

Sharing resources, inspiration, opportunities and strategies for success with the Linkages Programs and our partners.

A quarterly newsletter from the California Linkages Site Association

Preventing unnecessary institutionalization through care management for frail seniors and disabled adults.



On Success... From Humboldt Senior Resource Center

Juan is a 52 year old Puerto Rican man who moved to California in his early 20's. He attended school at USC and was creating a meaningful life when he was found unconscious in a San Francisco park, having been beaten and near death. He received extensive rehab and eventually learned to walk again. His gait is uneven and he has to walk carefully to avoid falls. His speech is slurred and unclear. It is not uncommon for people to assume he is under the influence of alcohol or drugs and he has had some problems with law enforcement as a result. As is common with traumatic brain injuries, Juan has low impulse control and anger management problems and lacks insight into the repercussions of his behavior.

Juan was homeless when he was referred to Linkages by the APS. Linkages helped him access food through food banks, bus tickets for transportation to medical appointments, provided him with a tent and sleeping bag, and hotel shelter during the fierce winter storms. Linkages became Juan's voice in communicating with service providers and potential landlords.

When Linkages called a Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting (MDT), it was clear that until Juan was housed, the problems he was experiencing were unlikely to resolve. APS agreed to work with Juan for a limited time to find housing. They successfully located a small apartment in Eureka.

Linkages was then able to assist Juan with moving his belongings from storage, setting up a household and applying for IHSS.

The change in Juan was remarkable. His mood and behavior improved and he was friendly and appreciative. He became motivated to fix up his home so that it was comfortable and clean. He declined IHSS, but accepted help through another provider for shopping and instruction in cooking.

The situation with Juan demonstrates the need for providers to work together and Linkages ability to truly create those collaborations and "links".

"It isn't for the moment you are struck that you need courage, but for the long uphill climb back to sanity and faith and security."

-Anne Morrow Lindbergh

ADVOCACY

Who have YOU told about Linkages lately?

"Apathy is one of the characteristic responses of any living organism when it is subjected to stimuli too intense or too complicated to cope with. The cure for apathy is comprehension." John Dos Passos

Find your local legislator:

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>

Notes...

Find information about the Linkages Program at:

<http://www.aging.ca.gov/html/programs/linkages.html>

or www.c4a.info

or contact:

**Arlene Phalen Hostetter, LSA
President at**

AHostetter@csuchico.edu

FACT: Based on a recent survey with 72% of Linkages sites reporting, the current average cost per client per year is \$2,646 (\$446 over the maximum established by CDA per PM 02-26). 69% of sites reported without augmentation in FY 08-09, they may not be able to operate the program or retain staff.

NECESSITY, the mother of invention...

HELPING CLIENTS ACCESS SUPPORT and SERVICES

- ☑ **The Property Tax Postponement Program** allows eligible homeowners to postpone payment of part or all of the property taxes on their residence. To participate in this program, the homeowner must complete the claim form and submit it to the State Controller's Office. Go to: <http://www.sco.ca.gov/col/taxinfo/ptp/geninfo/description.shtml>
- ☑ **California's 250% Working Disabled Program** may help clients with a high share of cost for Medi-Cal. Go to: http://www.disabilitybenefits101.org/ca/programs/health_coverage/m edi_cal/250/index.htm
- ☑ The Department of Rehabilitation has made **Transition Funding Grants** available to all California Independent Living Centers. Contact your local ILC for more information.

