July is National UV Safety Month

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. Ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun are the main cause of skin cancer. UV damage can also cause wrinkles and blotchy skin.

The good news? Skin cancer can be prevented! Communities, health professionals and families can work together to prevent skin cancer. We can all use this month to raise awareness about skin cancer and help people take action to prevent it – both at home and in the larger community.

Make a difference: Spread the word about strategies for preventing skin cancer and encourage communities, organizations, families and individuals to get involved.

Learn how to encourage families to adopt good habits together and why it’s important to protect yourself, by downloading sample announcements, sample Tweets, E-cards, Web Badges and complete Tool Kits at: [http://healthfinder.gov/NHO/JulyToolkit.aspx](http://healthfinder.gov/NHO/JulyToolkit.aspx)


Policy of the Month: Workplace Emergency Situations

By Administration

1. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HANDLE THE SITUATION ALONE. As soon as is feasible, contact a unit supervisor, regardless of the hour or day.

2. MAINTAIN YOUR SAFETY AND ASSESS THE SITUATION.
   1. Be there. Be calm.
   2. Talk through the situation.
   3. Assist the client in identifying his/her needs and responsibilities.
   4. Assist the client in making necessary decisions by identifying options, consequences, and rights.

3. SEEK MEDICAL OR POLICE ASSISTANCE, IF APPROPRIATE. For a life-threatening situation call 9-1-1, identify the situation and the dispatcher will determine the emergency intervention personnel needed. Encourage the client to seek medical help and solve any transportation issues (consult Consent for Emergency Treatment/Emergency Procedure Plan form for client/family preference).

4. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CLIENT ALONE! Unless forbidden to remain with your client by police or other emergency personnel, do not leave your client unless/until a supervisor has arrived or until the situation is resolved.

5. ASSIST CLIENT IN CONTACTING NATURAL SUPPORTS (refer to Consent for Emergency Treatment/Emergency Procedure Plan and Client Information Sheet for names of family, friends, etc.)

6. NOTIFY REGIONAL CENTER of the emergency regardless of the hour or day. Your supervisor will make notification.

7. DOCUMENTATION: You must VERBALLY notify your supervisor of the situation as soon as possible. Submit written case notes and a completed “Special Incident Report Form” by end of the first business day following the occurrence.
Southern California

San Marcos
By Teri Geston

What's Going On?
Our Tailor Day Program under Case Manager Dawn Pennepacker is growing faster that we can staff. Great Job Dawn. In under one year she has grown the program from only 4 clients to 18+ with referrals coming in almost weekly.

Imperial Valley has done an amazing job of continuing to meet the needs of our clients while the office is closed for renovating (which has taken WAY too long). I am very proud of the way these Case Managers, DSS and all the staff have handled not having a home office to work from for the last 6 weeks. You all are amazing and I am extremely proud of the work you are doing.

Welcome to our new San Marcos staff:
Rowena Cavanaugh  DSA  IL program
Omega Reid-Smith  SL Program
Cheyenne Wickline  SL Program

South Bay
Santa Clara
By Erica Barber

What's Going On?
A big warm welcome to our new clients, James and Michelle! James is new to ILS. Michelle is new to the Bay Area and lives with her fiancé.

Our Case Manager Stephanie took some time off to enjoy an Alaskan cruise with her family. She had a blast and the sights were breathtaking!

Shout out to Farley, Office Assistant in Salinas, for receiving Employee of the Quarter! She deserves it! Denise and the Case managers celebrated with her at New Awakenings for lunch.

We would like to congratulate our client, Chris, who plays on a Power Wheelchair Soccer Team. His team, the San Jose Steamrollers, came in 2nd Place at the National Conference Cup Tournament that was hosted in Indianapolis, Indiana last month!

Salinas
By Farley Odad
What’s Going On?

Its healthy snack time…anybody want some? We are blessed to have such trusting and helping community. CM Andrea started sending out donation letters to local and Franchise Company, and the result is this……boxes of salad and vegetables snack from the best of “Taylor Farms”. When you buy salad from Taylor Farms think of us Salinas “Salad Bowl of the World”. We are surely grateful.

Big shout out to client J. Mendoza for passing his DMV written test. This is just the beginning of his journey to become independent.

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Redwood Coast

**Ukiah**

*By JoAnn Holiday*

**What's Going On?**

It has been HOT in Ukiah! That hasn’t stopped us from having fun.

Special Olympics softball has continued with Dave and Paul at bat. The Ukiah Rod and Gun Club met us up at Mill Creek Dams and fished with us, sharing their expertise. Fish were caught and released.

Cindy has been recovering from an illness and has had limited opportunities to do anything fun. She and her dog Bobo accompanied PL Mone on a tour of Lake County parks. It was a relaxing and enjoyable afternoon.

The local skate club held a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser that included a fantastic performance by the skaters. It was a delicious and entertaining evening attended by almost everyone from the Consumer Advisory Committee.

Happy Birthdays were wished to Richard, Rafael and Diana and staff Cindy, Lizabeth, Katie, Darlene and JoAnn.

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North Valley

**Manteca**

*By Jessica Ramos*

**What's Going On?**

Congratulations to Dwight Mahabir for 20 years of service with CCC. Manteca office celebrated Dwight’s luncheon at Dewz Restaurant in Modesto. We enjoyed their fine dining and reminisced of how we each first met Dwight and our memories shared with Dwight. It is an honor and pleasure to have Dwight on our team!

At our July staff meeting, the managers gave a training on medication basics and then each staff was given a test. The staff that received an 80% or higher on the test was put in a drawing for a $15 Applebee’s gift card....... and the winner was.................... WANDA BROWNELL! CONGRATULATIONS!

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Central Valley

**Visalia**

*By Steven Camacho*

**What's Going On?**

This month the Visalia Office kicked off the month with a Fourth of July BBQ that also celebrated client Connie's Birthday.

The staff and consumers were able to cool off by engaging in water games at the park. The Client Advisory Committee selected Pismo Beach for this month’s outing. The clients along with their staff spent the day at the beach and had a group lunch where they were all able to enjoy their favorite seafood selections. The beach outing is definitely one that the clients look forward to every summer.
Employee Anniversaries

16 Years
Sharon Knivila | Ukiah

15 Years
Luz Velarde | El Centro

14 Years
Sandra Gayles | Stockton
Lori Krieger | Ukiah

12 Years
Diana Ragan | Ukiah

9 Years
Teddy Agbayani | Manteca
Stacy Meyer | San Marcos

8 Years
Eula Wilburn | San Marcos

7 Years
Sara Cabrera | El Centro
Maria Lopez | Visalia

5 Years
Jacob Carter | Merced
Christopher Solis | Fresno

4 Years
Daynique Chandler | Fresno
Tanya Morrison | Visalia

3 Years
Keyshay Thomas | Fresno

2 Years
Mark Callen | VCS
Laurie Mastromarino | VCS
Whitney Willis | VCS

1 Year
Keila Arvizu Saldivier | Visalia
Gabriela Astudillo | Fresno
Edward Castro | Fresno
Brandi Cross | Visalia
Geraldine Hood | Visalia
Brittney Koval | VCS
Isabel Lopez | Fresno
Ronda Lyon | Fresno
Debbie Padilla | Manteca
Cynthia Quintero | El Centro
Rene Rios | VCS
Janell Sanders | VCS
Rose Singh | Visalia
Linda Sullivan | VCS

Corporate
By Claudia Hutchinson

What’s Going On?

A big thank you to Alesia Forte for her work at Community Catalysts! The corporate office team will miss her and we wish her lots of luck in Georgia.

Surprise Jacque! Alesia left a little prank for Jacque on her last day. She left Jacque’s workstation covered in photos of her cat. MEOW!

Welcome Adela Chavez to Community Catalysts! Adela is our Human Resources Coordinator. We are happy that she joined the Butterfly Club and is already wearing the t-shirt in this photo!

Veterans Community Service
By Angie Striepling

What’s Going On?

☀️ Rock Star Story ☀️

Mr. Robinson has been a landlord partner with VCS, housing our veteran families, since October of 2016. He has demonstrated time and time again his willingness and dedication to strengthen our partnership. Since October, Mr. Robinson has offered two homes as shared housing opportunities (roommate situations) to our veterans. His properties were one of the first pilot shared housing projects that we used in San Diego for housing multiple homeless veterans. With each bump in the road, Mr. Robinson effectively communicated his concerns as well as his expectations for the shared housing project. Even as a couple challenging situations arose, Mr. Robinson was open to new ideas and continued working with us and the veterans. Mr. Robinson has gone above and beyond and has been a pleasure to work with. On behalf of the homeless veterans in San Diego, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

In Other News

VCS is excited to announce that we were awarded funding through the Department of Labor’s Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP). Receiving this funding has allowed us to hire a small team of staff to enroll eligible and job ready homeless veterans into HVRP with the goal of case managing and providing a variety of supportive services to increase their employability skills, attain and maintain that employment.

Congratulations to the following VCS Employees!

- Amber Aspeitia on her promotion to Intake Coordinator
- Jonathan Koong on his promotion to Case Coordinator
- Whitney Willis on her new position as the HVRP Employment Coordinator
- Terin Ortega on her promotion to HVRP Job Developer

Best Wishes!

Although we are so proud of Dori Sotelo, Case Coordinator for being accepted into her MSW program and Stephanie Castillo, Intake Specialist (former Coordinator) who was accepted for a full time VA internship with her MSW program; we are very sad that we are losing them as VCS employees this month. We wish them the very best and know they will make amazing social workers!