



THE LOOP

A COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM AROUND CALIFORNIA

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September 16 continues to be a very important day for the people of Mexico, as it marks the independence of Mexico from Spain. On that day in 1810, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a priest and one of the leaders fighting for Mexico's Independence, is believed to have made the cry for independence (*[El Grito de la Independencia](#), or [Grito de Dolores](#)*) in the town of Dolores, in the present north-central city of Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato. Every year on the eve of Independence Day, the President of Mexico re-enacts the cry from the balcony of the National Palace in Mexico City, while ringing the same bell Hidalgo used in 1810. The colors of Mexico's flag - green, white, and red - can be seen all around wherever the holiday is celebrated and delicious traditional foods and drinks are enjoyed with friends and family along with celebratory cries of "*[Viva México](#)*" or "*[Viva la Independencia](#)*." Traditional mariachi music can be heard throughout the celebrations with lively dancing. Of course, food is one of the most important aspects of Independence Day celebrations with restaurants and street vendors selling traditional Mexican food. This includes chiles en nogada (*stuffed peppers in walnut sauce*), pozole or menudo, tamales, chips with guacamole or salsa, and pan dulce for dessert. Mexican Independence Day has developed into a huge nationwide celebration over the past 200-plus years. You don't have to be Mexican or live in Mexico to celebrate Mexican Independence Day. Anyone can join the fiesta! Communities around the world commemorate the day with special events and reflect on the deeper meaning of the holiday, honoring those who sacrificed to make it happen.

VIVA MEXICO!!!



Mary Ann Khoy, Vice President, WestCare California

For the past 33 years, September has been recognized as [National Recovery Month](#). This is a time to come together to raise awareness for treatment and recovery and inspire others to take that step forward that will change their lives. This month is especially important to me and my family as I took that step forward 16 years ago when I stepped into WestCare. Today, I can proudly say that I am clean and sober.

Because recovery changed my life, I want to first thank you all for being that pillar of support that our current and future clients need for their recovery journey. I want to encourage you to go out into the community and help someone start a new beginning. Recovery is a community effort and no one struggling with a substance use disorder should have to do this on their own.

I hope that you were able to join this nationwide effort and help your local community by participating in WestCare's [Recovery is for Everyone](#) campaign by sharing your own courageous story or motivational words. I also hope that you were able to join us at the various events that celebrated recovery including [Recovery Happens](#) (Sacramento), [Recovery Fest](#) (Hanford), The [Fresno & Clovis Recovery Summit](#) (Fresno), [The 2022 CAADE Conference](#) (Burbank), and [Community Partners 4 Recovery \(CP4R\) SoberStock XVII](#) (Fresno)!

Remember that you can make a difference even if it is in just one person's life. That is the one life that you saved from the effects of substance abuse.



Cleadus Shelton, Vice President, WestCare California



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Program Spotlight: The Fresno Day Reporting Center (DRC)

By Derrick Bressel, Program Director, Fresno Day Reporting Center

WestCare California's **Fresno Day Reporting Center (DRC)** offers a "one-stop shop" of comprehensive services in a safe and supportive environment. The program is designed to address the needs of parolees with extensive criminal backgrounds and/or those with a high risk of reoffending. The program offers a wide range of services in partnership with multiple community-based service providers focused on increasing successful reintegration into the community and lowering the risk of returning to prison or committing further criminal offenses. The DRC has been in operation since 2010 and has been instrumental in changing the lives of residents throughout Fresno County and surrounding areas. We take pride in the WestCare mission!



Staff Kudos
Letisha Caldwell

Letisha Caldwell is not only our team captain, but also our front office and housing services coordinator, on-site recovery residence housing inspector for our female and male recovery residence clients enrolled in the DRC. Letisha has been with WestCare California since 2012 and has held various positions including admissions, front office, job developer, and now as the DRC's housing placement coordinator. For the month of August, Letisha relied on her admissions, customer service, and organizational skills which enabled us to develop a better process of referring and keeping track of our recovery residence participants. This has allowed us to not only reach, but maintain 100% enrollment and maintenance of our DRC participants' meeting of our contract compliance obligations. Letisha is a great asset to our continued success. Kudos from the DRC!



A DRC Client Success Story Featuring Richard

While our partnership is still new, our clients have stated that they enjoy the convenience of being able to attend groups closer to where they live, one of which has been attending groups at the Holy Cross Health & Wellness Center consistently. She has shown growth not only personally but, in her recovery, as well. Attending our group reminds her of where she has been and how far she has come. She is aware of the environment and utilizes her coping skills to continue to stay positive, on the right track, and engaged in her recovery. She shared that she enjoys how intimate the groups are as well as the beautiful outside area of our campus.

"Richard M. has been a great client to work with. He always enters the building with a smile on his face. He is very polite, hardworking, and continues to encourage other clients to make better decisions. Richard stays behind from group to help maintain the cleanliness of the building and never complains. He has been doing well maintaining his goals and using his coping skills when he starts to become angry." - **Janice Payton, Case Manager, Fresno Day Reporting Center**



9.6 - 9.10: Recovery Week in Kings County!

WestCare Adolescent Services and **SAMHSA Family TREE** staff participated in the **2022 Recovery Week** organized by **Champions Recovery Alternative Programs** in Kings County in commemoration of **National Recovery Month**. The teams participated in dress up days from Tuesday, Sept. 6 through Friday, Sept. 9 and culminated on Saturday, Sept. 10 with **Recovery Fest** at Lacey Park in Hanford. The themes were the following: "Lei Off Drugs" on Tuesday, "Give Drugs the Boot" on Wednesday, "Keep your Mind and Body Feeling Rad" on Thursday, and "Wear Purple" on Friday.

At Recovery Fest, the teams were able to educate attendees on the dangers of drinking and driving by utilizing Fatal Vision Impairment Goggles that simulate different levels of intoxication. Participants were instructed to ride a tricycle around cones to experience the dangers of driving under the influence. Thank you, Adolescent Services and SAMHSA Family TREE for educating our youth and community on the dangers of driving impaired and encouraging recovery!

WestCare's Adolescent Services and SAMHSA Youth and Family TREE programs are certified by the State Department of Health Care Services: westcare.link/cadhcs

For information on our licensure/certification status, please visit the above link, click "CSV" and search for "WestCare"



9.11 - 14: The 2022 CalVet Leadership Summit

This month, **San Joaquin Valley Veterans (SJVV)** Program Director, Beverly Novella, and Deputy Administrator, Jenny Gonzalez, attended the **2022 CalVet Leadership Summit** in San Diego. The purpose of the summit is to come together with various organizations to discuss the challenges that California Veterans face such as housing and mental health. Our dedicated SJVV staff and WestCare California are committed to finding solutions to these challenges and learning how to better serve our nation's heroes thanks to the support of key community partners such as CalVet!



9.14 - 15: The 32nd Annual Central Valley Veterans Stand Down

Our **San Joaquin Valley Veterans (SJVV)** participated in the **32nd Central Valley Veterans' Stand Down** that took place from Sept. 14 - 15 at the VFW Post 8900 in Fresno. Every year, this event provides a wide variety of resources and/or services to our Veterans such as mental and physical health referrals, help with legal documentation, clothing, hot meals, free haircuts, personal hygiene kits, and temporary shelter. Although the event opened to the public on the morning of Sept. 14, unhoused Veterans were welcomed to spend the night through the 15th in tents supplied with cots. Showers were also available. Thank you, SJVV and all organizations involved in this event for your commitment to helping our nation's heroes!

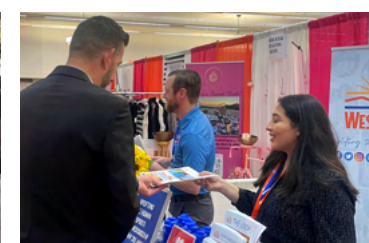

9.16 - 18:
2022
CADE
Conference

The **CADE (California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators) Conference** took place in Burbank earlier this month. In addition to attending the conference, we once again had staff assisting with registration, prepping conference materials, and verifying attendance for CEU's. The conference consisted of trainings that included topics such as Narcan, law and Ethics, relapse prevention, and Motivational Interviewing, to name a few. Our staff that assisted enjoyed giving back alongside their fellow members of **Community Partners 4 Recovery (CP4R)** while learning new concepts that pertain to the field of treatment and rehabilitation!



9.17: The 5th Annual Fresno & Clovis Recovery Summit

We were proud to once again be a part of the **Fresno & Clovis Recovery Summit** at First Street Church! This year, we were represented by staff on behalf of our **Fresno Adult Outpatient** and **MLK Residential** programs. Thank you, ladies, for attending and sharing about the life-changing services that we are so proud to offer for men, women, parolees, and families!



9.20: The 2022 Central California Women's Conference

After a two-year absence, we were excited to once again be part of the **Central California Women's Conference** in Fresno! This annual event is not only empowering for all in attendance, but is an absolutely amazing opportunity for community outreach with approximately 400 visitors to our booth! To our staff who attended the conference and those that shared about our wide variety of services, thank you for all that you do to Uplift the Human Spirit!



WestCare California Celebrates National Recovery Month!

September marked **National Recovery Month** and our WestCare California family was proud to join WestCare's nationwide family of programs and services as part of the **Recovery is for Everyone** campaign to share what recovery means to them! Here's just a few of the heartfelt sentiments that we received:



Elisha Simpson-Sanchez,
Counselor, MLK Residential

"On June 27, 2012, I chose a life free from my disease of addiction. My recovery means that I am no longer trapped in the physical, spiritual, or emotional decay that addiction brought to my life. I have freedom to make a choice each day to be a better person than I was the day before. I have become someone I can depend on and others can count on."



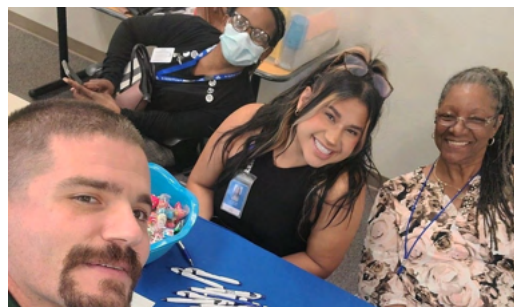
Adrienne Macri, Counselor/Case
Manager, OUR WestCare MATTERS

"Recovery means having a life and being an active participant in my life. It means being able to be a mother, grandmother, wife, friend, and to have them want to be a part of my life. Recovery means achieving goals, setting new ones, and living by example. Recovery means everything!"



Amy Hooper, Facilitator, MLK Residential

"Recovery is learning how to live again and doing things that I love! Softball is how I enjoy myself now that I am in recovery and it's even better when I share this experience with my coworkers! These have been the best days of my life!"



Kudos

STOP -
Area 1
(North
Highlands)

We'd like to thank our dedicated team at our **STOP - Area 1** office in North Highlands for once again representing us at the September **Woodland Parole PACT (Parole And Community Team)** meeting! Thank you for your continued service to our individuals who are exiting the criminal justice system and looking to make a change for the better as they prepare to reenter the community!



Kudos: Soma Norodom



We'd like to send a special shout-out to one of our cherished community partners, **Soma Norodom**, (Pictured right) on behalf of the **Quarterback Club of Fresno State**, for offering to provide a free tailgate meal to any WestCare California staff that visits a 2022 Fresno State football home game and presents their staff ID to one of the club's members! Thank you, Soma, for your generosity and support of our staff!

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