



Opening Doors to a Brighter Future



Earth Day activities included gift bags with reusable household items in La Palma and a community cleanup at Seasons at Compton.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Bel Canto Books

Local bookshop owner Jhoanna has always believed in the ability of stories to transform lives. When she learned about Linc's new affordable housing community in Long Beach with over 140 children moving in, she knew she wanted to help provide access to new books with inclusive stories and powerful messages. The initial goal was to raise \$1,000, but when she opened up the opportunity to her online community, followers of @belcantobooks created their own amazing ways to raise money:

- donating \$2 for every photo posted of a stack of book spines
- purchasing dozens of books from the online wishlist and in-store shelf, from which Jhoanna gave 5% of proceeds
- sharing the campaign to thousands of their own followers

In total, more than \$2,200 was raised, allowing the resident services team to not only fully stock the library, but also purchase much-needed bookshelf and storage space for the after-school program room. With summer clubs starting, Spark students can combat summer learning loss with these amazing new books!

LIFE-ENHANCING SERVICES

Spring Celebrations

Pepperwood RSC Marina set up a photo opportunity for families as they picked up Easter baskets and Spring candy, encouraging neighbors to re-connect and safely enjoy the outdoors.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Seniors Find Support Online, In-Person

It's impossible to escape technology, especially during a pandemic when so many important tasks are online. From doctor's appointments via video chat to grocery shopping on the web, knowing how to use tech is vital. To help the seniors at Mosaic Gardens at Westlake get up to speed, Linc's interns from USC organized a special workshop, with all COVID safety protocols in place. Seniors were invited to work with the resident

services team, property management, and USC interns on their technology challenges. One resident needed help contesting a parking ticket on the city's website, and another showed up with his new laptop for help learning the basics and connecting to the internet. So often, all it takes is a patient and caring person who will listen and offer support, and that's exactly what happened for participants in the workshop.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Meet Kerry

Although he is the Resident Services Coordinator at Linc's newest property in Long Beach, Spark at Midtown, Kerry is no stranger to Linc, having served as RSC at The Nightingale for two years, and quite familiar with Long Beach, having worked in the Public Health Department for over 20 years. Now, he's excited to be working in his hometown again to support the residents with referrals, summer clubs, supportive services, coffee meetups, computer labs, arts and crafts, and more. In his free time, Kerry goes for runs, spends time with his family, and collects first edition Stephen King books. He looks forward to starting a community garden at Spark after his great success creating one at The Nightingale, and hopes the residents in his care will similarly thrive.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Protecting the Community, One Vaccine at a Time



Navigating the healthcare system can be overwhelming, so Linc Housing was proud to host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Springhaven Apartments in Willowbrook. The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Housing for Health division collaborated with Linc's Resident Services Field Supervisor Gabby to provide information and vaccines to residents. Some had been

meaning to make an appointment, but hadn't been able to yet.

One grandmother and granddaughter had decided they weren't going to get the vaccine, but when they saw it available onsite, took it as a sign that they should. Linc residents and staffmembers were grateful for the gentle care of the nurses and healthworkers who helped with registration, administering the vaccine, and post-shot monitoring. Snacks, sandwiches, and goodie bags with first aid essentials were provided as incentives, as well as a gift card raffle. The team will return after three weeks to provide the second dose, or a first dose to anyone else still hoping to get immunized.

Three Springhaven staffmembers and ten residents received the vaccine, including four who are under 18, an age group that has not had access to the vaccine for as long. All were extremely pleased with the convenience of the clinic: "I live on the 3rd floor, so I just had to come down to the 2nd floor to get the vaccine," said one Springhaven resident.

Linc Housing looks forward to providing more opportunities to protect our residents and the broader community.



Sharing : Caring

Seasons at Los Robles residents in Anderson have dedicated a corner of the entry way for free food and clothing. All food is nonperishable, and the clothing is clean and in great shape! As residents check their daily mail, they can also browse the box of freebies. Periodically, the items are sorted through and discarded if they have expired or been there too long; a few special volunteers spend time keeping items neat and organized. Residents are very generous to each other, and there is a real sense of family at Seasons Los Robles! It is a common sight to see ride shares or neighbors walking together to the nearby Safeway. Now that Spring has arrived, and many residents are getting vaccinated, more and more are seen out and about enjoying fresh air and exercise throughout the day!



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

New Strings for Kayla



Since the start of quarantine, the gloomy mood at Terracina was often lifted by the guitar strumming and soft singing of young resident, Kayla, as she played on her balcony. Although usually very quiet, she loves music, and with extra time at home, decided to teach herself to play guitar. "I was more than happy to open my doors and windows to enjoy the sound echoing through the program room," said RSC Julie. "Even more, I enjoyed hearing her progress throughout the pandemic."

When Linc RSCs were given the chance to design creative programs for a grant application, Julie immediately thought of Kayla. As an 8th grader, Kayla felt a little old to join the regular homework help-based programs, instead being interested in starting a club. "We talked about what she would like to see in the program and used her ideas to create the curriculum," said Julie. "Now we

have the Noisemakers Club, so students can try choir, percussion, guitar, and piano. Kayla is also starting a band with other young residents to perform at the upcoming Family Day talent show."

Initially, Julie thought Kayla could use one of the program's guitars during lessons, and then she could practice with her own guitar at home. Then, while dropping off guitars for repairs at a local shop, Harvard Music Exchange, she mentioned Kayla's balcony concerts. They asked about the condition of the guitars Kayla was using at home. Julie soon discovered her acoustic guitar had missing strings and needed repairs to the neck, and the electric guitar her uncle gave her had major damage as well. The music shop was able to fix, solder, and shine up her electric guitar,

"I wanted her to feel like she has a special place to learn and express herself."

**JULIE,
TERRACINA RSC**

but the acoustic was beyond repair. Julie brought in her own old guitar she hadn't played in years, which Harvard Music Exchange gave a good cleaning and new strings. When Kayla came down to the program room, she was so thrilled with the two new instruments that she sat down and played music for an hour. "This is exactly what I wanted her to gain from the program," said Julie. "I wanted her to feel like she has a special place to learn and express herself."

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS



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COMMUNITY

**New Books for
Spark Library**

PROGRAMS

**Tech Support
for Seniors**

RESIDENTS

Kayla Learns Guitar