

# THE CALI PROJECT

Bi-Annual Newsletter



**IT'S 2025!**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we welcome 2025, we want to thank **YOU** for making 2024 unforgettable. Together, we've celebrated wins, faced challenges and made a difference in our community. We're so excited to keep building, growing and thriving with your support. Here's to a fresh year full of opportunities - let's all make it amazing together!

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

### SHOES TO SHARE: WALK TO CARE

Our Crew, their family, friends and CALI supporters stepped up for the cause! Thank you for your amazing support, we were able to collect over **600 pairs** of shoes and joined together to walk in the sunshine and gather for a BBQ at the CALI House!



### WINE, DINE AND SHINE GALA

Our third gala was definitely a night to remember! From delicious food to wonderful moments with our crew, friends and supporters, it was a true celebration of community. Huge shoutout to the chefs and musicians who graced Bargetto with their exceptional talent. You guys are amazing!





## NEW CLUBS AT THE CALI HOUSE

We're thrilled to share that two new clubs launched at The CALI House for 2024 - the Dungeons and Dragons Mondays and the Art Club. These have brought so much joy and creativity to our Crew, along with our usual Tuesday Dinner Nights!

## OUR GROWING TEAM IS EXPANDING OUR REACH!

We proudly ended 2024 with 8 dedicated coaches, all working hand in hand to empower and support our amazing crew. Their dedication has been essential in helping us serve and empower 20+ clients, a growth that represents more than just numbers - it's about the lives we've touched and the independence we've helped foster. A huge WIN!

Shen



Frankie



Tia



Ryan



Rebecca



Sydney



Denice



Andy



Thanks to Omega NU's generous grant and the incredible support from our community donors, we've also installed a wheelchair lift in the house! This addition has made our services more accessible, allowing us to welcome and support more clients with diverse needs. We couldn't have done this without **YOU!**



## CALI CREW INSPIRATIONS

In this edition of our newsletter, we are delighted to highlight the achievements of William and Jess, who are both making great strides toward securing paid employment in the community and increasing their independence.

**William** is currently gaining valuable work experience through his volunteer position at **Grey Bears**, where he dedicates three days a week. He is also a part-time student and is actively working towards greater independence both at home and in the community. William's motivation and dedication are inspiring, and we are proud to have him as part of our community.

**Jess**, while a newer member of our community, has already secured an internship at **Skills of Life Cafe**. She is also involved in our art club and is developing her culinary independence by learning and sharing new recipes with her friends and family. She is a very funny and creative individual and has been awesome in her motivation to get out into the community and make new friends.

Check out **Skills of Life Cafe!** - stepping stone for teens and young adults with mild intellectual disabilities to gain real-world job training in a supportive environment.

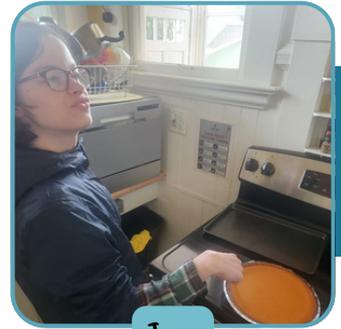
Learn more at [www.skillsoflife.org](http://www.skillsoflife.org)

**Location:** 979 17th Ave, Santa Cruz (Front patio at Simpkins Swim Center)

**Hours:** Wednesday–Friday: 9 AM–5 PM | Saturday: 9 AM–1 PM



William



Jess



## WHAT'S YET TO COME THIS 2025

We have exciting things lined up for the first quarter of the year! **Mark your calendars** for our events this coming 2025:

**Apr 13, 2025 - CALI Walkathon**

**Sep 20, 2025 - The CALI Project's 4th Annual Gala**

Exciting changes ahead! New clients are moving into the CALI Transition House, and we're welcoming even more to our growing community. With ongoing program improvements, 2025 promises empowerment and growth for all!

We want to express our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your unwavering support, dedication, and belief in our mission have made 2024 unforgettable. We're so excited to step into 2025 with you by our side and can't wait to see you at our upcoming CALI events!

**Cissi Van Wickler, Program Director**  
**Judy Maitland-Locke, Director**  
**The Board and The CALI Crew**

***P.S. Big news! In 2026, we're celebrating our 10th Anniversary! Join our Anniversary Planning Committee to help create a memorable celebration. Whether you love event planning, storytelling, or just want to be part of this milestone, we'd love your help. Reach out and email us at [admin@thecaliproject.org](mailto:admin@thecaliproject.org) to get involved!***