

NEWSLETTER



July 2024



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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Our New Program Manager

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Community Update from MERCi

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with our community. On April 19th, 2024, MERCi proudly celebrated the ribbon-cutting ceremony for our on-site community garden. This event marked a significant milestone for us, and we were honored to have several distinguished guests in attendance, including Mayor Thomas Wong, the Honorable Mike Eng, Fire Chief Chris Thompson, and Councilman Henry Lo. The ceremony was generously sponsored by Raising Cane's Chicken.

The outpouring of community support was truly heartwarming. We were joined by numerous local community members, including preschoolers from Happy Day Preschool, members of the Monterey Park and Rosemead Kiwanis, the Monterey Park Women's Club, the Monterey Park Rotary, and representatives from the East Los Angeles Regional Center.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Cathay Bank Foundation and Christine and Angelo Devito, our primary sponsors for the garden. Their generous support made this project possible. Thank you also to IOTEC for sponsoring our garden for July. Additionally, we are immensely grateful to our board of directors for their continuous support and dedication.

We invite you to participate in our upcoming events on our campus and become more engaged with our non-profit organization. Your involvement is vital to our mission, and we look forward to seeing you at future events. We will continue our partnership with Food Ed to host monthly Gardening Days,



typically on the first Friday of the month from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. However, due to the July 4th holiday weekend, July's Gardening Day will be on July 12th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Food Ed will be off in August, and we will resume our first Friday of the month Gardening Day in September. We hope to see you all on **July 12th!**

Our participants and residents are also utilizing our fitness center to meet their healthy living goals. We extend our gratitude to the Beth and Wilbur Woo Foundation for their contributions and to our board member, Rene Araiza, without whom this would not have been possible.

We are also thrilled to announce a generous donation from the Monterey Park Kiwanis of \$2,000 worth of musical instruments, including a piano. Our participants enjoy the therapy and joy that music brings, and this donation will greatly enhance their experience.

Recently, MERCI enjoyed a Rodeo-Themed party hosted by our instructors in our Adult Day Program. Families and friends of MERCI were invited to join in a day of fun, food, and music.



Carlos Abrego brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his role as a Supportive Living Services Supervisor, backed by his studies in sociology and behavioral sciences. Over the past two years, he has focused on elevating the quality of care and support for those his organization serves.

Known for his commitment to honesty and open communication, Carlos believes that fostering trust and understanding through meaningful conversations is crucial. This philosophy propels him to constantly explore new ways to improve services and make a positive difference in the community.

Outside of work, Carlos channels his passion for water polo by coaching the club team he once played for. Through this, he not only gives back to his community but also helps young athletes develop their skills and love for the sport. In every aspect of his life, Carlos is dedicated to creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

PASS
Adult Day Program
Manager



Upcoming Events at MERCI

We are excited to announce a series of upcoming events that promise to bring joy and engagement to our community. First up, we have partnered with the Dodgers to offer discounted tickets for their game against the Brewers on July 7th, during the Independence Day weekend. This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a fun day at the ballpark while supporting MERCI. Tickets are priced at \$50 each, without processing fees. We hope you can join us and cheer on the Dodgers!

In addition, we will be teaming up with the Monterey Park Police Department for an outreach event at Barnes Park, located at 350 S. McPherrin Ave, Monterey Park, CA 91754. This event will take place on August 6th, 2024, from 6-8pm. There will be games and various activities for all ages, and it will be a great chance to learn more about our organization and the services we offer. We encourage everyone to visit us and participate in this community-building event.

Lastly, we are thrilled to announce the return of our 31st Annual Trees of Enchantment Event! This magical event will be held at Quiet Canyon in the 1st and 3rd Ballroom on Sunday, December 8th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Trees of Enchantment is a delightful four-hour brunch that features live entertainment and the chance to win one of 20 beautifully decorated, themed Christmas trees through raffle tickets. Each tree is adorned with a variety of themed gifts, making it a perfect addition to your end-of-year celebrations. There are also multiple sponsorship opportunities available for this enchanting event.

We look forward to your participation in these events and thank you for your continued support of MERCI. Your involvement helps us to continue our mission and make a positive impact in our community.

Message from MERCI's Executive Director

Dear MERCI Community,

MERCI is proud to have had a productive 2024 so far! We are incredibly thankful for the continued outpouring of community support. Our team is dedicated to ensuring that our adult participants and residents continue to lead a life of their own choosing.



Come enjoy a cup of joe at MERCI, where we will be opening a small coffee shop run by our participants Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. We will also be hosting a talent show run by our day program participants in the fall—stay tuned for more details.

As always, we require additional support. As we are reaching capacity at our day program, we hope to complete renovations in our South Building, enabling us to serve at least 12 more participants. Any contribution helps—please consider making a monetary or in-kind donation. We are seeking volunteers to lead yoga, music, or art classes for our participants. If you're interested in sharing your talents, please contact us to join our vibrant community.

Best regards,

Angela Pao-Johnson
Executive Director, MERCI

