

LSF Northern California Adult Services: Life Steps Partners with National Charity League Crystal Springs Chapter

Since our partnership with NCL in 2020, they have become one of our main supporters in providing essentials and gifts for the participants that we serve at NCAS. This Christmas, NCL and their awesome group of volunteers neatly wrapped gifts for us to deliver to the doorsteps of our participants. When NCAS staff showed up to deliver these gifts, participants and their families lit up with smiles and grateful cheer. We look forward to creating and building a relationship with NCL to last for many years to come. Thank you National Charity League - Crystal Springs Chapter for your generous and continuous support to NCAS.



LSF SoCal Adult Services: Christmas is Giving Time

We often give gifts to re-confirm or establish our connection with others. Gift giving honors a unique relationship in our lives. Giving a gift to someone allows us to communicate our feelings and appreciation for them. Life Steps Foundation SoCal Adult Services believes in honoring the relationships we have with our clients and our employees. We do this at Christmas time through our Christmas Giving Program for clients and our Employee Recognition Program for front-liners who serve our clients. Because we raised \$3200 through Long Beach Gives, we were able to give \$120 Target gift cards and a box of See's Candies to 24 clients who have no one else to give them a gift. This re-affirms our connection with these clients and lets them know that Life Steps appreciates them. Because we pooled our resources for the quarter in the Employee Recognition

Program, we were able to give a \$50 gift card of their choice to 18 front-line workers who did so well supporting our clients throughout the year. Though the clients cannot be named, we do wish to honor our employee recipients here: Maria Rivera, Sandra Cruz, Ethan Rojas, Robert Gomez, Yasmaine Craddock, Hazel Carrion, Jacqueline Van Noy, Elsie Nicolas, Brisa Herrera-Reyes, Roma Cash, Ana Sabaj, Cindy Burciaga Ruiz, Carla Hernandez, Maria Rodriguez, Juan Lopez, Jessica King, Barbara Alba and Catalina Medrano. Thank you for your caring effort with our clients throughout the year. We appreciate you.



LSF Children and Family Services in Northern California: Team Recognition

LSF Northern California CAFS has a team of teachers and early interventionist who have contributed to the success of our center-based preschool programs over the last few years! We all know how much mental and physical energy, is required to work day by day with young toddlers. They are an admirable veteran, chosen to take on this challenging job. Their commitment to care for children and serve families does not go unnoticed. It says a lot when families want to continue enrolling their children into the program years later, and when families are willing to be on the waiting list to get the opportunity for their child to learn from this team of teachers. Also, it says a lot to be able to work so closely with each other for so long. They are a true team. A special thank you to LSF CAFS partners: Melaniy Santaana - 4 yrs (EI / ECE Teacher), Jeovanka Vargas - 3 yrs (ECE Teacher), Jennifer Estaris - 4.5 yrs (ECE Assistant Teacher), Rebecca Deryckx - 5 yrs (ECE Teacher).

PRAISE FROM FAMILIES AT WE PLAY WE LEARN:

"Thank you so much for all you do! It really does feel like a supportive school community!"

"My daughter loves her teachers! She feels loved by them. As they always greet her in the morning, ask her questions, play with her, help her when needed, etc..."

"The teachers and community. Unmatched!"

"Thank you so much for being a part of our family. We love everyone at WPWL!"

"We have loved being a part of the WPWL family. My kids have felt safe and loved there."

"Thank you so much for all you do! It really does feel like a supportive school community!"

"Thank you for your amazing care of our kid-dos."

"THANK YOU for your perseverance, energy, and positivity in helping to make WPWL a safe and loving second home for the kids!"



LSF Children and Family Services in Southern California: Participant Spotlight



Liam was an energetic and happy little boy who was always excited for session time. He was referred to Life Steps Foundation for early intervention services at 26 months of age due to his parents' concerns about his speech and language development, and his social-emotional development. Liam initially showed delays in his overall development. He had difficulties expressing his needs and communicating with others because he only had a few words. He had a short attention span, and he was easily irritated. When he was angry or when his needs were not met, he screamed and cried for a long time. Liam also engaged in aggressive behaviors, such as pulling hair, when he was excited or frustrated. Parents felt helpless and frustrated with Liam's

emotions and behaviors. After receiving early intervention services, our early interventionist (EI) provided resources to the parents to help them understand Liam's development. The EI discussed with the parents strategies to decrease Liam's screaming and aggressive behaviors. Our EI also worked on improving Liam's speech and language skills with a variety of activities, as well as monitoring Liam's overall development. At the time Liam exited the program, his behaviors and speech and language skills had greatly improved. He was able to recite familiar songs and share past experiences with his parents. He had developed appropriate behaviors and social skills to interact with peers. His parents were happy with Liam's improvement, and they felt empowered as they learned many strategies to help Liam regulate his emotions. It is a joy to work with this family. I am sure the family will continue to support Liam's development with their love and care.

- Rachel K. Early Interventionist

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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 and click the “**Donate**” button today!

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