

December 2020

Issue 91

Volume 7

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#WestCareCA

A Welcome by our Deputy COO, Shawn Jenkins



Shawn Jenkins

"WestCare Family,
Thank you for your compassion and dedication to making 2020 another year of changing lives. At WestCare, Uplifting the Human Spirit is what we do. Each

and every day, we embrace our roles to make an impact in people's lives at the times that they need us the most. Together, we have adapted to the factors outside of our control to be advocates for our clients and most importantly, show our community that we are still here for them. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone at WestCare for being a champion of our mission to empowering everyone that we come into contact with to engage in a process of healing, growth and change. Our story touches on each of those processes as we navigate together.

As a new year approaches, I want to share just a few highlights to give hope of what 2021 has to offer. Even during a global pandemic, WestCare did not slow down with our scope of programs and services offered. In fact, we saw multiple programs start up such as:

- *Project HOPE at Fresno City College whom serves foster youth in higher education*

- *The Richmond Health and Wellness Center opened in West Contra County – the first treatment facility of its kind to operate in that community since 2014*
- *The continued expansion of our Housing Services through the HUD Coordinated Entry System, Kaiser Permanente Navigation Services and Lesar/Anthem Blue Cross Assessment and Outreach programs*
- *The recent assumption of the Selma Emergency Shelter bringing us to a new part of Fresno County*

Please know that these few accomplishments are just a glimpse into our further expansion of programs and services as we continually look for new ways to better our continuum of care for the people that we serve."

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(Continued from Page 1) "To end the year on a high note, we recently received the biggest surprise of all. On December 9, WestCare California joined 42 other recipients across the nation in receiving funding on behalf of the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund. Our grant award totaled \$2.5 million to increase support of our efforts in assisting and securing permanent housing for individuals and families who are currently experiencing homelessness.

All of these accomplishments could not be reached without your individual contributions. To be successful in Uplifting the Human Spirit, we need everyone on our team. I know that 2020 has been challenging for us in a variety of different ways. From personal losses in our families to the restructuring of programming and services to ensure safety to the postponement or transition to a virtual format for our normal community events – it's been hard, but we remain resilient.

I want everyone to know that you have a place here at WestCare and that we will continue to work together to make amazing things happen in 2021. We make a promise to our current and future clients that we will care for them to the best of our abilities. Together, we continue to make this a reality."

Stay safe and stay well, WestCare Family,

Shawn L. Jenkins

"And as we head into the New Year, I'm hopeful that we have what it takes to face that change and come out even stronger."

- Barack Obama -

California News

2020 Years of Service Recipients!

We'd like to take this moment to recognize the following individuals, whom as of 12/31, have reached milestones of continuous service with our organization! Thank you all for your loyalty to our organization and your unwavering commitment to Uplifting the Human Spirit!

30 Years of Service:

- Shawn Jenkins, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, WestCare Foundation - Western Region



20 Years of Service:

- Donald Smith, Program Director, STOP Area 3
- Val Sumner, Senior Case Manager, STOP Area 3 - Fresno



10 Years of Service:

- Gale Asbury, Child Care Specialist, MLK Residential
- Karan Baxter, Journeyman Counselor, Day Reporting Center
- Caroline Casarez, Lead Counselor, Belmont Outpatient
- Yelena Debenedetto, Mental Health Clinician, CPRS
- Patricia Dunne, Veteran Advocate, San Joaquin Valley Veterans
- Mary Jordan-Church, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, CPRS
- Marcelino Maytorena, Transportation Coordinator, MLK Residential
- Rocío Quevedo, Youth Navigator, Housing Services

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5 Years of Service:

- Samuel Alonzo, Senior Case Manager, Bakersfield - AB 109
- Marc Bordner, Personal Service Coordinator, SOS
- Linda Cater, Family Service Specialist, HomeFront GPD
- Carmelita Demus, Vocational Specialist, Belmont Outpatient
 - Timothy Earnst, Cook, CCTRP - San Diego
 - Yvette Ennis, Case Manager, The Living Room
- Crystal Gomez, Counselor Tech II, Bakersfield Residential
- Mary Greene, Womens Coordinator, MLK Residential
- Jeremiah Hinojosa, Vocational Counselor, MLK Residential
- MaryAnn Knoy, Deputy Administrator, Administration
 - Brandi Leos, Case Manager, STOP Area 3 - Fresno
 - Felicia Lippen, Case Manager, STOP Area 1 - Chico
- Pamela Long, Employment Development Liaison, STOP Area 3 - Fresno
 - James Martin III, Counselor Tech, MLK Residential
 - Gabriela McNiel, Director of Marketing, Administration
 - Brandi Monahan, Administrative Support, San Joaquin Valley Veterans
 - Rosalinda Nepomuceno, Counselor, CCTRP - San Diego
 - Casey Odland, Counselor III, MLK Residential
 - Elvia Ramos, Counselor II, MLK Residential
- Jovana Sandoval, Mental Health Clinician, MLK Residential
 - Agnes Schenley, Mental Health Clinician, CPRS
 - Janelle Schneider, Grant Writer, WestCare Foundation
 - Calvin Simmons, Peer Support Specialist, SOS



Treatment & Rehabilitation News

Paint Therapy For The Holidays at MLK Residential

As part of monthly art therapy for MLK Residential's women's unit, W2W Counselor, Joslynn Brooks-Davis recently led those that we serve in a painting group with a holiday theme! Thank you, Joslynn, for once again using your gift of creativity to help Uplift the Human Spirit of those that we serve!



MLK Staff Spread Holiday Cheer!

As a way to lend comfort to our men and women in residential treatment during the holidays, our MLK staff, their loved ones and donors from the community (North Pointe Church and the Lopez family) donated items to create gift bags and baskets containing snacks, beanies, gloves, makeup, hygiene items and more for those that they serve! We'd like to thank everyone who donated for the cause and helped assemble these! Our men and women were incredibly appreciative and some even cried after receiving their first gift in a long time!



Education & Prevention News

BEAT Gets Into the Holiday Spirit!

In December, the BEAT office was decorated with the help of those that they serve which has helped them get through the difficulty of being away from their family during the holiday season!



Housing News

A Housing Success Story Featuring Diane

"Following her incarceration, Diane, a mother of two, was enrolled with our Opening Doors to Housing and Wellness program in May of 2020 following her time with MLK Residential where she successfully graduated and transitioned into WestCare's Recovery Residence for women and mothers, Liberty Plaza. Around this time, she began receiving services from the Day Reporting Center and Opening Doors where we began linking her to community resources such as HIV services and virtual NA/AA groups. Diane was appreciative of us providing her with gas cards and a welcome/cleaning kit for her new apartment when she was housed this past September. She went on to refer her boyfriend, Christian, who graduated from MLK the same time as her and entered into our McKinney Plaza Recovery Residence for men not long after. The two are currently housed together, doing well and as of mid-December, are expecting a child of their own! Congratulations to you both on your recovery, housing and parenthood journey that lies ahead!" - **The Staff of Opening Doors to Housing and Wellness**



Health & Wellness Corner

"The Effects of Poverty in America" by Mark Leanhart, Program Director, Belmont Adult Outpatient



"January is Poverty Awareness Month and as poverty impacts wellness in many ways, I thought it was a great topic for examination and discussion. While in 2015, there were 43 million Americans living in poverty, COVID-19 has reportedly increased the numbers of Americans living in poverty by at least 6 million according to [two new studies](#). Of course, poverty has a significant impact on society at large and on any community. Poverty can be cyclical in nature. For example, discrimination can contribute to individuals, families and communities living in impoverished conditions causing someone who is impoverished to then suffer from additional stigma and further discrimination, thus perpetuating a cycle of poverty. Poverty may result from income inequality, social exclusion and unemployment.

Food poverty and insecurity can result in a poor diet, which can then lead to poor health. Poor nutrition often results from poverty and is the leading cause of illnesses in the United States. Diet-related diseases are the leading cause of death in the U.S. The proportion of impoverished children not receiving any health care is twice that of higher income children. In short, impoverishment increases risk for mental illness, substance abuse, chronic disease, lower life expectancy and higher mortality rates.

While there are strategies that increase economic mobility such as Head Start, job training programs, the National School Lunch program, WIC, SNAP and Welfare, rising out of poverty can take many years and even generations. For many, education and multiple job households are the short-term pathway to overcoming poverty with continued career development being among the long-term solutions. Poverty is a complex problem that must ultimately be addressed through both public policy and [community-based strategies](#). The framework for community-based poverty reduction consists of four key interventions: meeting basic needs such as access to food housing and utilities, removing barriers such as a lack of access to healthcare, childcare or fair employment opportunities, building skills ranging from career to life skills and promoting economic development by means of job creation and retention, self employment, access to capital and technical assistance."

Kudos!

Virtual Potlucks and Gift Exchanges!

The staff of our various sites were able to enjoy their holiday potluck meals while watching the reactions from the safety of their offices during their respective Secret Santa gift exchanges! Thank you to all of our programs who were able to celebrate the holidays while still putting safety first!



Savun Sean and Family

We'd like to give a special shoutout to longtime supporter of our services, Savun, for organizing a coat drive with his grandchildren to support those served by our Housing Services and MLK Residential programs! Thanks to your warm heart, those that we serve can be just a little bit more comfortable this winter season! Thank you!



Heather Fuentez, Case Manager, Belmont Outpatient

Last but not least, we'd like to send thanks to Heather Fuentez for organizing a toy drive in collaboration with Maria Cortez from Fresno Mopars and William Viana from Mustangs of Central California to benefit the children of our Belmont Adult Outpatient program in Fresno! Thank you all for Uplifting the Human Spirit!



In Remembrance

Zoyer Zyndel

As an organization, we were both shocked and saddened to hear of Zoyer's passing in late December. He was an activist, a former intern of ours and a long time supporter of WestCare California and The Living Room. He was an outstanding community member who advocated tirelessly for the transgender community. And his spirit did, indeed, make a difference. He was a force for change. He was an advocate for good. He was always ready to make himself available when needed. We know just how big of an impact he made.

His drive might be best summed up by his own words:

"We definitely want to highlight the good things, too, that are happy in our community. And also give hope to people who are transgender that they, too, can be successful." - **Zoyer Zyndel**

From your WestCare Family - Rest In Power, Zoyer.



Send Your Content to the Loop!



Michael Mygind,
Marketing Specialist
and Gabriela
Espinosa-McNiel,
Director of Marketing

The Loop newsletter wouldn't be possible without the regular submissions that we receive from staff! Whether it's a success story or an event, we'd love to see it! Please send any high-quality pictures (Non-identifying if of clients) and a brief summary to:

gabriela.mcniel@westcare.com
michael.mygind@westcare.com

Program Directory

Administration

Fresno Office

1900 N. Gateway Blvd, Suite 100
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 251-4800

Services: Management, Administrative Support, Human Resources, Accounting/Billing, Contract Compliance, IT Support, Marketing/Media, Procurement, Creative Services



Treatment and Rehabilitation

MLK Residential

2772 S. MLK Blvd
Fresno, CA 93706
(559) 265-4800

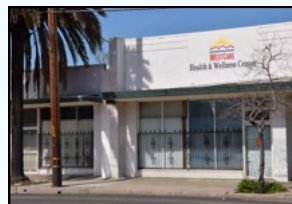
Services: Residential Drug Medi-Cal for Men and Women, Residential Treatment Program for Women and Children (M'ella), Residential Treatment Program for Men and Children: Papa Natal, Behavioral Education And Treatment (BEAT), Withdrawal Management



Belmont Health & Wellness

611 E. Belmont Fresno, CA 93701
(559) 237-3420

Services: Admissions, Adult Outpatient Program



Liberty Plaza (Recovery Residence)

4605 E. Liberty Fresno, CA 93702
(559) 237-3420 Ext. 20367

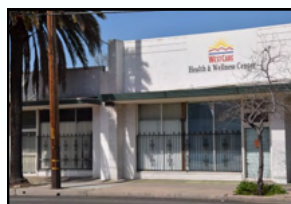
Services: Recovery Residence for Women



Day Reporting Center

609 E. Belmont Fresno, CA 93701
(559) 237-3420

Services: Drop-in services for Parolees including vocational assistance and linkage to treatment.



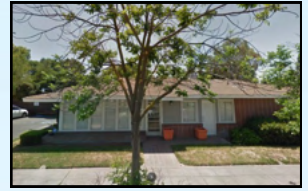
Education and Prevention

The Living Room

New Office as of January 2021!:

1330 E Olive
Fresno, CA 93728
(559) 486-1469

Services: Case Management, Hot Meals Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA), Free HIV and HCV Testing, Linkage to Medical Care, Social and Group Support Meetings



Bakersfield Residential

2901 S. H Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304
(661) 398-4303

Services: Men's Long-term Residential, Adult Outpatient Program



Richmond Residential

208 23rd St.
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 216-4601

Services: Men's Long-term Residential (15 Beds), Detoxification Services (10 Beds), Housing and Vocational Services and Linkage to aftercare, as needed



McKinney Plaza (Recovery Residence)

1388 & 1398 E. Bulldog Ln
Fresno, CA 93710
(559) 237-3420 Ext. 20367

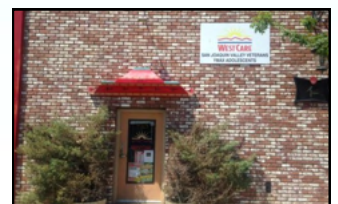
Services: Recovery Residence for Men



WestCare Adolescent Services

410 E. 7th St, Suite 7
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-8100

Services: Adolescent Outpatient Drug-Free Program



Veterans Services

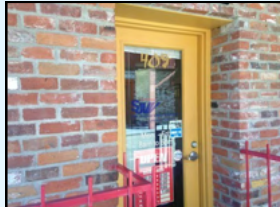
San Joaquin Valley Veterans (SJVV)

Services: Drop-In and Ancillary Services, Supportive Services For Veteran Families (Services provided to Veterans through SSVF include: Short-term case management, legal assistance, housing counseling services and placement assistance, financial planning services, financial assistance for move in, eviction prevention, utilities, transportation, childcare and emergency supplies.)



Fresno

1505 N. Chestnut
Fresno, CA 93703
(559) 255-8838



Hanford

410 E. 7th St
Suites 5 and 9
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-8100



Merced

399 George Drive
Building F
Merced, CA 95341
(209) 722-3501 Ext. 145



Stockton

2291 W. March Lane
Suite C-100
Stockton, CA 95207
(209) 662-6073

Veterans Plaza

119 N. Calaveras
Fresno, CA 93701
(559) 241-8751

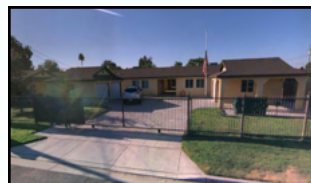
Services: Transitional housing for male Veterans for up to two years, case management, Veterans Safeway to Work Program (VSWP)



HomeFront

3636 E. Eugenia Ave.
Fresno, CA 93725
(559) 266-1169

Services: Transitional housing for female Veterans with/without children for up to two years, case management



Mental Health and Wellness

Crisis Psychiatric Response Services (CPRS)

209 E. 7th St.
Madera, CA 93638
(559) 673-3508



Services: Service coordination to adults receiving services from designated hospital emergency departments within Madera County who are deemed appropriate for an assessment for involuntary psychiatric treatment pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code 5150.

Support & Overnight Stay (SOS)

2772 S. MLK Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93706
(559) 512-6802



Services: Provides a safe, supportive environment to spend the night for individuals who arrive at an ER with a mental health condition needing services that don't require a legal hold, Case Management and transportation to ensure client engagement with outpatient mental health services, Linkages to wrap-around services.

SOS Specialty MH Clinic

3636 N. First St., Suite 123
Fresno, CA 93726
(559) 512-6802

Services: Provides a supportive drop-in environment for individuals referred by Emergency Room Departments with access to support groups, clinicians and case management.

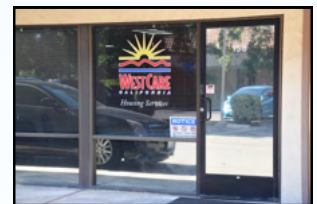


Housing Opportunities

Housing Services

1900 N. Gateway Blvd,
Suite 158
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 241-8753 Ext. 21230

Services: Assistance with supportive housing to families who are currently or chronically homeless, Project LiftOff, HDAP (Housing and Disability Advocacy Program), Home Sweet Home, Opening Doors to Housing and Wellness, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR).



Criminal Justice

Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP)

Services: Case management, treatment placement in residential, outpatient and sober living, domestic violence education, vocational training, pre-employment, job placement services and transportation from prison to treatment.

Area 1



Chico
2585 Ceanothus Ave.
Suite 170
Chico, CA 95973
(530) 830-1180



North Highlands
4612 Roseville Rd.
Suite 112
N. Highlands, CA 95660
(916) 564-4400



Bakersfield
2901 S. H St.
Bakersfield, CA 93304
(661) 326-0485



Fresno
5014 E. University Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 214-0264



Stockton
2291 W. March Lane
Suite C-100
Stockton, CA 95207
(209) 662-6073

Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program (CCTRP)

Services: Provides treatment services to female inmates (112 in San Diego, 50 in Stockton) who have a minimum of 45 day and a maximum of 2 years left on their sentence. We provide an array of gender responsive trauma informed services including substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, education, vocational and employment readiness.



San Diego
3050 Armstrong St.
San Diego, CA 92111
(619) 359-8266



Stockton
1609 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 95205
(209) 642-8488

How You Can Support WestCare Online

If you know someone who loves to shop online, they can help WestCare by shopping at **AmazonSmile** (bookmark <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0852629>) and selecting WestCare Foundation. A portion of the purchase will be donated to WestCare at no cost to the shopper.



WestCare is registered with **PayPal Giving Fund**. When shopping on eBay or using PayPal online, users can select WestCare as their charity of choice. Donations can be made by visiting <https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/105865137050618816/charity/74402>



WestCare is also on **Mightycause**, the online fundraising engine. The organization participates in events like #GivingTuesday. Donations can be made by heading to the following link: <https://www.mightycause.com/organization/Westcare-Foundation>

