

# THE **adjoiner** MONTHLY

CREATING **LIMITLESS** PATHWAYS

APRIL 2025 EDITION  
THE LATEST ADJOIN NEWS

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Director

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

BY: Wendy Forkas

### CEO April Adventures: Vision, Collaboration, and New Beginnings

The month kicked off with a milestone moment— I attended and led the 10th Leading the Charge: Collaborating for Effective Services one-day conference. What began as my vision over 10 years ago has become a yearly reality, bringing together hundreds of service leaders, family members and advocates in an inspiring day of collaboration and innovation.

Next stop: the national stage! I represented Adjoin at the ANCOR (the national advocacy group for people with disabilities) Conference in San Diego, where the theme—navigating currents of change and vast opportunities—felt especially fitting. Adjoin proudly sponsored the ANCOR Community Builder Award, and I had the honor of introducing the nominee who championed this year's deserving winner. It was a proud moment for all of us.

Back home, April also marked a heartfelt farewell as we thanked long-standing Board Member Jarrod Hammes during our quarterly Board meeting. After seven impactful years of service, Jarrod is off to new adventures, and we're so grateful for the vision and momentum he helped build.

To top it all off, our San Diego ARTE program officially launched—adding creative new energy to the month and expanding our mission in a meaningful way.

All in all, April was a very **ADJOIN** kind of month: full of **PURPOSE**, **PROGRESS**, and **PEOPLE** power!

Ready for May? We sure are!



Wendy Forkas - CEO



# LIVE WORK LEARN PLAY

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CORPORATE SAN DIEGO

The Corporate office came to support the San Diego Leading the Charge Conference including Olivia, David, and Julia at the Path-Now table, Victoria volunteering at the registration table, and Wendy speaking at the event!



Congratulations to:

Wendy Forkas  
Julia Doran  
Dhanya Nair



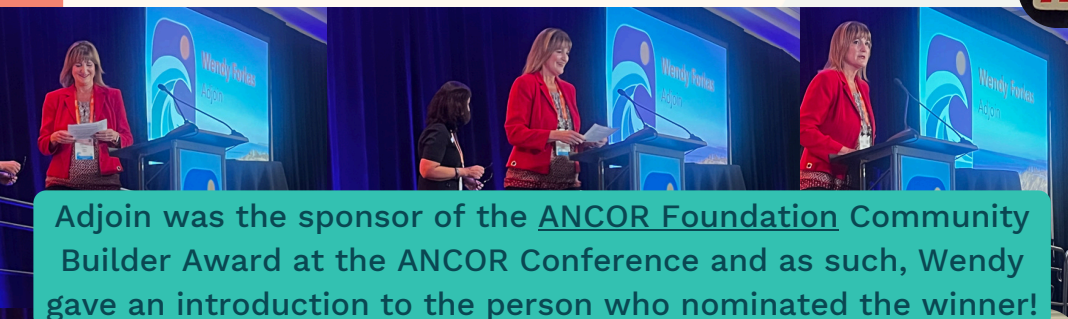
Melanie Anda-Lacson

for helping get Adjoin to number 63 in the rank against other companies!

ReadersMagnet, a corporate partner of Adjoin, invited us to speak at their 2025 Book Confab in LA!



#ReadersMagnet



Adjoin was the sponsor of the ANCOR Foundation Community Builder Award at the ANCOR Conference and as such, Wendy gave an introduction to the person who nominated the winner!



Antonio & Wendy having fun as the best dressed people in the office!

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 **veterans** SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTY




**IGNITE**  
  
**WELLNESS**


Congratulations to:


Valentina Rodriguez , Linsey Stidham, & Darren Artaud  
for helping get Adjoin to number 63 in the rank against other companies!



This month's employee spotlight is Brian from our Adjoin Veterans Team! Brian shared with us about his Adjoin journey: "My experience has been truly special here at Adjoin. My supervisors are consistently supportive, and I really feel like I'm a valued part of a team here. Seeing the way we can work together to get things done is nothing short of amazing. One of the things I love most about working here is that feeling of connection with what we accomplish. The feeling that the work we do helps the lives of so many people is second to none. I've always believed that real happiness comes from the service to others, and it's a privilege to be able to live that! I'm coming up on one year at Adjoin, how time flies! I feel like I've grown a lot as a person since I've been here and can't wait to see what the future holds."







### Oscar

**Adjoin Veterans Team**

"None of those jobs compare to my position I have with Adjoin Veterans. What I love about being a case coordinator is the feeling I receive after helping veterans. Veterans are one of the most vulnerable communities in San Diego. I am proud of serving veterans because of the bravery and commitment they gave in their years of service. I love the work I do here at Adjoin Veterans because it has helped me grow as a worker, individual, and as a mentor."





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## catalysts VISALIA

Client Zeke working hard on his physical therapy from the Visalia office!

Congratulations to:  
Anavel Garcia  
Esmeralda Lopez  
Tina Howe

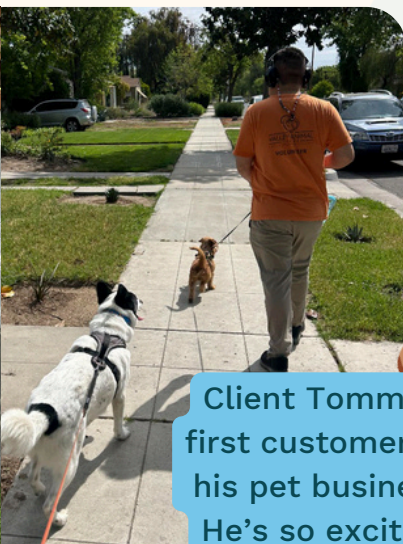
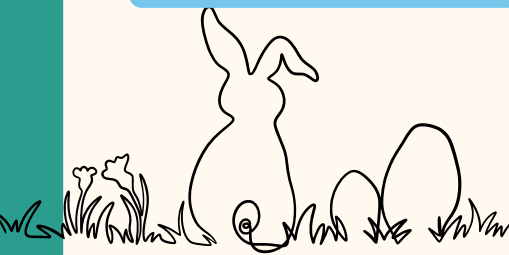


for helping get Adjoin to number 63 in the rank against other companies!



## catalysts FRESNO

Adjoin clients came together to celebrate Easter with many different activities including an Easter egg hunt, coloring pages, and sack racing!



Client Tommy's first customer for his pet business! He's so excited!



Client Danny went out of town for the first time in a very long time and enjoyed the beach!



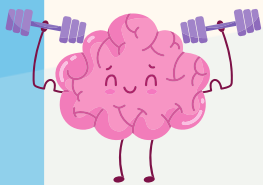


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## **catalysts** ORANGE COUNTY

Direct Support Coordinator Shannon has been taking Mindful Manager trainings. So far, she has been able to take Coaching, Attention Management, and Communication! Thank you Shannon for taking the initiative to be a better manager!



## **catalysts** MERCED



Congratulations to:  
Olga Huizar

for helping get Adjoin to number 63 in the rank against other companies!



## **catalysts** SAN DIEGO

Our San Diego Catalyst office representing Adjoin as a sponsor of the Leading the Charge Conference in San Diego!



Durry and Carlos joined about 100 other community members of Santee advocating for Medicaid and our clients at a rally!

**adjoin** together we ignite possibility

**adjoin**



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 **catalysts** IMPERIAL VALLEY



ARTE Out of This World Art Exhibition!

OUT OF TH/S WORLD!

IV Spring Day at the Park

This past April 16<sup>th</sup>, our clients enjoyed their first annual Spring Day at the Park! It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to step out of their usual routine and soak in the warm weather. The day was filled with fun activities including giant Connect Four, tug of war, sack races, egg races, and the highlight of the morning, water balloon fight! Clients were also treated to a special surprise visit from the Easter Bunny, adding extra excitement and smiles to the event. We wrapped up the day with delicious pizza and plenty of time to relax, socialize with their coaches and peers. It was a memorable day, and we're already looking forward to bringing this event back next year!



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 **catalysts** STOCKTON



Our Stockton office just launched their ARTE program!  
Welcome Jae, our Creative Arts Coordinator in Stockton!



ILS and SDP were busy tabling at various resource fairs this month! They are doing a great job engaging the community with a spin wheel and all of the Adjoin swag available!



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## LIVE COMFORTABLY AND SAVE WITH GOLDEN STATE REBATES

Golden State Rebates enable qualifying customers to receive instant rebates toward the purchase of energy-efficient products for their home. This program is designed to help you save on great products that improve your home's comfort, health and energy efficiency.



### How to use your instant rebate coupon:

- Select products: Choose from a list of qualified products.
- Verify eligibility: Create an account at [sdge.com/rebates](https://sdge.com/rebates) to verify your eligibility
- Redeem coupons: Receive rebate coupons via email and redeem them at your chosen retailer like The Home Depot, Best Buy or Lowe's.



### Instant Rebates Offered:

- Smart thermostat (ENERGY STAR® certified): up to \$75
  - Combine this coupon during a manufacturer promotion for even greater savings!
- Gas tank water heater: \$75 rebate
- Heat pump water heater (replacing an electric storage water heater): \$500
- Heat pump water heater (replacing a natural gas storage water heater): \$700-\$900
- Room air conditioner (ENERGY STAR certified): \$90

**Take advantage of Golden State Rebates to upgrade your home with energy-efficient products, save money and contribute to a sustainable future. Visit [sdge.com/rebates](https://sdge.com/rebates) to learn more and start saving today!**

*The Golden State Rebates program is funded by California utility customers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission and implemented by CLEAResult under a contract awarded by San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E®) and supported by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E®), Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®) and Southern California Edison Company (SCE®). Program funds are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis until such funds are no longer available. This program may be modified or terminated without prior notice. Customers who choose to participate in this program are not obligated to purchase any additional services offered by CLEAResult or any other third party. Eligibility requirements and terms and conditions apply; see the program conditions for details. Actual savings may vary. The trademarks used herein are the property of their respective owners. The selection, purchase and ownership of goods and/ or services are the sole responsibility of the customer. SDG&E makes no warranty, whether express or implied, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, regarding the goods or services selected by customer. SDG&E does not endorse, qualify or guarantee the work of any contractor or vendor.*



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## ANNIVERSARIES TEAM MEMBERS

15	Rosa Vargas	Imperial Valley	3	Jennifer Guzman Catherine Stevens Carla Benavides	Visalia San Diego San Diego
12	Anita Miller	Imperial Valley			
11	Jameesa Andrews Victor Villalobos	Fresno San Diego	2	Jazmin Castro Mayra Herrera Jennifer Quinones Vanessa Flores	Imperial Valley Imperial Valley Visalia Imperial Valley
9	Marti Daglio Mardine Walker Bridgett Varela	San Diego Fresno Fresno			
8	Trudy Levenson	San Diego			
7	Karla Patino	Imperial Valley	1	Arturo Ramos Maria Higuera Castaneda Alexandra Mendoza De La Torre	Veterans Imperial Valley Imperial Valley
6	Dominique Dias Stacey Geeston Johnson	Visalia Stockton		Veronica Garza Nathanael Chavez Nayellie Ibarra	Visalia Visalia Imperial Valley
4	Rachel Garcia	Imperial Valley			



## ANNIVERSARIES CLIENTS

29	Diana M.	San Diego	14	Rosemary N.	Visalia	3	Aurtis W. Refugio S. Gabriel C. Pilar D.	San Diego San Diego San Diego San Diego
24	Esmeralda R. Rubi T.	El Centro El Centro	12	Katherine B.	Merced	2	Brandyn M. Luis T. Cynthia B. Alfredo A.	Merced Fresno Stockton El Centro
22	Chris B.	Stockton	11	Jose M.	El Centro			
19	Peter R.	San Diego	9	Jason A. Becky B.	San Diego Merced	1	Salvador L. Claudia C. Edith S. Akshay S. Isaac S.	San Diego OC El Centro Stockton El Centro
18	Michael M.	San Diego	8	Gustavo D.	El Centro			
15	Thomas R.	Visalia	6	Jordan W.	Merced			

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## POLICY OF THE MONTH HARASSMENT PREVENTION

### OVERVIEW



HARASSMENT OF ANY FORM IS PROHIBITED, EVEN IF THE PERSON IT'S DIRECTED AT APPEARS TO WELCOME IT.



23% OF WORKERS EXPERIENCE WORKPLACE HARASSMENT (GALLUP, 2022).



30% OF WORKERS HAVE EXPERIENCED BULLYING AT WORK. (WORKPLACE BULLYING INSTITUTE, 2021)

### FORMS OF HARASSMENT



VERBAL: Name-calling, jokes, intimidation, threats, insults



PHYSICAL: Invading one's space, offensive gestures, unwelcome physical contact



SEXUAL: Gag gifts, comments about one's body / appearance

### REPORTING PROCEDURES



#### REPORTS INVOLVING SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS:

Submit harassment complaint in writing in envelope marked personal and confidential, and mail to Adjoin Corporate Office

If complaint is regarding Director of HR, the COO, the CFO, or the Board of Directors, Attention: CEO

If complaint is regarding the CEO, Attention: Board of Directors, Chair

#### REPORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ONE OR MORE OF:

Your immediate supervisor, Program Manager, Director of Human Resources (Sabrina), COO (Olivia) or CEO (Wendy)





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## SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

## EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

### Before an Earthquake

Prepare several days' worth of food and water, a spare flashlight, coordinate a meet-up point, and identify how to turn off your gas and electricity if applicable.



### While Outside

Move away from sides of buildings and overhead wires



### While Inside

Duck and cover under a sturdy desk, or an interior corner away from windows or shelves



### While Driving

If driving, pull over to the side and stop.