

LSF Southern California Children and Family Services: Happy Campers Children's Center Celebrating Milestones, Making Memories, & Growing Together

Spring has been a season of joy and growth at Happy Campers Children's Center! From heartfelt Valentine's crafts to a green-filled St. Patrick's Day and a lively Easter Egg Hunt, our center was brimming with creativity and community spirit.

The children had a blast engaging in themed activities that helped them build friendships, express themselves, and explore the

world around them. Whether laughing during crafts or learning through play, each experience brought excitement and discovery.

The highlight was our very first Graduation Celebration in early June—a proud moment recognizing how much our children have grown emotionally, socially, and academically. Watching them blossom into confident

individuals is what we're all about!

At Happy Campers Children's Center, we do more than care for children—we celebrate every step of their journey. Our enriching programs, loving staff, and vibrant learning environment make us more than a childcare center—we're a place where children thrive and shine.



Mia's Journey at Life Steps with Grace, the Early Interventionist

Mia was referred to Life Steps at 18 months of age due to concerns about her gross motor and social-emotional development. She lives with her mom and grandmother in a bilingual home where both Spanish and English are spoken.

At the start of intervention, Mia had difficulty with balance and often preferred crawling over walking. She struggled to climb small steps

and became frustrated when unable to express her needs—often leading to tears or withdrawal.

Mia made steady progress throughout the sessions. As her motor stability improved, obstacle courses soon became a favorite activity. During play, she grew more confident expressing her emotions and began clapping and waving to show excitement.

By the end of the program, Mia was running confidently, climbing onto furniture with ease, and using a growing vocabulary to express her needs—saying, "happy, my turn, and help." Her bright smile and cheerful giggles always brought joy to our sessions.

"We will forever be grateful for the patience and care you showed to Mia. She's made so much progress thanks to you!" – Mia's Family

LSF Southern California Adult Services: Meet the New Program Manager



Elizabeth Flores-Gomez, newly appointed Program Manager at Life Steps Foundation SoCal Adult Services in Long Beach, brings over 25 years of dedicated service to the organization. Starting as an office assistant

manager just out of college, she quickly discovered her calling in a direct support professional capacity. Since then, she's held a variety of roles—including In-Home Educator/Community Support Facilitator, Human Resources Lead, and Program Supervisor. This new role has strengthened her commitment to the organization and broadened her ability to uplift individuals and support the broader community.

Outside of work, Elizabeth has a fondness for animals and enjoys going to the beach, gardening, and crocheting. **Her love language is gift giving.** 📺 She begins each day

at dawn, getting her furry baby, Flash Gordon, ready and tidying the house before heading off to work. Evenings are spent cooking dinner for her daughter, Zowie, checking in with her husband during his night shift, and winding down in comfy clothes while catching up with him over his late-night meal.

Supporting a young mother of six early in her career proved to be a pivotal moment that affirmed her life's purpose. "A light bulb went off," she recalls, "and I realized I was good being out in the field and found what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

We're incredibly grateful to **Helpers Community** for their **\$12,500 grant** to complete the kitchen renovation at LSF SoCal Adult Services. This updated space supports life skills training such as meal preparation and healthy eating for those we serve.

LSF Central Coast Adult Services: Introducing the New QM Lead

Life Steps Foundation Central Coast Adult Services continues to prioritize individualized, person-centered, and high quality care. As part of our ongoing commitment to excellence, we're proud to introduce a new Lead Quality Management position—and we're excited to welcome Amanda Westbrook into this important role. This position supports the management team by overseeing staff training and re-training, ensuring in-home quality control documentation is completed thoroughly, and upholding Life Steps' performance standards and policies. Strong quality control in our in-home services directly benefits our clients, the regional centers who



refer and fund services, and our staff by promoting consistency, clarity, and a positive care environment.

Amanda brings a wealth of experience, including her work with the California Code of Regulations for Title 17 and Title 22. She began her career as a

direct support professional and steadily advanced into group home management, gaining deep insight into service delivery at every level.

Over the years, she has led teams with success, developed strategic program initiatives, maintained regulatory compliance, and used data-driven insights to guide decision-making. She is also highly skilled in crisis management, project planning, and team supervision.

Amanda's leadership and dedication will be instrumental in strengthening our quality assurance efforts as we continue to grow and serve the Central Coast. **Welcome to the team, Amanda!**

LSF Northern California Children and Family Services: Farewell to the Powerhouse Duo

The Northern California CAFS team will sadly be saying farewell to — yet also celebrating the retirement of — two of our most treasured, influential, and valuable Infant Development Specialists. Cathy Coggins and Sharon Priven have been inspiring leaders for our entire team as well as within the field. They have cared for, advocated for,

and encouraged the children and families we've served during their 11.5 and 13.5 years with Life Steps. These two have been a powerhouse duo, endlessly supporting and guiding our team with compassion and respect. Cathy and Sharon will truly be missed. We wish you both the very best in your next chapter!



LSF Northern California Adult Services: Every Day is Earth Day 5K is Back!

We are thrilled to announce that after five years of postponing our in-person 5K event, it made its return this year!

On April 26, 2025, community supporters, sponsors, and Life Steps Foundation partners came out to enjoy a day at the beautiful park by Lake Merced in San Francisco. It was the perfect day to promote a healthy lifestyle and support the planet. Our event is not just about

running, walking, biking, or hiking — it's about making a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors: Albertsons Companies Foundation, JBC Group LLC, Los Angeles County Supervisorial District 5, Nor-Cal FDC, PG&E, IVITAL, Orange County Supervisorial District 2, PYC Commercial, S3M Insurance Services, Touchstone

Construction, and Walnut Valley Water District. Special thanks to Thermo Fisher Scientific and Costco Wholesale #422.

Congratulations to our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in both the male and female categories for your impressive times and performances. And a big hooray to all participants — see you next year!



LIFE STEPS FOUNDATION®



LIFE STEPS PROGRAM LOCATIONS

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Happy Campers
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Life Steps Foundation was launched in 1983 and has successfully improved the lives of thousands of children and adults diagnosed with delays or developmental disabilities. The purpose of our programs and services is to enhance participants' lives, empower them to achieve life goals, foster self-advocacy, and ensure they can live as independently as possible as adults. We accomplish this by enhancing their abilities and providing aid in the areas of communication, money management, household upkeep, mobility, socialization, and making healthy life choices. In addition, we provide in-home assistance to frail seniors who desire to remain living in their own homes. Please consider joining our Life Steps community with a donation. All donations support of our work to brighten the lives of the children, adults, seniors, and families we assist. We accept donations in the form of stocks, bequests, and vehicles. Visit www.lifesteps.org and click the 'Donate' button today!

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