



# Community Connections Newsletter

Adjoin - Spring 2023 Edition

# Letter From The CEO

## **Fostering Collaboration, Partnerships, and Advocacy: The Key to Creating Limitless Pathways to Belonging**

As the CEO of Adjoin, I am proud to lead an organization dedicated to creating limitless pathways for people to belong. We believe that true belonging is not just about inclusion but also about empowerment and opportunity. In order to fulfill our mission, Adjoin recognizes the critical importance of collaboration, partnerships, and advocacy. By working together with like-minded organizations and celebrating our people and their milestones, we can truly make a lasting impact on society.

### **Collaboration: Strength in Unity**



Collaboration lies at the heart of our efforts to create limitless pathways for people to belong. We understand that no single organization can achieve this ambitious goal alone. By actively seeking partnerships with other organizations, we can leverage diverse perspectives, expertise, and resources to drive meaningful change.

Through collaboration, we can unlock new opportunities and drive innovation. By working hand-in-hand with businesses, educational institutions, nonprofits, and government agencies, we can develop comprehensive solutions that address the complex challenges faced by individuals seeking belonging. By pooling our resources, we can amplify our impact and reach a broader audience, ensuring that no one is left behind.

### **Partnerships: Amplifying our Reach**



Partnerships are a powerful way to extend our reach and maximize our impact. At Adjoin, we actively seek out strategic alliances with organizations that share our vision and values. By partnering with those who have complementary strengths and capabilities, we can achieve collective goals that go beyond what we could accomplish individually.

Through partnerships, we can tap into new networks, gain access to untapped resources, and expand our range of services. Collaborating with organizations that have expertise in areas such as education, employment, and community development allows us to provide holistic support to individuals on their journey towards belonging. By pooling our knowledge and resources, we can develop innovative programs and initiatives that empower people to thrive.

## Advocacy: Amplifying Voices



Advocacy is a vital component of our mission. We believe in standing up for the rights and needs of individuals who face barriers to belonging. By advocating for inclusive policies, equitable opportunities, and a society that celebrates diversity, we can create an environment where everyone can thrive.

As an organization, Adjoin actively engages in advocacy efforts at local, state and national levels. We collaborate with advocacy groups, policymakers, and influencers to promote positive change. Through research, public awareness campaigns, and policy recommendations, we strive to dismantle systemic barriers and create a more inclusive and welcoming society.

## Celebrating Milestones: Honoring Our People



At Adjoin, we understand that creating limitless pathways for people to belong is not just about the destination but also the journey. We value our people as the driving force behind our mission. It is important to recognize and celebrate their milestones and achievements, both big and small.

By acknowledging the progress and growth of individuals who have found their pathways to belonging, we inspire others and create a culture of success. We celebrate the triumphs of our employees, partners, and the individuals we serve. This fosters a sense of pride, motivates continued effort, and reinforces our commitment to our mission.

Adjoin understands to build a society where everyone can thrive and truly belong requires the community working together and together we ignite possibility.



Wendy Forkas  
CEO



## BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR! TOGETHER, WE IGNITE POSSIBILITY!



With your help, you will provide items like basic necessities included in a welcome home basket or funds to help someone secure a stable home. Your donation goes directly to those we serve! Join our group of monthly supporters whose donations directly serve and impact the lives of veterans and individuals with developmental disabilities.



Scan to Donate!





# Partnership Highlight



## Adjoin Introduces Arte

Adjoin, is thrilled to announce the launch of its new program, Arte - *Authentic Relationships Through Creative Expression*. This inclusive art workspace is designed to foster the development and promotion of artists in the Imperial Valley region, with a specific focus on emerging artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Arte operates five days a week, offering a range of arts education and facilitation services. Our purpose is to aid in the cultivation of artistic skills and nurture entrepreneurship among individuals interested in pursuing recreational or professional development in the arts. By providing professional instruction, arts education and appreciation, community-based learning opportunities, and inclusive supply provisions, Arte - Adjoin aims to empower artists and create a supportive and enriching environment.

The program is open from Monday to Friday, with current operational hours from 9 am to 3 pm. We are delighted to offer 20 spots for participants, ensuring personalized attention and ample opportunities for growth.

In celebration of the program's launch, Arte - Adjoin recently hosted an Exhibition Event, showcasing the incredible talents and creative expressions of the artists involved.

To learn more about Arte - Adjoin and its purpose to aid in fostering creative expression, building confidence, and creating authentic relationships around the appreciation of art, follow us on social media and visit our new inclusive art workspace in Imperial Valley. Together, let's embark on this journey of artistic exploration and collaboration, shaping a more inclusive and vibrant community.



**Authentic Relationships Through Creative Expression!**



# Partnership Highlight

At Adjoin, we live by our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion through every facet of our operations. We embody these values in our interactions with our team, clients, and the communities we serve. By forging strategic partnerships, offering sponsorships, implementing impactful programs, and actively engaging in volunteerism, we harness our resources to bridge gaps, foster equitable opportunities, and uplift the diverse needs of our communities.

This year, Adjoin has partnered with ReadersMagnet, an organization that assists veteran and new aspiring authors in fulfilling their dreams. ReadersMagnet guides them through the self-publishing process including expert recommendations, publishing and marketing package options, and editorial services. In forming this collaboration, Adjoin and ReadersMagnet are excited to empower individuals and strengthen the fabric of our shared community.

## PROVIDING PEOPLE WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ADJOIN & READERSMAGNET



ADJOIN AND READERSMAGNET PARTNERED TO HELP COMMUNITIES ACHIEVE SUCCESS

# Community Events



## Yoga for Justice Supports Adjoin: Enhancing Lives, Building Communities

In April, local group Yoga for Justice-San Diego teamed up with Adjoin to support the work we do with Veterans. Throughout the month, Yoga for Justice held a weekly event in Civita Park.

In addition to promoting physical and mental well-being in the beautiful outdoor setting of Civita Park, the funds raised during this campaign provided essential resources such as hygiene kits and welcome home baskets, enriching the communities served by Adjoin Veterans.

We are thrilled to share that Adjoin has received over \$300 in donations through this campaign, thanks to the generosity and support of our community.

If you're looking for an opportunity to give back while prioritizing self-care, we invite you to join Yoga for Justice at Civita Park on Wednesday evenings in support of a new cause each month. For more information about Y4J and their impactful work, visit their social media page [@yogaforjusticesd](#). Together, let's create limitless pathways through wellness and community-building.

Representatives: Kla-bada Bee and Meegan Nolan

Result: We raised over \$300 in donations for veterans during the month of April!





# In The News



## **Adjoin Veteran Director speaks at the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Field Hearing about Housing Support for Veterans**

On May 5, 2023, Adjoin's Veterans Director, Dr. Dustin Potash, testified before Congress during the "All Hands on Deck: Ending Homelessness" meeting held by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Dr. Potash served on a panel with three other veteran service providers that discussed the benefits and barriers of the SSVF and Shallow Subsidy grants.

One of the main points he highlighted was the lack of preparation and guidance that is given when a service member is transitioning from the military to civilian life. He emphasized the urgent need to address the issue of receiving the proper care and assistance veterans need to rebuild their lives.

During his testimony he shared a compelling Adjoin veteran success story, giving a glimpse into the incredible assistance that service providers like Adjoin provide. He detailed the journey of one of the many veterans we have assisted and highlighted the transformative impact that dedicated support and resources can have on transitioning veterans' lives.

His testimony serves as a reminder of the importance of our mission and the crucial role we play in creating a brighter future for homeless veterans. We thank Dr. Potash, who said "I had a fantastic experience representing Adjoin on behalf of homeless veterans", for his outstanding advocacy efforts and for representing Adjoin's dedication to providing comprehensive support that empowers veterans to overcome challenges and regain stability.





# Adjoin 40th Anniversary

Celebrating 40 years of Igniting Possibilities

Adjoin was thrilled to announce our 40th Anniversary Event on July 27th at the stunning Paradise Point Resort at the Mission Bay Hotel. This event was set to be an unforgettable celebration of Adjoin's unwavering commitment to creating a sense of belonging for individuals with disabilities and veteran families who have been at risk of homelessness for the past 40 years.

Our sponsors helped make our celebration special. We invited community members, supporters, and clients, who all came together to mark this momentous occasion and celebrate all of the limitless pathways that Adjoin has created for individuals and families in our community.

Together, we ignite possibilities for all those in need!

**Scan the QR Code to see event images!** 





# Adjoin 40th Anniversary

Celebrating 40 years of Igniting Possibilities



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to this year's event sponsors for making the upcoming 40th Anniversary Celebration possible. Their generous support of Adjoin has been instrumental in bringing this milestone celebration to life, and we deeply appreciate your commitment.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



together we **ignite** possibility

# Impact Story

Joyce is a remarkable individual who recently celebrated her 92nd birthday. She continues to live independently in her own home with the help of Adjoin, a program that provides support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Joyce has been a part of Adjoin for 13 years and says that it's the best program she has ever been in. With Adjoin's help, she is able to live independently in her own home and continue to enjoy life to the fullest. Joyce is a vibrant member of her community, always putting in the effort to connect with others and make a positive impact on those around her.

Her story is a testament to Adjoin's commitment to helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities maintain their independence and live fulfilling lives in their own homes. Adjoin's services have not only helped Joyce maintain her independence, but they have also helped her form meaningful friendships and make great progress in her life. Her success is a result of her own determination and hard work as well as the support she has received from Adjoin.

As she celebrated her birthday this year, Joyce reflected on the progress she has made and the friendships she has formed. She is grateful for the support she has received from Adjoin, but she knows that her own efforts have been essential to her ability to continue living life on her own terms.

Joyce's story is a reminder of the power of community and the importance of supporting the individuals we serve in their efforts to maintain their independence and live the lives they deserve. With determination and the right resources, individuals like Joyce can maintain their independence. For that, we are all grateful.



Live. Work. Learn. Play.





# MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We believe in strong governance and accountability to our mission - creating limitless pathways for people to belong where they live, work, learn, and play.

Our Board of Directors, a group of diverse, highly experienced and fun professionals believe all people should be given the opportunity to belong. They advise and oversee Adjoin's strategy and governance, and ensure we are operating effectively as a not for profit organization and delivering on our mission. Their diverse skill sets, experience, and areas of influence are critical in helping us build limitless pathways for people to be successful in their communities.



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**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE 2023  
THE YEAR OF COMPASSION.**

## **Become a Pathway Partner Today!**

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