



PROVIDING DIGNITY, RESPECT & CHOICE TO PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SERRA CENTER HISTORY

MISSION
To provide dignity, respect and choice for persons with developmental disabilities.

VISION
To be a leader in providing compassionate state-of-the-art services to people with disabilities.

VALUES
Diversity • Advocacy
Compassion • Faith
Caring • Simplicity Choice
• Inclusion

In 1975, Serra Residential Center was founded as a service unit of the National Benevolent Association, the health and human services arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The agency, designed as a model peer living center aimed at integrating adults with developmental disabilities into the community, opened its doors on an exclusive 3-acre campus located in Mission San Jose in Fremont.

In 1983 Serra Center became affiliated with the Regional Center of the East Bay to provide community based Independent Living Services. With the trend for services in California moving away from large facility-based care towards small, individualized supported living arrangements, in 1992 Serra Center began providing Supported Living Services.

By 1996, Serra Center had fulfilled its destiny. With the sale of the exclusive property that once housed our residential care facilities, the agency became a fully inclusive to the community by relocating our residential care facilities to homes throughout Fremont, focusing on providing services that integrate adults with developmental disabilities into the community.



SCAN TO DONATE

General Donations:
<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/DevelopmentalDisability2024>



Serra Center

Providing dignity, respect & choice to persons with developmental disabilities

Photographs by
Lisa Winner Photography



WALK THIS WAY
Awareness Walk June 22, 2024



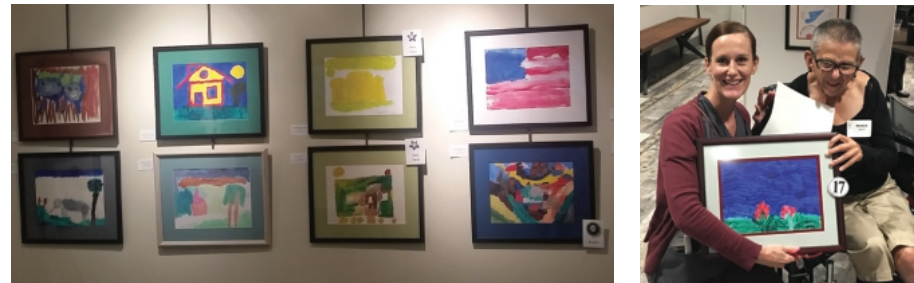
SAVE the DATE Thursday, November 7, 6pm to 8pm

Fremont Downtown Event Center
3500 Capitol Avenue, Fremont, CA 94538

Meet the Artists ♥ Art Auction ♥ Great Auction Items ♥ Appetizers & Wine ♥ Raffle Items

Culminating an art workshop for our Serra Center artists sponsored by Olive Hyde Art Guild and the City of Fremont

For add'l information contact Frank R. Yoke,
39210 State St., Ste. 208 Fremont, CA 94538 or
fyokeiii@serracenter.org



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<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/WalkThisWay2024>



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!

Join Serra Center to walk with the people we serve in unity and honor!

2024 Walk This Way Awareness Walk

Saturday, June 22, 2024 | 9:30am to 11:00am
Fremont Downtown Event Center - 3500 Capitol Avenue, Fremont, CA 94538

SERRA CENTER

39210 State Street, Suite 208 Fremont, CA 94538 | 510-477-1000 | www.serracenter.org



Cary



Fili & Terry

Walking together in unity and honor

2024
SPRING NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO LISA SENADENOS

March is a special time for the Serra Center family! First of all, March has been celebrated across the nation as National Developmental Disability Awareness Month (NDDAM) since 1987. We look forward to creating much needed awareness for Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities.

This month is also a great opportunity to celebrate our wonderful clients and their accomplishments. Please enjoy this newsletter that highlights a couple of our exceptional clients Carol and Donald are just two of the 76 people that are the Serra Center family. Success could not occur without the dedication of our care givers and staff.

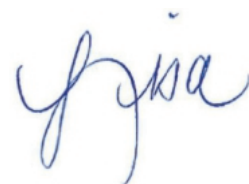
And throughout, we were here for our clients, whom we care for like our own family -- because they are.

Serra Center clients look forward to March because the long-awaited Art Workshop begins! Many of our clients are blessed with great artistic talent. We are grateful to the City of Fremont and the Olive Hyde Art Guild for bring these talents out in our clients.

Now we're holding the 14th Annual Art Workshop that will take place at the Olive Hyde Art Guild. I am grateful for this gift to our clients. The artists will have the time of their lives. This year's workshop will lead to the 2024 Heart and Soul Art Auction that will take place on November 7th at the Fremont Downtown Event Center.

We have served our clients, in many cases for decades. Serra Center is proud to help our extended family live their best life. Unfortunately, in the circle of life our time on the earth concludes as was the case recently of a long-term client, Marsha Smith. Marsha and her talents will be missed by all who knew her.

Most gratefully,



IN MEMORY OF MARSHA SMITH FROM SERRA CENTER

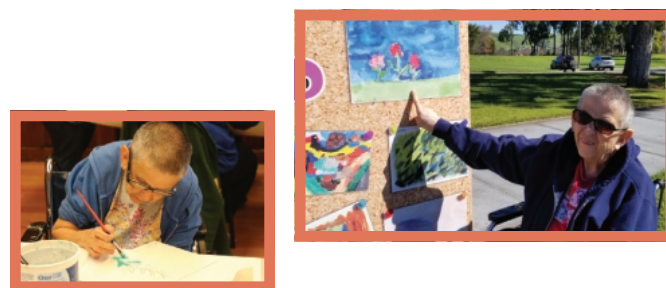
It is with great sadness that we share news from Serra Center about Marsha Smith's passing on March 12. She was a beloved client and family member of Serra Center for 20 years.

Marsha was a member of the very first Serra Center Art Workshop in 2011 along with her dear close friend Donald Dimenco and treasured Serra Support Coordinator Renee Chatman.

Marsha was a wonderful artist and especially enjoyed painting floral scenes. Her art is featured on the "My World" boxART at Central Park, which was created by artists from the 2018 Serra art workshop.

Marsha was ready to begin her 14th year in the 2024 Serra Center Art Workshop. She will be missed by her fellow artists and so many others involved in the art workshop. A quote from Marsha in 2016... "Painting is Fun".

With sincere condolences to Marsha's family and everyone at Serra Center, From your friends at Olive Hyde Art Guild.



THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

CAROL



Carol came to Serra Center in 1976 and her life was forever changed. She became part of the "Serra Center family" and met her future husband, John, here, where they were married in 1986.

Together Carol and John found a home within the Serra Center community. With the help of their Living Skills Support Team, they settled into their apartment and immersed themselves in a vibrant community life. Their active involvement in the Mormon church brought them fulfillment and lasting friendships.

However, in the face of a post-pandemic world filled with uncertainties, Carol encountered profound challenges. In 2020 she experienced the loss of her beloved husband, John, and battled several health issues. In early 2023, Carol received the daunting diagnosis of cancer. Our dedicated team of caregivers was right there supporting Carol around the clock to

continue living life on her terms. Today Carol is cancer-free! A testimony to Carol's resilience, strength and encouragement from her supported living community.

Carol attends a day program 3 days a week. She enjoys creating arts and crafts, crossword puzzles, watching old TV Land sitcoms and knitting. With the support of her living skills team, Carol attends church every Sunday, visiting friends and sharing a meal out at a local restaurant.

As Carol steps into 2024 at age 80, she is determined to embrace life fully. This began with a symbolic gesture—the renovation of her apartment. With fresh new floors and furniture, her home now reflects a physical and symbolic transformation. It signifies a new chapter with new possibilities and opportunities.

Carol's journey is a testament to the power of resilience and the importance of community support. Her unwavering spirit inspires hope and serves as a reminder to embrace life fully, even in the face of adversity. We are so fortunate to have the pleasure of sharing Carol's life for the past 48 years!



DONALD

Donald is a sixty-six year old man residing in the Valpey ICF-DDH Home. Donald attends a day program at Sorensdale Recreation Center in Hayward, California.

Donald's independence and hard work at his day program has earned him a job at the programs Thrift Store. A job not many participants at the day program are entrusted to do.

Donald spends the majority of his Thursday's and Friday's organizing clothes, tagging prices and getting clothes on the floor and ready to sell. A Sorensdale staff member commented that Donald "is a hard worker and always gives 110% effort here at Sorensdale."

