



# HARBOR HAPPENINGS

A PUBLICATION OF HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER

SUMMER 2019

## CELEBRATING 45 YEARS, Honoring Our Partners

Harbor Regional Center finished our 45th Anniversary Year with a celebration of our partners in serving people with developmental disabilities and their families. On May 7th over 300 people gathered at the beautiful Lagunitas Pavilion at the Hotel Maya in Long Beach. We want to thank our many generous sponsors for making this special event possible.

We were honored to recognize Denny Amundson for the legacy he has given us as an inspirational leader and advocate in the field of developmental services since the 1960s. As Assemblyman Frank Lanterman's Chief of Staff, Denny assisted in the drafting of the original legislation which became known as the Lanterman Act, and which resulted in the creation of California's regional center system. Denny has continued to serve the developmental disabilities community for more than 50 years.

We also recognized some special partners for their Outstanding Service, Partnership, Leadership, and Inspiration.



*We honored Denny Amundson, who assisted in the drafting of original legislation which became known as the Lanterman Act, resulting in the creation of California's regional center system.*

We recognized two business organizations in our community for their special partnership with HRC and our clients. The Los Angeles Habilitation House has shown continuing commitment to provide employment and hope, for their workforce made up of 37% people with developmental disabilities, 32% veterans with disabilities, and the remainder with other disabilities. The South Bay Sunrise Rotary Club has offered their generous and continuous contributions to the support of HRC clients and families in need for almost ten years.

We recognized two HRC parents who have provided their insight and leadership for the benefit of all of their fellow HRC families. We are grateful to Joe Czarske for always thinking of new ways to represent and support his daughter Mattea as well as all people with developmental disabilities and their families. And we thank the Reverend Lavelle Gates for always being there to answer our call, when we need him to provide words of inspiration and hope, to join us in legislative advocacy and education



*Founding Directors Nancy Albin and Guido Piccarolo with two LAHH employees.*

*(continued on pg. 2)*

*Celebrating 45 Years,  
Honoring Our Partners (cont. from pg. 1)*

efforts, and speak on behalf of his fellow parents, especially busy and involved fathers like himself.



*Cristina enjoyed the event along with her husband, parents and brother.*

We are grateful to all of our dedicated service providers for their valuable contribution to the lives of our clients. We paid tribute to Pediatric Therapy Network for making an immeasurable difference in the lives of many thousands of young children and their families over two decades. We celebrated our long shared history and the remarkable vision brought to life by Social Vocational Services over more than 40 years of service.

We are proud of all of our clients for their achievements, and we recognized three individuals who have served as an inspiration to others. Erica Contreras has made major strides as a student in her final year at Long Beach City College, about to earn two Certificates in Culinary Arts and Baking and Pastry Arts, while

learning to live independently as a part of the College 2 Career program. Timan Ford wants to be an inspiration to others after being the first client in the state to participate in the Paid Internship Program, and to be hired after only three months in Office Services with Skechers. Cristina Sanz, who has become well known to many people as a member of the cast of the Emmy-winning show *Born This Way*, has clearly inspired others in so many ways, but especially in reminding all of us that there are no limits other than those we place on ourselves.

Finally, we thanked four HRC staff members who have provided a combined 157 years of exemplary services: Rachel Quijada, Accountant; Lyle Walter, Office Clerk; Vel Roman, Intake Service Coordinator; and Nancy Spiegel, Director of Information and Development.

Over the past 45 years, our regional center system has seen times of great growth and optimism, and periods of unprecedented challenge. Throughout these times, Harbor Regional Center's original vision for our clients and their families has endured and inspired us to ensure there is a local focus for lifelong support, and that clients and their families become increasingly empowered, independent, and valued members of our community. It was a great pleasure to take time, together with our partners in this journey, our clients, parents, service providers, and other community members, to reaffirm our mission, strengthen our sense of community, and celebrate this milestone. ■

# FAMILY *matters*

## SIDE BY SIDE: Enriching Children's Lives through Parent-Provider Partnerships

Side by Side is a six-part training series focused on infants, toddlers and young children 0 to 5 addressing early mental health and social-emotional development, running September 2018 - February 2020.

Guiding young children with developmental concerns through a successful early childhood requires special training and specific knowledge. This is true for both parents and the professionals that work with them. Providers and parents learning the same content will promote and enhance their joint ability to communicate more effectively regarding the needs of the child, and encourage an effective partnership between them. It is with this in mind that Harbor Regional Center, funded by the Mental Health Services Act in partnership with the California Department of Developmental Services, is presenting a training series "Side by Side: Enriching Children's Lives Through Parent-Provider Partnerships" to the professionals and families of our Early Start and early childhood community.

Beginning September 2018 and continuing through February of 2020, nationally and internationally recognized experts in the fields of infant and early childhood mental health have been coming to the South Bay to train both providers and parents in a series of five concurrent symposia and workshops.

The focus of these training events will be on infants, toddlers, and young children from birth through five, addressing the critical importance of relationships, early mental health, and social emotional development, which is the foundation for all other developmental success!

This series will culminate in a sixth all-day symposium for families and cross-sector early interventionists to learn, share and collaborate, side by side.

### Goals of the Side by Side Training Series

1. Increase the competency of the early intervention workforce
2. Guide future training of early intervention workforce
3. Increase parental knowledge of child development more specifically, with respect to social and emotional development
4. Improve engagement with families
5. Increase progress in social-emotional development of very young children, with potential improvement across other areas of development;
6. Increase collaboration and coordination of services across sectors, on behalf of the child

To learn more and find out how you can join us for upcoming presentations in the Side by Side series, visit our website at [www.harborrc.org/news/sidebyside](http://www.harborrc.org/news/sidebyside). ■



## EARLY START TRANSITION EVENT

*By Griselda Torres,  
Client Services Manager*

The Early Childhood department held its First Annual Early Start Transition Event on April 18, 2019. Harbor Regional Center, in partnership with our Family Resource Centers, local school districts, service providers and other community agencies hosted an afternoon event for families with children ages 0-3.

The goal was to provide an avenue for families to learn about other programs and what resources are available to their children after they exit the Early Start program. There were over 20 resource tables with an array of information to help families plan for their child's future. ■



*(above) Families learned about available services for their toddlers transitioning to preschool.*

*(right) A steady stream of parents gathered information from the vendors.*



*Ryan demonstrates skills he has learned through Togisala Shorin Ryu.*



*(above) Annie Griffith, co-founder of Down For Dance along with Kate, a Hip Hop dancer.*

*(below) Denise Callender and Frank Bellenfant shared information about the Sand Blasters Snowshoeing Team.*

## SOCIAL, RECREATION AND FITNESS RESOURCES

*By Kerry Ryerson, Public Information Specialist*

Harbor Regional Center hosted a fun and successful Social, Recreation and Fitness event on Saturday, March 9, 2019. The majority of the 83 attendees were clients and family members along with a few service providers. 12 organizations presented information on their programs and then the attendees had the opportunity to speak with each presenter and gather handouts as they worked their way through the room. One of our presenters had this to say: "As usual, awesome event you put on this past Saturday! I saw attendees really listening and taking notes. This is such an important service to families and clients. Thank you so much for including me."

A listing of several more providers along with descriptions of their social, recreation and fitness programs was presented and available as a handout. If you missed our presentation at HRC, you can still learn about opportunities for dance, yoga, fencing, snowshoeing, martial arts, all types of sports, and social programs for the youngsters, the young adults and the not so young! Check out the descriptions and websites for the Social, Recreation and Fitness Opportunities at: [www.harborrc.org/resources/community](http://www.harborrc.org/resources/community). ■

## PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD: Life After School Services

*By Bjoern Petersen,  
Client Services Manager*

For HRC clients and their families that are transitioning from high school to adulthood, it can be a scary time. Amid fears of what life after high school may ultimately look like, clients and families flocked in droves to Harbor Regional Center's semi-annual transition event located in HRC's main Torrance office. Over 30 different agencies and community partners welcomed clients of all backgrounds, featuring a smorgasbord of meaningful adult day activity options to choose from, supported employment entities to connect and register with, community and area colleges to enroll in, as well as service providers to meet and greet, and local government programs to learn more about in order to effectively access them.

Transition planning routinely begins at approximately age 14 when students and families begin to consider whether to graduate with a high school diploma at age 18 or to continue with a certificate of completion until age 22.

Service coordinators truly understand the concerns and anxiety experienced



by our transition-age clients and families. They work closely with both clients and families throughout this exciting time in order to best prepare and empower them for this next important step by providing information and choices, and most importantly by reassuring everybody that HRC staff will uncompromisingly support them every step on their pathways to success.

We offer the event for our clients and families in Transition to Adulthood in the spring and in the fall, in Long Beach and in Torrance. Check out our Training and Events catalog or contact your service coordinator, to learn about the next opportunity to attend a Transition event. ■

*The conference room overflowed with providers at their tables and families in search of information.*



*A panel of experts presented on various topics and answered questions from the audience.*

# Client *focus*



*Timan is a proud and hardworking employee at Skechers.*

*Our supported employment service providers and job developers have embraced this program as a great incentive for potential employers, and have helped us to find employers who will give deserving job applicants a try.*

## TIMAN PAVES THE WAY California's Paid Internship Program

In 2016, the State of California put in place an exciting new Paid Internship Program for individuals with developmental disabilities. The goals of this program are to help individuals who participate in a paid internship program to gain skills and experience for future paid employment.

We were very excited to take advantage of this new program, and help our clients to take this opportunity to develop work skills and experience in real work settings, while getting paid at least minimum wage. The program supports employers to get to know potential employees with developmental disabilities, and what a great resource they can be in the workplace.

Since 2016, Harbor Regional Center has helped almost one hundred clients to work in paid internships, and we see this number increasing all the time. Our supported employment service providers and job developers have embraced this program as a great incentive for potential employers, and have helped us to find employers who will give deserving job applicants a try.

Our first such candidate was Timan Ford. Timan was the very first person to benefit from the PIP program in the state of California!

Timan, 22, had been attending Northern Arizona University for two years. He found that NAU was not the best fit

for him, and moved back to California to begin taking community college classes. Service Coordinator Jesse Richter was immediately impressed by Timan and "the way he expressed himself, how knowledgeable he is about subjects such as anthropology and archeology, Japanese culture, and about his own Autism. And yet he was humble and unaware of his potential." Timan recently explained that he used to spend his days playing video games in the confines of his room. "I was anti-social and did not leave my house much."

With support from Jesse and HRC, he decided that he wanted to find a job and began working with Goodwill for job development. They approached Skechers with information about the new Paid Internship Program and the proposal to interview Timan. Soon Timan was interning at Skechers as an Office Services Representative and mail clerk.

Timan definitely made the best of his PIP opportunity. He did such a great job that Skechers hired him after only three months! He travels to work by bus from Norwalk to Manhattan Beach. He has become a very enthusiastic young man who works hard, and has great long-term goals. While working at Skechers, he is also taking classes at El Camino College with plans to eventually transfer to a four-year college, and continue his studies in anthropology and archeology. He even had the opportunity to participate in a real archeological excavation in Belize.

"Now I feel that my life has a lot of purpose, and I look forward to work each day." Congratulations, Timan on your special achievements. ■

## SEAN TAMER

### Moving Along the Career Path

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Employment is an important goal for a great many of our adult clients. But just like for many adults without disabilities, the career path can sometimes be a little bumpy.

After finishing school, and his transition program through L.A. County Office of Education, Sean landed a great first job. He worked at a satellite TV company, sorting and recycling TV programming materials. He was part of a group that received supported employment job coaching on the job. Sean's excellent work habits earned him awards as Employee of the Month multiple times, and he was a dedicated worker for nine years! But then the company made a change in their work process. Suddenly the department where Sean worked was shut down, and the company no longer needed the services of Sean and his coworkers.

His mother worried that the longer he was unemployed, the harder it would be for him to find a new job. She asked his service coordinator to help Sean begin the search for a new job, starting with a supported employment job developer. To help the job developer get to know Sean and his abilities, Sean enrolled in the day program offered by this service provider. But Sean became discouraged and his confidence was shaken. The job developer, who did not yet know Sean well, wondered if Sean could make a good impression on a job interview. Even though the day program helped him to stay active and be with others, Sean did not like attending the day program and said, "I'm done, I want to work." He preferred to stay home and take care of his dog and cat.

Sean's mother knew what an excellent worker Sean had been, and how proud and happy he had been while employed. Everyone could see that he had an excellent work history. He just needed someone to recognize his potential. With the help of the regional center's Manager of Health Services Rick Travis, they tried again with Supported Employment service provider SVS. With their support and encouragement, the new Job Developer took time to get to know Sean and earn his trust.

This Job Developer discovered a special talent. She learned that Sean loves to organize things in his room and around the house, and she realized she might know of just the right opportunity. She got him an interview for a job as an office clerk at a local bank.

This time the pieces fit and Sean was hired! Sean now puts his unique skills to work, stocking and organizing the office supplies and assisting with the mail. His Job Coach reports that he is fitting in well, is very serious about performing his job assignments, and becoming increasingly independent. His first employee review is coming up, and it looks like it will be a great one. We wish you much success, Sean. ■



*Sean is on his way with the paper then he'll fill the copier machines.*

*"Sean is a smart, thoughtful, and motivated individual with a high drive to have a successful career. His determination, dedication, self-discipline and hard work efforts put him a step closer to achieving his long term career goals. I'm confident that Sean's efforts will help him excel in anything he puts his mind to."*

**Karina Santana, SVS Case Manager**

## JESSIE DOESN'T LIVE IN A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY ANYMORE HRC's Skilled Nursing Facility Initiative



*Celebrating her 45th Birthday, Jessie's fun celebration included a huge cake with her special request for pink frosting.*

*Five years ago, HRC began a concerted effort to assist all of the people we serve who were living in Skilled Nursing Facilities to move into their own homes or small group homes.*

In August of 2018 we helped our last HRC client move out of a state institution and since that time HRC has been very pleased to report that not one of our clients remains living in such a setting.

And at HRC we dream of the day when none of the people we are here to serve will live in any institution – even a community-based institution, including skilled nursing facilities.

Jessie lived in a skilled nursing facility for 18 years.

Harbor Regional Center

had proposed other living options: living in a real home, with her own bedroom and lots of extra attention. But Jessie and her family were worried about her leaving the skilled nursing home, where they felt she was safe.

But then after being hospitalized for an extended stay, Jessie's place at the skilled nursing facility was no longer available. In 2017, Harbor Regional Center helped Jessie to move into a Del Sol group home with her own room, and other housemates, where she could be a real part of her community while still getting the care she needs. Now Jessie is glad that her life has changed forever for the better. Not only does she get her own room and extra-special attention, but she has a sweet and caring staff, whose extended family is now just like family to Jessie. She especially looks forward to a daily visit from her favorite four-year-old member of the family, when they sing and dance together to their favorite song, Despacito. She and her housemates like to go shopping for their own clothes, go to the park, dance to Beyonce, and

enjoy an occasional treat at Yogurtland. Jessie has even made her first visit to Disneyland, has her own Annual Pass, and can't wait to return! For her 45th birthday, she wished for a cake with pink frosting, and that's just what she got. Jessie's cousin attended the party and told her she looked the happiest she had ever looked.

At HRC we think that skilled nursing institutions are best suited to provide rehabilitation services for those who can be discharged from an acute hospital but who need such treatment prior to returning to their homes, or for those who are in need of end-of-life care, but NOT as a long-term residence simply because someone has a developmental disability. This is why, more than five years ago, HRC began a concerted effort to assist all of the people we serve who were still living in SNF's to move into their own homes with supports, or into small group homes.

And this is why HRC asked one of our many exceptional nurses, Lisa Marie Celentino, to spearhead our "SNF Initiative." Our Interdisciplinary Team reviews individual needs for each client living in a skilled nursing facility, along with the appropriate level of care they would require, and explores living options. Many of these clients get the temporary skilled nursing care they need and are then able to return to their homes. The Harbor Regional Center team, including the clients' Service Coordinator and the HRC Nurse, are there with them every step of the way to help ensure the process runs smoothly.

In 2014, 72 Harbor Regional Center clients resided in skilled nursing facilities. Today, five years later, Harbor Regional Center has assisted 62 of these original 72 clients to find homes in the community that can meet their care needs. We will continue to seek out every opportunity for individuals like Jessie to discover a new and fuller life, as valued and included members of their community. ■

## JONNY PIERCE A True Aqua Man

*By Naomi Cahill, Tracy McDannald, Tim Pierce, Kerry Ryerson*

Even before he learned how to swim, Jonny was a natural in the water. The Torrance native would eventually evolve into a fierce competitor.

As a five-year-old, Jonny would jump into the deep end of the pool and just float comfortably with his ears submerged. He would stay afloat until either his mom or dad would have to tow him to the pool wall so he could climb out. Although it seemed strange to his parents at first, they would later learn that this was actually a therapeutic time for Jonny, who has autism.

“He just liked the water. It was just a comfort thing for him,” said Jonny’s parents, Tim and Irene Pierce. “Having his ears underwater muffled all the sounds that were bothering him.”

Jonny’s confidence in the water is what allowed him to excel during his Saturday afternoon swim lessons when he got older. “Learning to swim is easier when you’re not fearful,” Tim said.

His confidence has developed into a passion for swimming, which has led him to swim on several local teams, such as his high school’s junior and varsity team during his freshman year and swimming on the varsity team his sophomore, junior and senior year. He swam six years on the La Mirada club team and now swims for the Los Angeles Peninsula Swimmers Master Team. In 2010 he started with Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC).

As soon as he won a medal at his first competition, they saw how much it meant for their son to be recognized and awarded on a podium. “There are some great athletes here that challenge him and he challenges them,” Tim said. “At any level, I am a Dad and a coach. I am proud.”

Jonny continued to excel in the pool and he was selected to compete in the 2018 Special Olympics U.S.A. Games in Seattle, WA. In the time leading up to the Games, one swimmer had officials buzzing. That swimmer was Jonny. Jonny participates year-round in Special Olympics, including sports such as golf and volleyball. He also is a certified Special Olympics swim coach and helps his mom and dad coach the Special Olympic South Bay swim team on Sundays. Jonny leads by example, whenever the team learns a new stroke or is required to do drills, he is there to demonstrate.

After his success at the Special Olympics USA Games, Jonny was selected to represent Southern California in the March 2019

Special Olympics World Games which were held in Abu Dhabi where Jonny won two gold medals and one bronze! Looking beyond the World Games, Jonny has lofty goals and a drive to make his dream come true. He hopes to qualify for and compete in the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, which includes athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Although he is working very hard in the pool and in the gym, he is getting stronger and enjoying every minute of it. “As far as being a record holder, he wants to work harder and beat his existing American records,” Tim said. “He is always trying to beat his best time in any of the swim events.”

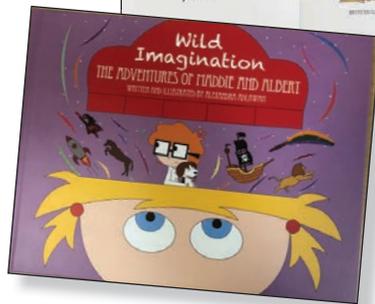
Everyone at Harbor Regional Center congratulates Jonny on his success at the World Games and we wish him continued success in all of his future competitions! ■



*(above) Jonny proudly wears one of his new Gold Medals at World Games.*

*(below) An amazing swimmer, Jonny represented the U.S.A. at Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi, Dubai.*

# resource center



(above) Alexandra autographed and donated her book to the library.

(below) Wild Imagination by Alexandra Adlawan.

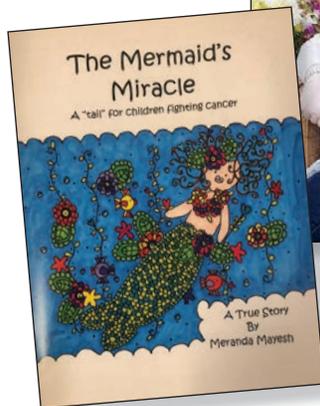
At Harbor Regional Center we have so many clients with amazing talents and abilities. This April, we were lucky to have two young women visit us and share the books they have written and illustrated!

First, we had Alexandra Adlawan. Alexandra has written and illustrated a book called *Wild Imagination: The Adventures of Maddie and Albert*. This book presents the friendship between two young people who are total opposites but also good friends. It explores how differences between people do not have to keep them apart and might actually help them learn something! Ever since Alexandra can remember she has always had a wild imagination. She began to draw at a young age and created many characters and stories that she would share with her mom and dad. These drawings and storybooks can be found neatly stored in her work area. With the publication of *Wild Imagination: The Adventures of Maddie and Albert*, her characters can finally see the light.

Next, we had Meranda Mayesh. Meranda has written and illustrated a book called *The Mermaid's Miracle: A 'tail' for children fighting cancer*. Meranda tells the story of her own journey and fight with cancer through the eyes of a mermaid. At a young age, Meranda discovered she had a talent for drawing. It came as no surprise to her family, because her great-grandfather, Bud Thomas,

had worked as a cartoonist for the Walt Disney Company. So, it seemed natural that Meranda would follow in his footsteps. Through the encouragement of family, teachers and friends, Meranda worked on creating her own artistic style. Meranda has used her artistic talents to create pillows, calendars, coloring books and greeting cards. She is now focusing her energy on writing and illustrating her own books.

Thank you Alexandra and Meranda for sharing your talents with us! ■

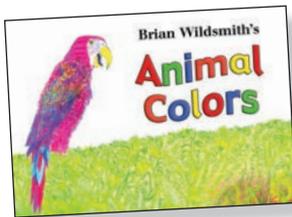


Meranda shows off her illustrated pillow and book.

*The Mermaid's Miracle* by Meranda Mayesh.

## BILINGUAL BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AT THE HRC RESOURCE AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

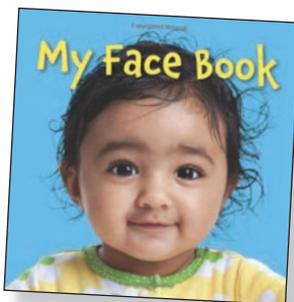
At the HRC Resource & Assistive Technology Center we strive to offer materials that meet the needs of all our clients and families. With that in mind, we have updated our offering of children's books. We have been lucky enough to find several books in languages other than English. At this moment we have offerings in Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Farsi, Urdu, Vietnamese, Arabic and Tagalog. These books assist in developing speech and language skills as well as cognitive skills. Take a look!



**Animal Colors**  
by Brian Wildsmith  
– Wildsmith teaches the concept of colors through his illustrations

of vibrantly colored animals. Children will enjoy this simple, yet fun, approach to learning to name colors and animals. Available in Arabic, Chinese, Farsi and Vietnamese.

**My Face Book** by Star Bright Books  
– Babies love looking at other babies



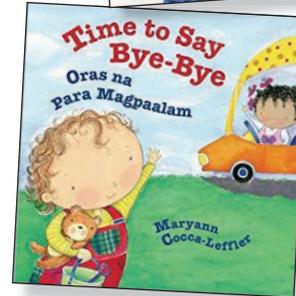
and these charming baby faces– smiling, frowning, laughing, being silly or serious – are sure to captivate and delight toddlers and babies. Children will enjoy looking at

this book repeatedly. Self-expression has never been more adorable! Available in Arabic, Japanese, Urdu and Vietnamese.

**What Happens Next?** by Cheryl Christian – Lift the flap and find out what happens next throughout the day, a fun guessing game for babies and toddlers that helps teach basic math concepts like sequencing and patterns. Available in Korean.

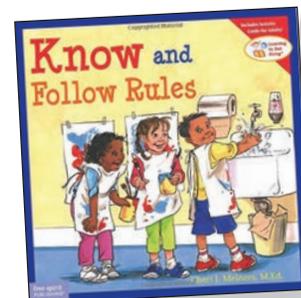


**Time to Say Bye-Bye**  
by Maryann Cocca-Leffler – A perfect picture book for toddlers on the go! All toddlers live by the pleasure principle: for them, fun times always end too soon.



Often, they'll either turn a deaf ear to the words "It's time to say bye-bye" or simply throw a tantrum. What is the solution? In this warm-hearted picture book, Maryann Cocca-Leffler follows a toddler from morning to bedtime, showing that all saying "bye-bye" to something really means is that you're ready to say "hello" to the next fun thing in your busy day! With a bare minimum of words and playful artwork, this is one of those rare read-alouds perfect for very young children. Available in Tagalog.

**Know and Follow Rules** from the Learning to Get Along Series by Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed. – Books that help children learn, understand, and practice basic social and emotional skills with real-life situations, lots of diversity, and concrete examples make these read-aloud books appropriate. Each book includes a special section for teachers, with discussion questions, games, activities, and tips that reinforce the skills and Ideas being taught. Available in Spanish. ■



## INTERN SPOTLIGHT

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Nicol Molina started her internship with the HRC Resource & Assistive Technology Center in January of 2019. She is currently a junior at Cal State University Dominguez Hills and is majoring in Human Services with an emphasis on mental health and recovery. After graduating she plans to take a year off, but after that she has her sights set on a Master of Social Work degree at Cal State University Los Angeles. She is toying



*Nicol educated herself on resources and assisted families in need.*

with the idea of taking her education all the way to the Ph.D. level but she has not made a final decision on that yet! After schooling, Nicol has a career goal of working in the mental health field. She would like to work closely with communities she is familiar with to help lessen the stigma around having a mental health diagnosis. In her experience, she has noticed that mental health conditions tend to get swept under the rug, diminished or ignored. In some cases she has seen people be told that they need to get over it or it will pass. She would like to help educate people about treatments for mental health conditions and let them know it is okay to ask for help and one should not be ashamed to do so.

Nicol chose to do an internship at the HRC Resource & Assistive Technology Center because she feels it will give her good experience for her future career. She feels it is important to educate herself on resources that are available to families in need. Since she has been working on her Human Services degree and through her own personal experience she has seen how difficult it can be to connect families with the appropriate services. She also is looking to gain more experience working in a professional setting. Nicol feels that the Resource Center is able to offer the experience and information she is looking for!

Nicol comes from a large family but her immediate family is small. She likes to spend time with her mother, father and 16-year-old brother. One of their favorite family activities is to use their annual passes and enjoy a day at Disneyland. The family recently got a new dog, a Shih Tzu mix named Tanci. She says she loves dogs and animals in general and feels they help with the overall emotional health of those who get to be around them. Nicol also has a passion for running has recently done two half marathons. She is training for the upcoming L.A. Marathon and says that running is her time to take care of herself and tune out the world. Nicol also volunteers her time at her old alma mater, the Harbor Teacher Preparation Academy High School. She is training students to be runners like herself along with providing mentorship. She helps them fill out college applications and gives them advice on continuing their education.

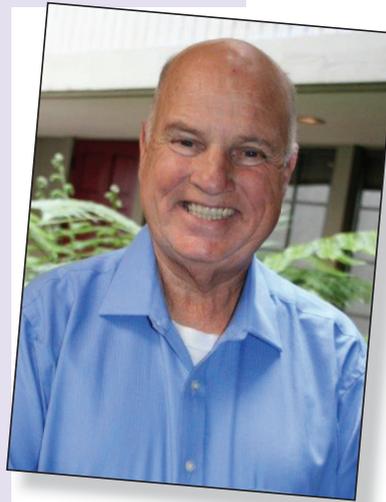
Nicol has been a huge help and a friendly presence in the Resource & Assistive Technology Center and we will miss her when she finishes her internship with us. ■

## In Memoriam LYLE WALTER Harbor Regional Center Staff

Lyle Walter was a part of the Harbor Regional Center family for most of HRC's lifetime. 2019 marked Lyle's 41st year. He worked a few part-time jobs during his time at Millikan High School and after his graduation in 1975, and it was a Millikan teacher who in 1978 provided Lyle with a glowing reference to HRC for his first full time job as Mail Clerk. That job became a lifelong career.

When his career began, HRC had only 80 employees, and no mail room. Lyle sat at a desk behind the receptionist to sort the mail, and then took off to deliver it to four different offices located across our service area. In the early days, we also called upon Lyle for help with maintenance requests. As Lyle would say, "That was when I had hair."

Over time as HRC has grown, his responsibilities grew along with us. He took care of a full mail and supply room, and over the years, many hundreds of staff members. In over 40 years, we figured that he had made 21,120 mail delivery trips. With each new staff member, Lyle acted as HRC's unofficial welcoming committee, asking "How's it going? How do you like it?" He became our in-house expert on every type of copier and postal machine, and each one became increasingly bigger and more advanced. Our growing size meant a lot more space and a lot more meetings. If you have attended a meeting at HRC, chances are that Lyle set up your table and chair.



Lyle was a loyal volunteer at more Harbor Regional Center and HOPE events and staff holiday celebrations than we can count. He helped not only with the physical set up of the events, but often also served as our unofficial photographer. In 1996 he received a Volunteer Award for his efforts, and proudly possesses Certificates of Recognition presented to him by then Assembly Member Debra Bowen and Senator Ralph Dills.

Lyle enjoyed helping our staff, clients and other visitors to HRC, but what he recalled made his time at HRC most worthwhile was that it felt like family. He built many close friendships that he maintained over the years, even if those coworkers went to work elsewhere. He traveled together with them, on cruises to Mexico and Alaska and on casino trips, and played on an HRC softball team. We enjoyed talking with him about his special hobbies. In April 2019, Lyle retired and in May he was honored at our HRC 45th Anniversary Celebration for his over 40 years of service.

Lyle was an important part of the Harbor Regional Center family from his first day of work in 1978, and he will be with us in our HRC heart forever. We are so grateful that we took the occasion of the recent HRC 45th Anniversary event to honor Lyle, and make sure he knew how much he was valued by everyone here over all of these long years. All of us will miss him greatly. ■

## HRC UNDERTAKES REVIEWS OF SERVICES

Over the past year, Harbor Regional Center has been conducting an extensive review of the policies and practices related to many of the services and supports we provide. Each service review is conducted over the course of several months. During these reviews, we have invited interested Harbor Regional Center clients, family members and service providers to participate. Representatives of our Board of Trustees were also in attendance at each review. Most recently the service reviews are being conducted in coordination with the Client Services Committee of the Board.

The first three services that were reviewed, over the summer and fall of 2017, were Supported Living, Employment, and Day Activity services. This was followed by a review of Respite services in 2018. A review of Living Options services is now underway through June of 2019.

During each review, we provided information on our policies and practices, hosted presentations by service providers, reviewed available informational materials, and examined service policies of other regional centers. We included a look at how many HRC clients received these services, as well as information about service rates and costs.

We received some excellent and very thoughtful input from the clients, family members, and others who attended the reviews. We have received a number of recommendations, and have taken actions in response to these recommendations.

We presented revisions to both the Supported Living and the Employment First policies to the full Board in March 2018 and the new policies were adopted at that time. Revisions to our policies on Adult Day Services and Respite services are in progress. We are also working on updates and revisions to selected written materials based upon the input that we collected.

You can find dates of upcoming service review meetings, and materials and reports from completed review sessions on our website at [www.harborrc.org/get-involved/review](http://www.harborrc.org/get-involved/review). ■

## EL HRC EMPRENDE LA REVISIÓN DE LOS SERVICIOS

A lo largo del año pasado, el centro Harbor Regional Center ha estado llevando a cabo una revisión extensa de las políticas y prácticas relacionadas con muchos de los servicios y apoyos que prestamos. Cada una de las revisiones de los servicios se lleva a cabo a lo largo de varios meses. Durante estas revisiones, hemos invitado a varios clientes, familias y proveedores del centro Harbor Regional Center interesados a participar. En cada una de las sesiones de revisión también estuvo presente un representante de los miembros de la directiva. Más recientemente, las revisiones de los servicios se llevan a cabo en coordinación con el comité de servicios al consumidor de la junta directiva.

Los primeros tres servicios que se revisaron durante el verano y otoño del año 2017 fueron vivienda en residencia asistida, empleo y actividades diurnas (Supported Living, Employment, y Day Activity respectivamente en inglés). Seguidos por revisiones a los servicios de relevo (Respite) en el año 2018. Actualmente, están bajo revisión los servicios de opciones de vivienda (Living Options) hasta junio de 2019.

Durante cada revisión, nosotros proporcionamos información sobre nuestras políticas y prácticas, organizamos presentaciones de proveedores de servicios, revisamos material informativo y examinamos las políticas de servicios de otros centros regionales. Incluimos una vista de cuántos clientes del HRC recibieron estos servicios, al igual que información sobre tarifas y costos de servicios.

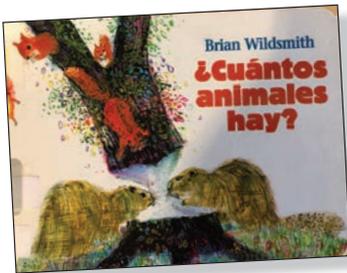
Recibimos aportes excelentes y reflexivos de parte de los clientes, miembros familiares y otras personas que asistieron a las sesiones de revisión. Hemos recibido una gran cantidad de recomendaciones y hemos tomado las medidas en respuesta a estas recomendaciones.

Nosotros presentamos la revisión de la política de los servicios de vivienda en residencia asistida y prioridad al empleo (Supported Living y Employment First) ante la junta directiva completa en marzo de 2018, y se adoptaron nuevas políticas en ese momento. Revisiones a nuestras políticas sobre los servicios diurnos para adultos y relevo (Adult Day Services y Respite) siguen en curso. Además, estamos trabajando en actualizaciones y revisiones de materiales escritos seleccionados a base de las aportaciones que se recibieron.

Usted podrá ver fechas de sesiones de revisión que se aproximan y materiales e informes de revisiones ya completadas en nuestro sitio web [www.harborrc.org/get-involved/review](http://www.harborrc.org/get-involved/review). ■

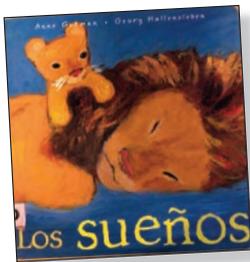
## LIBROS BILINGÜES PARA NIÑOS EN EL CENTRO DE RECURSOS Y TECNOLOGÍA DE APOYO DEL HRC (Resource & Assistive Technology Center)

En el centro de recursos y tecnología de apoyo nos esforzamos para ofrecer materiales que cumplan con las necesidades de todos nuestros clientes y familias. Con eso en mente, hemos actualizado nuestra variedad de libros para niños. Hemos tenido la fortuna de encontrar algunos libros en otros idiomas, aparte del inglés. De momento, ofrecemos ejemplares en español, japonés, coreano, chino, farsi, urdu, vietnamita, árabe y tagalo. Estos libros ayudarán con el desarrollo de las habilidades del habla y lenguaje al igual que las habilidades cognitivas. ¡Den un vistazo!



**¿Cuántos animales hay?**, de Brian Wildsmith. Este libro de cuentos es una celebración de animales pintorescos

que cautivan a los pequeños, al mismo tiempo que les enseña los números. Wildsmith es conocido mundialmente como uno de los principales ilustradores, y su amor por los niños es evidente en su obra.



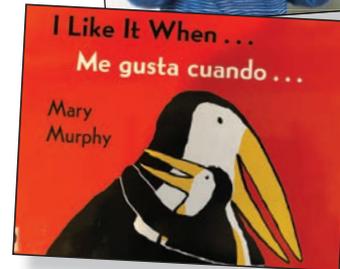
**Los sueños**, de Anne Gutman & Georg Hallensleben. Este es un lindo libro de cartón que muestra cómo duermen varios animales papá (el murciélago de cabeza, la tortuga dentro de su caparazón, el puerco espín

enrollado) y termina con el papá dormido a la par de su hijo. Es una buena manera de aprender sobre distintos animales al igual que sus imágenes del sueño. Un libro placentero para leer con niños pequeños.

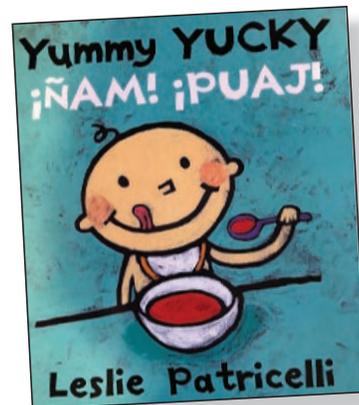
**Y ahora, ¿qué pasará?**, de Cheryl Christian levante la solapa y entérese de lo que sigue a lo largo del día, un juego de adivinanza divertido para bebés e infantes que les ayuda a aprender conceptos básicos de matemáticas como las series y patrones.



**Me gusta cuando...**, de Mary Murphy. El eterno favorito sobre un pequeño pingüino a quien le gusta andar de la mano, bailar y divertirse de mil formas regresa en una nueva edición bilingüe. Los protagonistas son dos pingüinos, uno pequeño y uno más grande. Un libro que pueden leer los padres, abuelos, padres adoptivos, tutores, etc., sin importar la relación que lleven, y sentirse totalmente reflejados en él. En realidad, no hay una historia, sólo declaraciones de las cosas que les gusta hacer.



**Yummy Yucky/ ¡Ñam! ¡Puaj!**, de Leslie Patricelli. Los espaguetis son deliciosos, pero las lombrices – las crayolas azules, la arena y otras cosas demasiado repugnantes para mencionar – definitivamente saben horrible al probarlas. Con amistosas ilustraciones en estilo gráfico y brillante, Leslie Patricelli nos presenta un animado libro de cartón titulado *Yummy Yucky* [mmm, delicioso/ugh guácala asqueroso!] estelarizado por un atento y muy expresivo bebé peloncito quien muestra cada par de opuestos con un estilo cómico y dramático. ■





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### BOARD MEMBERS FY 2019-2020

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- Latisha Renee Taylor
- Ms. Kim Vuong
  
- Mr. Bob Irlen  
*Advisor to the Board*

## BOARD MEETINGS

- July 16, 2019 – 6:30 pm  
Torrance location, Room A4
- September 17, 2019 – 6:30 pm  
Long Beach location, Room LB1
- November 19, 2019 – 6:30 pm  
Torrance location, Room A4

All regularly-scheduled business meetings of the Board are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The meetings are held in Conference Rooms at Harbor Regional Center.

### Stay in touch and get the latest news!

Send an email to: [enetworksubscriber@harborrc.org](mailto:enetworksubscriber@harborrc.org) with your name and email address, to be added to our electronic mailing list for HRC ENews bulletins.

View our publications online at [www.harborrc.org/resources/publications](http://www.harborrc.org/resources/publications)

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