



THE LOOP

A COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM AROUND CALIFORNIA

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Every October, we are proud to observe **National AIDS Awareness Month** and its related observances that align with our service domain of Education and Prevention. This is a month of education and awareness pertaining to the prevention, transmission, and treatment of HIV/AIDS as well as a call to action for all individuals who are positive to be open with their partners about their status. In commemoration, please see inside for a program spotlight, client progress story, kudos to their staff, and donation wish list all pertaining to **The Living Room** and their services!

Shortly after the release of this issue on Saturday, Nov. 5, we will be proudly presenting our **11th Annual Fresno AIDS Walk** at Woodward Park's Parkview Shelter in support of the continued services of The Living Room. This year's event is especially important with it being our first in-person iteration since the pandemic began. While its primary purpose is to raise funds for The Living Room and the important services that they have provided for the past 26 years for those who are infected, affected, or at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS - it is also a time for us to gather to promote awareness of the virus' impact, lend support for those who live with it, pay tribute to those that we have lost to it, and honor those within our field who provide care and support to those who are positive.

If you would like to support, please visit fresnoaidswalk.org today to donate, register, start a team, and fundraise and I hope to see you all on Nov. 5 at Woodward Park!



Mary Ann Khoy
Mary Ann Khoy, Vice President
WestCare California

National Boss's Day, which is celebrated on Oct. 16, is an opportunity to recognize and thank our leaders for the commitment that they have made to lead our staff and organization to ensure that we continue to fulfill our mission. I am a firm believer that being a boss is about leadership, not dictatorship. It's not about giving orders, but instead working together side-by-side for a common goal.

To be a leader, you must be brave enough to have tough conversations when necessary, personable enough to truly bond and connect with your staff and let your passion for this work become contagious, and trusting enough to allow your team to make decisions that may result in mistakes while recognizing that these will ultimately lead to learning opportunities. Being someone's boss is not an easy job and that is why I want to acknowledge the hard work of our many members of California leadership. We could not do what we do daily for those that we serve without your dedication and drive to push through trying times. It can be very hard and at times, we may wish that we simply had a job to do and not the added responsibilities and pressure that might come with it. But, trust that you are in this role for a reason. For those who have received a promotion in this past year and are still learning to navigate this new role and all that comes with it, we look forward to where this journey will take you and all that you will accomplish.

Lastly, I want to encourage our staff to strive to become leaders in all that they do. The idea of being a leader may seem intimidating, but I trust that you can be one if you are willing to commit the time and dedication necessary. Please understand that leadership is not just boiled down to a title or a standing within a group, but it is instead a set of proven traits that show that we can make a difference while also instilling faith in our fellow team members to know that they can as well. We often get caught up in what we do not see and forget to acknowledge our potential. But, it's that potential which can be found in all of us that allows us to do the amazing work that we do day in and day out.

In closing, I'd like to thank our California leadership and our entire team for all that you do for your fellow staff and the clients that we serve!



Cleadus Shelton
Cleadus Shelton, Vice President
WestCare California



westcare.com



Program Spotlight: The Living Room



By Carlene Mendez, Program Director, The Living Room

The Living Room, a project of WestCare California, Inc., encourages and supports the well-being and empowerment of persons who are infected with, affected by, and/or at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. The Living Room's focus is on improving the quality and availability of HIV-specific services for all residents within Fresno County. The Living Room is a social support center that provides a wide range of direct and indirect services. Services include case management, client advocacy, hot meals, harm reduction, housing assistance through Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), rapid testing for HIV and Hepatitis C, and social support groups. The Living Room's staff provide supportive networks, fellowship, information, education, and referrals. All services are confidential. The Living Room advocates for client empowerment and well-being through the development of healthy self-esteem through positive attitudes, support and living. The Living Room's services support people as they learn to live healthy and productive lives.



A TLR Success Story Featuring Harvey

"Hi, I'm Harvey and I've been coming to The Living Room (TLR) for about a year now. I found out about TLR through the staff at my clinic, who said that they would be a great resource. The staff here are very nice and helpful. They helped get me into other WestCare programs and really helped to open doors for other opportunities. Before finding TLR, I was homeless for 15 years. They have helped me with meals and provided me with resources that have helped me stay clean and sober. Thanks to the support from TLR, I now have housing. I am finally getting my life back!

This is a great place for people to get the help that they need. I have learned that I can't do everything on my own and that sometimes you have to ask for help in order to help yourself. This place saved my life." - **Harvey**

Kudos to the Team

I would like to recognize my entire team and all of their efforts in helping to Uplift the Human Spirit. Ashley, Yvette, Ruben, and Arturo all bring their unique strengths in providing client services. They go above and beyond in client advocacy and the overall delivery of services here at The Living Room. It is a joy to work alongside them as we continue to elevate our consumers and improve our services here.

Donation Wishlist

The staff of The Living Room are currently seeking new or lightly used donations of:

- *A couch/loveseat*
- *An ice machine*
- *A notebook computer*

If you would like to make a donation, please call (559) 486-1469.

THE LIVING ROOM PRESENTS: DRAG QUEEN *bingo*

A BENEFIT IN SUPPORT OF THE 2022 FRESNO AIDS WALK

21+ ONLY - HALLOWEEN COSTUMES ENCOURAGED! CASH ONLY EVENT.

Friday, October 28, 6:30 PM @ The Red Lantern: 4618 E Belmont Ave, Fresno, CA

For more information, please call (559) 486-1469

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9.21 - 22: Western Leadership Meeting

In September, members of California leadership were proud to visit our [WestCare Foundation](#) office in Henderson, NV and be a part of two days of presentations, meetings, and site tours! Our state was joined by representatives on behalf of WestCare Arizona, Iowa, Nevada, Oregon, and Texas! Our motto of Uplifting the Human Spirit truly gains a whole new meaning when you learn about the scope of our organization's reach first-hand!



SoberStock XVII: Fresno's Longtime Recovery Celebration Returns!

By Michael Mygind, *Director of Marketing, WestCare California and Nevada*

On September 24, after two years of being presented virtually, our [WestCare California](#) family of programs came together with the over 30 community organizations that make up [Community Partners 4 Recovery \(CP4R\)](#) to present [SoberStock XVII](#), Fresno's longest running observance of [National Recovery Month](#)! The event featured live entertainment, recovery testimonials, a car and bike show, vendors, and more! With hundreds of attendees on hand, this year's event was once again proof that treatment works and recovery happens!



FRESNO
AIDS
WALK

presented in support of



NOVEMBER 5, 2022 AT 8:00AM

WOODWARD PARK - PARK VIEW SHELTER

FRESNOAIDSWALK.ORG



sponsored by



GILEAD



Family
HealthCare
NETWORK



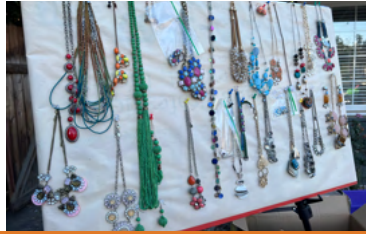
Assisted Living & Memory Care
Oakmont
of Fresno



Avita

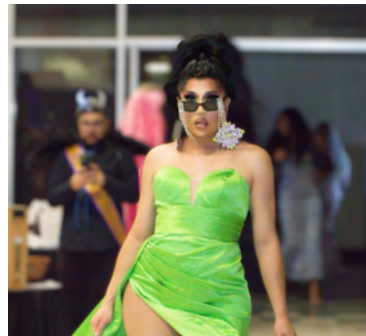


Ragin'
Records
ON AND OFF (MOSTLY OFF) SINCE 1988



10.8: Fresno AIDS Walk Benefit Yard Sale

As this year's **Fresno AIDS Walk** continues to come closer on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Woodward Park, the dedicated members of our planning committee and our amazing staff at **The Living Room** have continued their fundraising efforts in preparation for the big day, including a yard sale held in their parking lot! With a steady flow of shoppers throughout the morning, they were able to raise \$404 in support of this year's event! Thank you to everyone who shopped or donated! If you'd like to make a donation in support of the cause, you can do so by visiting www.fresnoaidswalk.org.



A San Joaquin Valley Veterans (SJVV) Success Story

In August of 2020, Stockton Veteran, Phillip, was found by our care navigator during outreach where he, his disabled daughter, disabled wife, and two service animals were sleeping in their car after they lost their housing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Once enrolled into our Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, they were provided emergency housing assistance. During this time, Phillip's wife became extremely ill after being exposed to COVID-19 and sadly passed away due to complications.

He did not have the funds to pay for the burial expenses and used his credit cards, which caused him to fall into debt. During this time, FEMA established the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program, which he was approved for and received reimbursement thanks to help from his SJVV advocate.

Despite all his loss from his wife's passing to one of his service animals, Phillip continued to work hard on achieving his goal of regaining housing. After being rejected repeatedly due to credit, his advocate was able to identify a two-bedroom home that fit his family's needs. Soon after housing, he was transferred to the Shallow Subsidy Program for extended services.

From day one, he always kept a positive attitude through all challenges. With that same attitude, he will continue to accomplish his goals. Phillip is currently working on increasing his income and building up his savings. He and his daughter are both housed now and living in a much better place, healthy and thriving.

10.8: The 49th IDC Ducal Ball

Following their benefit yard sale for the Fresno AIDS Walk, our team at **The Living Room** were in attendance for the **2022 Ducal Ball** presented by the **Imperial Dove Court De Fresno**, long-time supporters and donors of the program! With the theme of "Wicked Neon Fantasy," the event featured local drag performances as well as the crowning of their 49th Grand Duke and Duchess! We were also honored to accept a check for \$1,500 in support of The Living Room's continued services as well as the 2022 Fresno AIDS Walk! On behalf of our team and those that we serve, thank you for your continued support, Imperial Dove Court De Fresno!



Our CORE (Characteristics of Remarkable Employees) Recipients



August 2022: Organization
Mardi Palacios
Executive Admin Assistant
Administration



August 2022: Organization
Danny Sanchez
Maintenance
MLK Residential

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