

Ignite

the newsletter **sparked** by you

2026 Quarter 2  Issue 3



LETTER

from the

CEO: WENDY FORKAS

There are moments in nonprofit leadership that remind us why our work matters, and in May I experienced one of those moments having the privilege of attending Adjoin's Stockton ARTE Open House and Art Exhibition, where artists with disabilities and autism proudly showcased and sold their artwork to family members, friends, and community supporters. As I walked through the exhibition, I found myself reflecting on a journey that began more than 30 years ago.

In the mid-1990s, I was hired by this organization to launch a 24-hour Mobile Crisis program in Stockton to support individuals transitioning from the Stockton Developmental Center. I still remember setting up our first office and interviewing staff in lawn chairs I brought from home.

Standing in Stockton three decades later as CEO of Adjoin, celebrating the success of our ARTE program, was a truly emotional and rewarding experience. ARTE is more than an art program—it is a pathway for creative expression, confidence building, entrepreneurship, and community inclusion. Watching artists share their talents, connect with customers, and earn income from their work demonstrated the power of creating opportunities where people can be recognized for their abilities and contributions.

The experience became even more meaningful when I had the opportunity to attend our Imperial Valley ARTE exhibition shortly afterward. As the first ARTE program launched by Adjoin, Imperial Valley represents the beginning of a vision that has continued to grow and create impact across communities. Seeing artists in both Stockton and Imperial Valley thriving, building connections, and proudly sharing their work with others truly rounded out the moment, and month, for me.

These exhibitions were a powerful reminder that meaningful change happens over time through collaboration, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to people. The opportunities our artists experienced did not happen by chance. They are the result of dedicated staff, community partnerships, and the generous support of donors and stakeholders who believe in creating limitless pathways for people to belong where they live, work, learn, and play.

Thank you for believing in our mission and helping create opportunities where people with disabilities can discover their talents, build confidence, and belong in their communities. Together we are igniting limitless pathways and changing lives.

ORG REPORT

as of June 30, 2026

- 392** team members
- 845** Veteran clients
- 676** Catalyst clients
- 876** Path-Now clients



Wendy Forkas
CEO, Adjoin



ADJOIN SUPPORTS

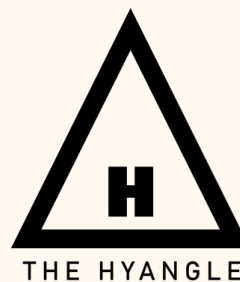


Since 2014, Leading the Charge – Collaborating for Effective Services has brought San Diego’s intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) community together—individuals, families, self-advocates, educators, providers, employers, and system partners—all in one room with a shared purpose: to learn, collaborate, and innovate. Adjoin’s CEO, Wendy Forkas, was the visionary who started the Developmental Disabilities Provider Network (DDPN) Leading the Charge Conference, chairing the Leading the Charge committee for the last twelve years; a reflection of her passion and commitment to innovation, education, and community.

This year, the conference welcomed over 500 attendees! A record-breaking number of support and a powerful reminder that meaningful change happens when we lead with intention and come together as a community, rather than waiting for change to happen. The goal of Leading the Charge remains the same: to highlight innovative service models and empower individuals with disabilities to advocate for their needs and fully engage in their communities.

Dani Bowman, entrepreneur, creator of DaniMation, and autism advocate, as seen on the Netflix show, Love on the Spectrum, inspired everyone with her story of possibility, determination, and impact as the keynote speaker. Adjoin is grateful to be part of a community that continues to lead the charge, together.

SHARING THE POWER OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION WITH



Adjoin partnered with The Hyangle Art Gallery to host our Canvas + Cuisine fundraising event in Downtown San Diego aimed at raising money and awareness for the issues facing the veteran and disability communities. With the recent grand opening of Adjoin's newest ARTE program in Chula Vista for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to hone their artistic interests and build their own microenterprise, Adjoin is partnering with local artists to teach workshops on a variety of art styles and materials.

Local artist, Stephen Williams, is a professional abstract painter, certified art therapy practitioner, and owner of The Hyangle Art Gallery who was one of the first artists to collaborate with Adjoin and lead a mindfulness art workshop he developed for our artists with IDD. This workshop infuses journaling, breathwork, and abstract art expression as a way to connect creativity and mental health. Each artist learned valuable tools to expand their creativity and build the confidence to create art without expectations. As a community leader, Stephen Williams often donates his time to make art accessible to the public through partnering with local nonprofits.



Guests enjoyed a night of visual storytelling, artistic expression, generous giving, great conversations, and more. Everyone got to explore the abstract art collection of San Diego's local art scene, learn how Adjoin has supported this community for over 40 years, and participate in a silent auction. Stephen Williams offered to generously donate 50% of all the art works sold from this event to support Adjoin's mission to serve veterans and individuals with disabilities.

Adjoin and Stephen Williams are continuing to share the meaningful impact art has on everyone. This event highlighted the successes of Stephen's art workshop at Adjoin, Adjoin's broader impacts in the community, and the growing art culture in San Diego.

Thank you to The Hyangle Art Gallery!

WELCOMING HEROES HOME WITH



For many veterans, the journey out of homelessness is one of the most profound transitions a person can make, next to transitioning from military to civilian life. After sleeping on streets, in cars, or in emergency shelters, moving into a place of their own is a moment of dignity restored. Adjoin Veterans understands that stability is built through small, consistent acts of care, including a simple but meaningful welcome home kit: a laundry hamper filled with hangers, detergent, dish soap, and other everyday essentials to help veterans settle into their new space.

The CMR team came together filling hampers with household supplies while Adjoin shared stories about the veterans we support and the services we provide. CMR assembled a breathtaking fifty welcome home kits that filled up our conference room! Fifty veterans whose journey into stable housing is just starting, fifty gestures of unconditional support that acknowledges how far these veterans have come and how far they will go.

Tucked inside each kit is a handwritten card the CMR team took the time to sign. Warm, personal welcome home cards that poured encouragement and heart into notes destined for veterans they would never meet, but had already chosen to support.

Adjoin is grateful to CMR Risk & Insurance Services for their generosity, their enthusiasm, and their genuine investment in the wellbeing of veterans. Partnerships like this one are what transform good intentions into real impact, one welcome home kit at a time. **Thank you CMR!**



For someone who has lost all of their belongings while homeless, a bottle of dish soap can be a signal that they belong, they are seen, and their new beginning is worth celebrating. That's where CMR Risk & Insurance Services stepped in to make an extraordinary difference.



AMPLIFYING ARTISTRY IN STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

Adjoin launched Stockton ARTE one year ago, a creative arts program where people with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities can explore their passions, experiment with artistic mediums, and share their creations with the world. This spring, the program celebrated its anniversary with the Roots and Blossoms art exhibition, an open house and exhibition where families, friends, and community leaders gathered to celebrate the people behind the art.

Adjoin received certificates of recognition and support from US Congressman Josh Harder, Senators Jerry McNerney, State Assemblywoman Rhodesia Ransom, and San Joaquin County Board of Supervisor Paul Canepa. The Mayor of Stockton, Christian Fugazi, and city council members also showed support by awarding Adjoin with certificates of recognition, attending our event, meeting the artists, and making our first art exhibition a memorable one!

The environment is one where artists feel supported, valued, and genuinely enjoy creating alongside peers who uplift one another.

- Angel, Creative Arts Coordinator

Artists are empowered to sell their art for 100% of their profits. Together, our artists sold more than \$600 in original artwork and more importantly, they stepped forward. For many, it was a moment of visibility and confidence that extended far beyond the canvas.

My life is about making art. I like art because I am talented and inspired by television, outdoor activities, maps, and urban lands.

- Nic, ARTE Artist

The community's response has made one thing clear: this program fills a real need. Stockton ARTE is Adjoin's newest location, yet it has already reached full capacity with a waitlist of people eager to join. That demand speaks to what creative expression means for individuals with disabilities: not a hobby, but a doorway to connection, identity, and pride. Adjoin is excited for this growth because more people deserve the chance to discover what they're capable of creating. **Thank you to the Stockton community!**



2026 QUARTER 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Path-Now is a trusted, safe, and reliable online resource for the autism, intellectual, and developmental disability community and available throughout California.

We are looking forward to launching a newly designed client user interface in coming quarter, which will allow people with a variety of abilities to easily navigate the platform for their needs.

We are so close to meeting our user account goal of 1,000 people! If you or someone you know has autism, an intellectual or developmental disability, create an account and find your Path-Now!



QUARTER 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Continued growth in clients, organizational partnerships, and meaningful connections across our community.

NEW GROWTH THIS QUARTER

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
97 NEW CLIENTS	70 NEW CLIENTS	58 NEW CLIENTS
20 NEW ORGANIZATION PROFILES	22 NEW ORGANIZATION PROFILES	21 NEW ORGANIZATION PROFILES

KEY TOTALS AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

876 TOTAL CLIENTS ON PATH-NOW	192 TOTAL NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS MADE IN APP	9,760 TOTAL NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILES ON PATH-NOW
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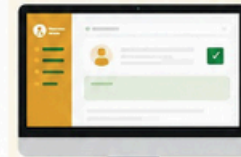
GROWTH COMPARISON

	As of December 31, 2025	As of June 30, 2026	CHANGE
# OF USERS	497	876	+379 (+76%)
# OF CONNECTIONS MADE	129	192	+63 (+49%)
# OF ORGS	9,679	9,760	+81 (+0.8%)

WHAT WE FOCUSED ON

- Focused digital ad campaigns on Meta and Google
- Created new videos to tell our story and drive engagement
- Launched new landing pages for clients and organization leads to improve conversions

WHAT'S NEXT



Launching our newly designed client user interface **IN JULY!**

Path-Now Provider Benefits

- Easily Connect with Potential Clients
- Low-Cost Marketing
- One Profile For Multiple Locations
- Statewide Access & Exposure
- Update Business Information In Real Time
- Client Contact Tracking

Adjoin
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Thank you for staying connected with Adjoin!

Adjoin provides essential community services on a foundation of positivity so everyone receives the best possible care by people at their best! Our clients need a dedicated team around them and we need a dedicated community around us!



Become a
Pathway
Partner
today!



Contact us for
more information!
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