend and late Program Director of The Living Room, Toni Harrison, recognized as an honorary Grand Marshal in the parade!

Of our many years of participating in the parade, this officially marked our largest walking group ever with representation from supporters of **The Living Room** and countless WestCare California staff on behalf of **Administration, MLK Residential, San Joaquin Valley Veterans (SJVV), Fresno Admissions/Outpatient, Housing Services, BEAT, and STOP: Area 1 (North Highlands)**! Staff and residents from our **SJVV HomeFront GPD** program were also in attendance to watch the parade and show their support!



6.17 - 20 - Juneteenth!

Across the state, our various programs proudly celebrated the rich history and importance of **Juneteenth** in a variety of ways! To kick things off, our **STOP: Area 1** staff in North Highlands celebrated by sharing what Juneteenth has taught them.

Meanwhile, on the 17th, **Bakersfield Residential** held a BBQ luncheon for clients and staff. Their Cook, Wanda Turner; Program Coordinator, Sammy Alonzo; and Driver, Steven Lee, prepared the BBQ and side dishes. Counselor and Cultural Diversity committee member, Mamie Welch, prepared various activities including an art contest, karaoke, and the reciting of poems by staff and clients. Counselor, Katie Early, set up a PA system for use during the event. It was a fun time for all and many new memories were made!

In Fresno on the 18th and 19th, our teams on behalf of **Admissions, Fresno Outpatient, Housing Services, Marketing, MLK Residential, Our WestCare MATTERS, Project Hope, and San Joaquin Valley Veterans** took turns sharing information on our various services at our outreach booth as part of the **Jubilee Celebration** at Valdez Hall! Additionally, on the 20th, members of our California leadership team attended a commemorative flag raising at Fresno City Hall!

Kudos To LeeAnn!



LeeAnn Girardeau, Admissions Specialist, Belmont Health and Wellness

"Along with her regular job duties, LeeAnn has been a great assistance to our front reception desk. Her warm-hearted personality, dedication, and excellent customer service skills are appreciated by all staff and clients. Thank you, LeeAnn, for being awesome and embodying the mission of WestCare by empowering everyone with whom you come in contact with."

– **David Daniel, Director of Admissions and Outpatient, Belmont Health and Wellness Center**

Happy Retirement, Sydney!



We'd like to thank **Sydney Hoetker**, Case Manager with our **STOP: Area 3 (Fresno)** office for nearly 12 years of hard work and commitment to those that we serve! Sydney is the proud grandmother of 14 and following her last day on May 31st, has moved to Texas. On behalf of our family of programs and services, we wish you only the best in this exciting new adventure and would like to send our most heartfelt thanks for your many years of service!

Connect with us in California

Get in touch with our Marketing Department to learn more about what is happening in WestCare California at marketing@westcare.com