

ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE

NOV 2023 NEWSLETTER

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

Last month was National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the City of Calexico, City of El Centro, City of San Diego, and City of Escondido issued a proclamation declaring this month as NDEAM and announced Access to Independence as one of the leading organizations that recognizes and celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities. Check out these photos from last month!



Above Image Text: Karina Leon, Program Manager of Imperial Valley) and City of El Centro council members smiling and Karina holding up proclamation award

Upcoming Events



Image(above) Text: Letty Zuno, Executive Director standing and smiling with Calexico City Council members holding award.



Image(above) Text: Letty Zuno, Executive Director smiling with City of San Diego council members holding proclamation award.



Image(above) Text: Hermes Castro, Program Manager of San Diego, smiling holding proclamation award next to police officers



Image(above) Text: Hermes Castro, Program Manager of San Diego, smiling with Escondido City council members behind podium.



Upcoming Events

Escondido Branch

Event #1: Benefits Counseling Program

Description: Join us and learn about how to seek and apply for benefits as well as how to self-advocate for yourself! Learn all about the application process for Social Security, CalFresh, Utilities, Section 8, In-Home Services and Supports (IHSS), Public Transportation and Healthcare!

Date: Contact Vivian for date!

Time: Contact Vivian for time!

Location: 235 W. 5th Ave. Suite 110, Escondido, CA 92025

Contact: Vivian Radam, LTSS, 619-704-2435, vradam@accessto independence.org

Event #2: Adaptive Sports & Recreation

Description: You are invited to join Access to Independence in our new Adaptive Sports & Recreation program! Come get involved in our wheelchair sports that include basketball, rugby, and power soccer!

Date: Fridays and Sundays - Wheelchair Sports Open Gym

Time: Friday from 1:30 - 3:30 PM and Sunday from 10 AM - 12 PM

Location: Junior Seau Beach Community Center, 300 North Stand, Oceanside, CA 920254

Contact: Hermes Castro- (619)704-2058, hcastro@accessto independence.org

Event #3: Emergency Preparedness

Description: Are you prepared for when an emergency strikes? You are invited to participate in our Emergency Preparedness training to develop an emergency plan for how you will evacuate and/or shelter in place during a natural disaster such as a fire, earthquake, or another pandemic!

Date: Every 2nd Tuesday of the Month

Time: 1 PM

Location: 235 W. 5th Avenue Suite 110 Escondido CA 92025

Contact: Vivian Radam, ILSC, 619-704-2435, vradam@accessto independence.org

Event #5: Transition & Diversion

Description: Are you ready to transition out of a residential medical institution into your own independent home? This program is for you! Let Access to Independence advocate beside you in order to transition into your community successfully!

Date: Call to schedule an appointment!

Time: Call today

Location: 235 W. 5th Ave Suite 110, Escondido, CA 92025

Contact: Suly Jimenez, Transition & Diversion Coordinator, 760-704-2058
sjimenez@accessto independence.org

Upcoming Events

Imperial Valley Branch

Event #1: Enhanced Vision Program

Description: Access to Independence offers a program exclusively for individuals who are 55 years or older with vision loss or blindness. Come and hear more about the Enhanced Vision program.

Date: 11/01/2023

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PST

Location: Holtville Gardens Apartments -950 Holt Ave Holtville, CA 92250

Contact: Judith Brown, LTSS Coordinator, 760-618-0467, jbrown@accesstoindpendence.org.



Access to independence provides 40 families who have received our services with a care basket for the holiday season. A \$50 donation will provide a family of 4 with a complete holiday meal but any donation will help us reach our goal of \$2000.

Please make your donations out to:

8885 Rio San Diego Dr. Suite 135 San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 293-3500

Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law.

Tax ID: 51-0197097



SCHEDULE YOUR FREE SDG&E GAS APPLIANCE SAFETY CHECK

As the weather gets cooler, the use of natural gas appliances like water heaters, furnaces and ovens can go up. Schedule a gas appliance check with SDG&E to make sure your appliances are working properly and efficiently to help keep gas bills lower. Getting your appliances inspected is a great way to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning too.

One of SDG&E's gas technicians will come to your home or business to inspect your natural gas appliances. There are several complimentary services:

- Light and inspect gas pilot lights. Make sure pilot lights and burner flames are a clear blue.
- Check that gas appliances are operating safely and efficiently and not emitting carbon monoxide.
- Ensure gas furnaces are working properly and inspect the condition of the filter which improves the furnace's heating ability.

Visit sdge.com/GasCheck for details. You can schedule your appointment at sdge.com/MyAccount or on SDG&E's [mobile app](#). When in My Account, select "Services," "Services Overview" then "Gas Appliances Check." If you're in the app, select the "More" tab. From "Services," select "Gas Appliances Check."



Access to Independence is seeking your input!

If you are between the ages of 14-24 and have a disability or you are a parent of a child with a disability, we want to hear from you! Your feedback will help us improve our Youth Program to benefit our community in a meaningful way. For San Diego residents, visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YouthandParentYouthSurvey2022TYR57K6> to complete a brief survey.

For Hawaii residents, visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HawaiiYouthSurvey2022CQDL5NK>

Access to Independence is Hiring!

Open positions: Long-Term Supports & Services Coordinator - Imperial Valley

To apply, send your resume to jobs@accesstoindpendence.org

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