

## LSF Happy Campers Children's Center

Spring is a season of growth and beauty, and at Happy Campers Children's Center, our children are flourishing in their development. They are learning about colors, shapes, and creating heartfelt Mother's Day gifts. From Easter egg hunts to nurturing plants, they are embracing the spirit of renewal. Parents are amazed at their progress, as they connect alphabets to words and showcase their learning through songs. In our infant-toddler house, we focus on fine motor skills with engaging activities like baking, hand printing, and sweeping. These experiences help them develop their little fingers' dexterity.

We are also thrilled to share that we received a generous grant from The Ahmanson Foundation. This grant has allowed us to enhance our facility with new furniture and equipment,

bringing joy to both teachers and children. We express our heartfelt gratitude for everyone's support, and we remain dedicated to providing excellence in childcare.



## LSF Children and Family Services in Southern California: Participant Spotlight

Jameson and Maverick, a set of twins, began receiving speech and early intervention services with us at the age of one. As they approached preschool age, we had to find a creative solution to provide them with one-on-one services without causing any distress. By coordinating the schedules of their speech and Child Development Specialist (CDS) providers, we were able to arrange in-home sessions where each child received individual attention while the other played and engaged with the other provider. This approach kept both boys interested and involved in their services. The support and involvement of their parents and older siblings played a crucial role in their progress. In April of the previous year, they turned three, they aged out of our program, transitioning to school-based services if needed. However, we still occasionally receive

updates from their mom, which we always cherish. The twins had speech delays and general global delays, and our aim was to help them reach their developmental milestones, ensuring they were prepared for their next educational journey.



## LSF Children and Family Services in Northern California: Employee Recognition

The National Charity League (NCL) - Crystal Springs Chapter mother and daughter volunteers went above and beyond to make our St. Patrick's Day celebration at school truly special. In the Early Learners class, they organized a delightful activity where coins were hidden in green play-doh, allowing the students to dig for their treasures. The treasures they found were theirs to take home, and to add to the excitement, the "leprechauns" had left bags of chocolate coins in their cubbies. The NCL volunteers also engaged the students in fun art projects, such as creating rainbows with

colored fruit loops and gluing pots of gold at the end.

The Pre-K class had a fantastic time searching for hidden gold throughout the school. The students had the joy of keeping all the gold they found, and they eagerly lined up their coins, counting their treasures with pride. After the gold hunt, the NCL volunteers guided them in making shamrock necklaces using yarn, colored pasta, cut-up straws, and construction paper shamrocks.

Our day was filled with joyful celebrations and delicious treats thanks to the dedication

and kindness of the NCL - Crystal Springs Chapter volunteers. We are immensely grateful for their support and the memorable experiences they created for our students.



## LSF Central Coast Adult Services: Welcomes Spring Time!

Our individuals have been embracing the wonderful spring weather, engaging in various activities to promote their well-being. From staying active and getting in shape to cooking delicious Easter meals, they have been enjoying the season to the fullest. One particularly special experience was the visit from adorable baby chicks, which brought joy and added a sense of warmth to their days.

Engaging in these activities plays a crucial role in supporting our individuals' mental health. It helps them develop healthy coping skills to navigate and manage feelings of depression, anxiety, stress, frustration, and anger. These emotions are commonly experienced among the intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) population we work with. Our dedicated staff members are well-trained in recognizing triggers and understanding the needs of our individuals. They employ effective coping techniques to deescalate any challenging behaviors that may arise from unexpressed emotions.

The support and guidance provided by our staff is

essential for our individuals to lead independent lives in their own homes within the community. As spring brings new beginnings, we are excited for our individuals to explore and engage in a range of outdoor and indoor activities that contribute to their coping skills and overall well-being.





## LSF Northern California Adult Services: Spring Traditions

At Social Dynamics, our annual traditions with clients are in full swing. As we gear up for St. Patrick's Day, we're embracing the spirit with colorful drawings. Each client is putting their creative touch to make their drawings fun and unique, adding a touch of charm to their spaces. Our Easter celebration brought even more excitement with an egg hunt. Clients and team members joined forces in the search for hidden treasures. The anticipation of discovering surprises inside each egg added to the joy. We also made sure to have some extra fun with bubbles. Our team-building event took us to the bowling alley, where strikes, spares, and yes, a few gutter balls brought

laughter and camaraderie. We value the support you provide, and it is always a pleasure to create meaningful experiences for our clients. Thank you for being part of the journey.



## LSF Headquarters: Employee Appreciation

Over the past two years, Raymond Mercado has dedicated his time to achieving a law degree from the University of California Los Angeles. His purpose was not only to acquire a Master's degree but also to continue advancing his skill set in Human Resources. Raymond firmly believes that building a legal skill set is crucial for success in his profession and for the betterment of our organization as a whole. Attending law school challenged him to think outside the box

and approach legal matters with analytical thinking. Raymond is immensely grateful to Life Steps Foundation for their unwavering support throughout his educational journey, and enabling him to develop professionally over the past nine years. He eagerly anticipates continued success at LSF by contributing his expertise and supporting our organization in accomplishing its goals.

## LSF Southern California Adult Services: Springtime in the Park

This past month on April 7th, the Seaside Learning Center organized a delightful Picnic at El Dorado Park West. It was a fantastic opportunity for their entire Day Program to come together and relish the beautiful Spring weather. The dedicated staff members went the extra mile to set up engaging activities such as basketball, softball, and even a piñata, ensuring a fun-filled day for everyone involved.

excitement were palpable, as the clients reveled in the activities and camaraderie. It was truly a memorable experience for all.

Based on the overwhelming success and the joy it brought to their clients, they are already in the process of planning another picnic for the summer season. They believe in creating opportunities for their clients to connect, engage, and make lasting memories. The picnic exemplified this commitment.

They extend their heartfelt

appreciation to all the staff members and participants who made this event a resounding success. It is through such collective efforts that our staff continues to create meaningful experiences for their clients.



During lunch, they savored delicious Subway sandwiches, adding to the enjoyment of the event. The positive energy and

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In the face of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak situation, many of the children and adults with developmental disabilities served by Life Steps Foundation are in need of essential items. We are working diligently to assist our individuals but need additional help. Donations of items or monetary contributions at this time is greatly appreciated. Please consider joining our Life Steps community with a donation. Visit [www.lifesteps.org](http://www.lifesteps.org) and click the “**Donate**” button today!

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