

THE adjoiner MONTHLY

CREATING LIMITLESS PATHWAYS

AUGUST 2025 EDITION
THE LATEST ADJOIN NEWS

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

BY: Wendy Forkas

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our recent branding photos and videos! Your time, energy, and smiles were so appreciated—and I had a blast seeing and talking with you too! Even got to take a photo with Valeria and her Wonder Woman painting in my office. We can't wait to unveil our refreshed marketing and website look soon!

This past month also brought some exciting opportunities. From speaking on the Autism Resource Podcast about Path-Now and it's impact here in California to participating in the Wounded Warrior 5K with the Veteran's team to attending the Open Minds Conference Excellence Institute in Long Beach. This institute is dedicated to supporting organizations like ours—helping those who serve complex communities strengthen operational practices and create opportunities for innovative solutions to better meet the needs of the people we support. I had some great take aways!

August was also a month of dedicated focus on board development and growth as I met with several individuals who have interest in helping move Adjoin forward by potentially joining our board. Our board members are crucial because they provide fiduciary oversight, strategic vision, and accountability, ensuring the Adjoin remains financially sound, ethically operated, and effectively driven toward its mission for a sustainable future.

The events of this month were a fantastic way to wrap up the summer season as we look forward and set our sights on starting our budget process for 2026.

I am continually amazed and inspired by everything you all do. Each of you truly makes Adjoin shine, and I am proud to be part of such an incredible team.



Wendy Forkas, CEO



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CORPORATE SAN DIEGO

Pat visited the San Diego ARTE office just in time to see their completed mural!



The Corporate Fun Committee celebrated National Aviation Day with a paper airplane contest! Our very own Antonio won!



For August's employee spotlight we have Keegan from our corporate office! Keegan is our Quality Assurance and Technology Coordinator and he has been with Adjoin for one year! He shared:

"I've been lucky to meet and support so many wonderful people at Adjoin over that year. In my free time, I build computers to continue growing my tech knowledge and love hiking around San Diego!"

Everyone is so grateful for Keegan's support, there is no tech question too big or too small for him!! Thank you for everything you do Keegan!

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veterans SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTY

Stella Arias, thank you for 10 years!

Happy Workaversary!



The Veterans Division has worked hard to fully staff their team while supporting their current clients! We are proud to have our Adjoin Veterans team members dedicated to people, integrity, innovation, compassion, and fun!



catalysts MERCED

The Butterfly Club helped a client in Merced pay for pest control services!



catalysts ORANGE COUNTY



Orange County is steadily growing as our newest region in providing services to individuals with IDD!



catalysts IMPERIAL VALLEY

Socorro Zazueta Rubio, thank you for 3 years!

Happy Workaversary!



Happy Birthday Lisa!

Happy Birthday

Ana

Thelma

Dulce

Jessica

Sofia

Rosalyn

Ruben

Jacob

Alexis

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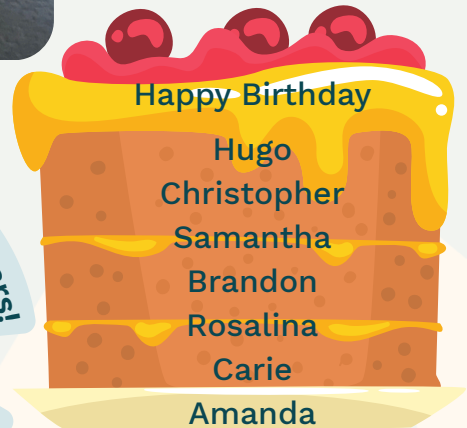
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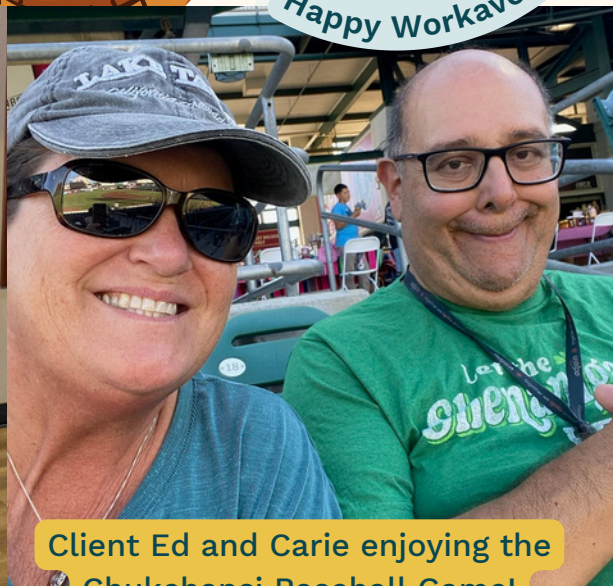
 **catalysts** FRESNO



Fresno surprised DSC Sam for her birthday and she was overjoyed! Everyone had a wonderful time celebrating!



Clients Ryan and Tommy having a fun Friday just hanging out!



Client Ed and Carie enjoying the Chukchansi Baseball Game!

Clients Daphne and Molly at the gym crushing it!





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 **catalysts** STOCKTON

The ARTE artists have been exploring different items to customize and create!



Wendy took a trip to Stockton and was able to hand-deliver our 2 new 20-year Butterfly Club members with a beautiful lamp!



Enjoying the bowling alley together!



Our Arte individuals started community art outings and received their first paycheck!



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 **catalysts** VISALIA



Congratulations to our Case Manager Dominique on her new bundle of joy!



Sidney and Ernest are getting their groove on at the dance.



Celebrating Esmeralda's 17th years of service with Adjoin!

Mark celebrated his birthday with friends!



Charles enjoying the fresh air and great weather at the park! What a beautiful relaxing day!



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catalysts SAN DIEGO

ARTE students created a mural in their new office that represents our Inalienable Rights!



Client Spotlight

Happy Birthday
Tiffany, Sofia
& Ruben



Avery joined the Catalysts Division IL program in 2019. The first few years were rough. Avery was living with her parents but was not happy and wanted a home of her own. She had a part-time job that did not give her the income she needed to move out. She also found herself using drugs to cope with her unhappy Work/living arrangements. When Avery joined the IL program, one of the first things she wanted was to get away from her current environment where she had easy access to drugs. She made the choice to go into rehabilitation to get clean miles away from her home. After exiting the treatment facility, she initially moved to a "Support Home" that helped her stay on track. After awhile of living CLEAN she was able to increase her work hours to full time. With full time employment, she was able to get her own apartment. With the changes Avery made in her life over the last few years, one of the successes she has is rebuilding the relationship she has with her parent. Her parents now come down on a regular basis and spend weekends with Avery. They spend several nights each month with Avery and have created the relationship Avery always wanted.



Ron used the One Flutter Day of Change program to drive this sweet dog up north to her new home! I know how you enjoy uplifting stories at the beginning of your week. Marnix here, was supposed to be put down a week or so ago, but received an extension until yesterday, Sunday. The sanctuary that I support, was able to extend it for one more day, so I could pick him up and return him to his new home.



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ANNIVERSARIES TEAM MEMBERS

17	Esmeralda Lopez	Visalia	3	Sokunthy Sokhon	Fresno
12	Araseli Rodriguez	Stockton		Socorro Rubio	Imperial Valley
10	Stella Arias	Veterans		Rosalina Hernandez	Fresno
	Reinita Bradley	San Diego	2	Alex Chen	San Diego
9	Ana Evans	Imperial Valley		Pilar Brown	San Diego
8	Guillermina Alvarez	Fresno		Carlos Aviles	Veterans
7	Russell Smith	Merced		America Calderon	Visalia
4	Cande Burch	Imperial Valley	1	Jose Ramirez	Imperial Valley
	Alma Canchola	Imperial Valley		Melinna Tejeda	Imperial Valley
	Bryanna Rodriguez	Visalia		Jennifer Roth	San Diego
				Maria Fletcher	San Diego
				Sebastian Limon	Veterans
				Laura Gomez	Imperial Valley
				Melanie Anda-Lacson	Corporate
				Paetyn Blakely	Fresno



ANNIVERSARIES CLIENTS

27	Kelly M.	San Diego	7	Brandi C.	El Centro	2	Raymond O.	Visalia
26	Ronald G.	San Diego	6	Jacqueline L.	El Centro		Laura F.	El Centro
22	Moua C.	Fresno	5	Nestor L.	San Diego		Lesly F.	Fresno
17	Kyle B.	San Diego		Richard F.	Stockton		Dolores O.	Visalia
14	Colleen S.	Fresno	4	Ricardo E.	Stockton		Gloria M.	Visalia
13	James A.	San Diego		Joseph P.	San Diego		Matthew B.	Merced
12	Sergio C.	San Diego		Nicole M.	Fresno		John K.	San Diego
11	Josefina M.	El Centro	3	Karla M.	El Centro	1	John S.	El Centro
10	Marlene G.	El Centro		Craig K.	San Diego		Jessica G.	Stockton
	Adrian D.	El Centro		Ryan Y.	Fresno		Marcela T.	El Centro
	Michelle S.	El Centro		Chloe C.	San Diego		Alonso F.	OC
	Glen S.	Visalia		Karina S.	San Diego		Rebecca G.	Visalia
9	Arlene A.	El Centro		Anthony J.	Merced		Stefan E.	Fresno
			2	Claudia M.	Stockton		Daphne D.	Fresno
				Nayeli C.	El Centro		Nash M.	Stockton
				Frances M.	Merced		Elysia G.	El Centro
				Christine C.	San Diego		Jade F.	Stockton
				Carlos F.	El Centro		Ellie A.	Stockton
				Adelina M.	El Centro		Morgan F.	Stockton
							Gabriel M.	Stockton
							Jesus M.	Fresno
							Brennon H.	Fresno

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POLICY OF THE MONTH

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CLIENT ABUSE & NEGLECT

NO

Adjoin has NO tolerance for client/participant abuse or neglect



We consider the health & safety of all our clients to be the most important part of our services.



Any Adjoin team member found to have engaged in abuse against a client will be subject to **TERMINATION!**

KNOW THE TYPES!

Physical: Any acts that result in injury.

Financial: Exploitation of client's funds/assets.

Sexual: Any non-consenting sexual acts/behaviors.

Neglect: Failure of person with custody to exercise reasonable degree of care.

Abandonment: Desertion of client by caregiver.

Abduction: The removal of the client to another state without consent.

Isolation: Intentional prevention of client receiving mail, calls, or visitors.

Mental Suffering: Forms of emotional distress brought about by intimidating behavior.

ABUSE REPORTING PROCESS!



Abuse Event Occurs



Evidence /
Reasonable Suspicion

Team members have reasonable belief that client abuse has occurred



Abuse Report (SIR)

Must be reported to (as applicable):

1. Manager
2. County Adult Protective Services
3. Regional Center, DOR, or VA
4. Local police
5. County Ombudsman Office
6. Conservator

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SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

5-20%

Each year, flu infects 5-20% of Americans, causing over 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths (CDC)

6 feet

Flu spreads easily in offices via coughs, sneezes, and contaminated surfaces within 6 feet

1

One sick employee can quickly impact productivity and health of the entire team

BE READY!

CLEANING



Regularly wipe shared surfaces—keyboards, doorknobs, phones—with effective cleaners

Wash hands 20+ seconds, cover coughs/sneezes with tissue or elbow, avoid touching face

STAYING SAFE



Flu shots reduce illness severity and protect coworkers; best time is October–November

Use ventilation, open windows, or HEPA air purifiers to reduce airborne viruses

STAY HOME



Take advantage of the work from home policy – help keep the office healthy, leaders set a good example for your team!

Prevent spreading flu by resting until fever-free for 24 hours without meds

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ENERGY BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: HELP IS AVAILABLE

Managing energy bills can be challenging. But did you know that SDG&E offers several assistance programs to help customers reduce their energy costs and improve energy efficiency?

Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) Program

FERA offers an 18% discount on electric bills for households that exceed CARE income limits but still meet FERA guidelines. Now, the eligibility criteria have changed from a minimum of three people in the household to just one! Learn more at sdge.com/FERA.

Medical Baseline Allowance

Customers with certain medical conditions may qualify for additional energy at the lowest rates through the Medical Baseline Allowance program. This helps offset the cost of operating medical equipment or maintaining necessary heating and cooling. Learn more at sdge.com/Medical.

California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program

The CARE program provides a 30% or more discount on monthly energy bills for eligible households. Eligibility is based on household size and income, or participation in certain public-assistance programs. Applying is quick and easy, with no documentation required. Find out if you qualify at sdge.com/CARE.

Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) Program

The ESA program provides no-cost, energy-efficient home improvements to income-qualified customers. Services and products may include attic insulation, energy-efficient refrigerators, weatherstripping and more. The program aims to reduce energy use and help lower bills. Find details at sdge.com/ESA.

Payment Arrangements

If you're having trouble paying your energy bill, you can request an extension to help avoid interruptions to your service. Flexible payment arrangements are also available to help you pay down past-due balances.

Learn more at sdge.com/PaymentArrangements.

Learn about these programs and more at sdge.com/assistance.