

THE adjoiner MONTHLY

CREATING LIMITLESS PATHWAYS

JULY 2026 EDITION
THE LATEST ADJOIN NEWS

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

BY: Wendy Forkas

Together, We're Moving Adjoin Forward! 🚀

There is a lot to celebrate at Adjoin! On July 1, we officially launched our 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, setting an exciting direction for the next chapter of our organization. Our plan is centered around three strategic pillars: Center People, Expand Reach, and Activate Leadership. We are focused on building a people-first organization, increasing our mission impact throughout California, strengthening partnerships and advocacy, diversifying revenue, and empowering a future-focused Board.

Ultimately, our goal is to support more people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism, veterans, and communities through innovation, belonging, and sustainable growth. This is more than a plan on paper—it is a roadmap for where we are going together, and every team member has an important role in bringing it to life!

We also launched something new and exciting—our “We’re With You” podcast! 🎧 The podcast gives us another way to share stories, spark conversations, highlight important voices, and advocate for greater inclusion and belonging. And while we’re growing our voice externally, we’re also investing in our people internally. Our wage increase for the Catalysts Division went into effect, recognizing the incredible value our team members bring every day. Even better, we are currently performing better than budget! 🎉 That is not simply a number on a financial report—it is a reflection of the dedication, creativity, hard work, and commitment of our entire Adjoin team.

As we step into this next chapter, I want you to know how much **YOU** matter to Adjoin’s success. Our strategic plan starts with people for a reason. When we invest in our people, strengthen our programs, build partnerships, and continue to innovate, we create more possibilities for the people we serve.

Thank you for showing up, doing the work, supporting one another, and helping Adjoin move forward. The future is exciting—and we are building it together! 💙🚀



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CORPORATE SAN DIEGO



We celebrated Wendy's birthday with a squirrel-themed surprise party! She received cake, gifts, and cards from clients and team members!

The Leadership team celebrated Olivia and Adjoin's 5 year birthday during our July Leadership lab!

Leadership Lab broke out the Adjoin Jenga set for some fun team bonding activities!



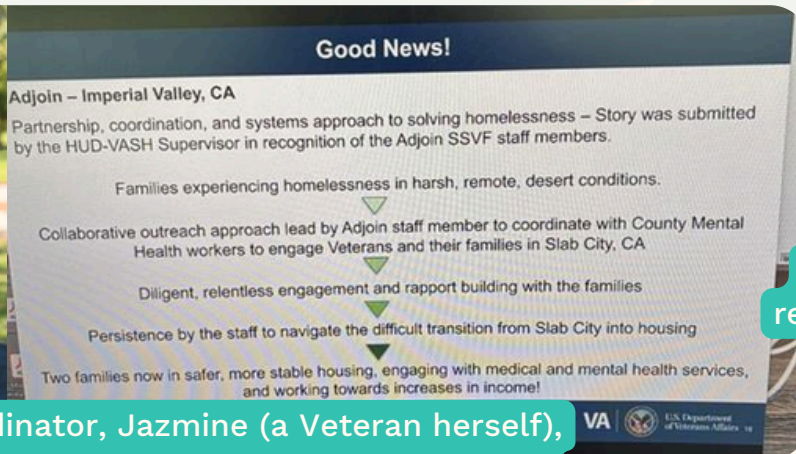
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 **veterans** SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTY

This past July 17th and July 18th our Benefits and Intake teams attended VVSD's Annual Stand Down event at Liberty Station. They met with numerous veterans and enrolled 12 new veterans!



The IV team being recognized by the VA!

Healthcare Coordinator, Jazmine (a Veteran herself), has been selected as a presenter for the upcoming SSVF National Healthcare Navigator Conference!



We had the first Veterans Appreciation BBQ! This event was made possible through a partnership with Love Does and USI!

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 **catalysts** IMPERIAL VALLEY

To help everyone stay safe during our 115°+ Imperial Valley summer, each team member received a new cooler bag, ice packs, and water bottles to keep with them throughout their day. The cooler bags were branded with the Adjoin logo by PM Ceci, CM Conchita, and DSC Erika, with the help of our amazing ARTE team. Thank you for supporting our team and helping us beat the heat!



SLS client, Maria Pinedo, celebrating her 76th birthday on August 6, 2026. For her birthday, Maria requested that DSC Montano take her to Imperial Valley Mall, where she enjoyed a birthday breakfast of her choice. Maria has been an Adjoin client since 2024 and continues to enjoy our services. She recently received an increase in her service hours. One of the things Maria particularly enjoys is the attentiveness of our team members and the opportunities they provide for her to socialize in the community. Team members regularly take Maria to the Brawley Senior Center on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, allowing her to stay active, socialize, and participate in activities she enjoys.



Home is where new memories begin. The Grijalva family celebrates their new home with a special housewarming gift from Regional Director Carlos Olivares and the Imperial Valley team. 🏠



The Imperial Valley Day Program held its semi-monthly team meeting, where staff enjoyed some refreshing fruit. 🍉 🍊 🍌 🍓

 **catalysts** ORANGE COUNTY

Orange County continues to grow in services, clients, and team members! We appreciate everyone who has been a foundational member in establishing our presence here!



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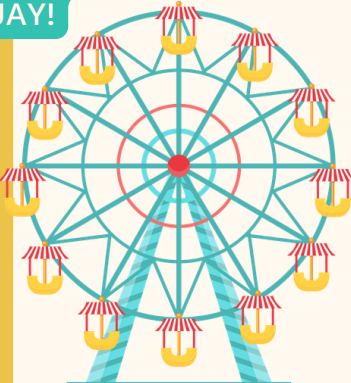
 **catalysts** SAN DIEGO



Tailor Day client Rene and staff Scott volunteered at a local Pickle Ball Tournament for a day!



Self Determination Program Client Jay is a true SELF ADVOCATE for himself and others with disabilities. He recently got a service dog and has been working hard at training her (Lilly). One area he had some problems with was trying to get her to adjust to the local trolley and bus system. Since Lilly was afraid of the moving trolley and bus, Jay reached out to our local MTS (bus) and asked about trying to use an "Out of service" bus/trolley to acclimate Lily to getting on and off. MTS thought this was an amazing idea and went a step further. They set up a training day to invite a group of people with service dogs to participate in training on out of service bus/trolley. This was such a success that our local MTS has stated they are going to plan to do this kind of training several times a year. ONE VOCIE can change the lives of others. Way to go JAY!



Our San Diego Catalysts Social Club spent the day at the San Diego County Fair. Several clients rode the rides and played the games. Thanks you to staff Jacqueline, Tiffany, Aleesa and Kim for supporting our clients at this event!



ARTE clients spend a day at the local park for ART in the PARK. New Social Rec staff Erick lead them in a short session of Yoga. Clients Pamela, Jake and Katsu enjoyed their time before it got to hot and the group returned to the office to cool down and have lunch.



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 **catalysts** VISALIA

Client Stephanie loving her new hairstyle!



Client Tanya enjoying some online shopping!



Team member Mayra Silva happily helped client Heather apply for jobs!



Happy Birthday Maria, Tanya, Anavel, Sabrina, Shannon, Elisabeth, Stephanie, Marissa, Natalie, Joshua, Victoria & Mariana!



Shawna reached a major milestone by moving into her first apartment on her own



Ernest Celebrated his birthday with a delicious cupcake!



Mark enjoyed the Fourth of July Festivities!

Elfida Acosta, thank you for 5 years!

Happy Workaversary!

Geraldine Hood, thank you for 10 years!

Happy Workaversary!



Dolores celebrated her Birthday with her Husband Raymond, Staff Steven and Diane by going bowling and playing arcade games!



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 **catalysts** MERCED



Merced's Community Day Program has been having a lot of fun this July! The clients had a great time at the casino and cooled off on the hot days by going to the Waterslides. They even fed the fish at the hatchery. Having a great time is how Merced spent this summer!



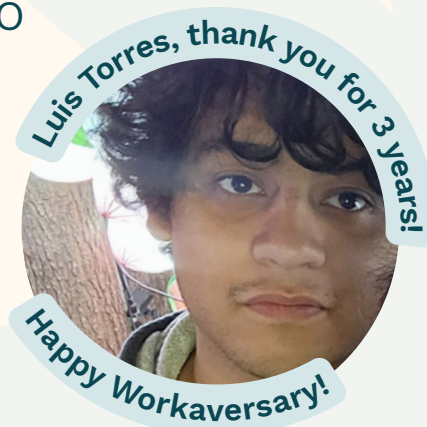
Maryanne is this month's client spotlight! Since joining us in July 2024, Maryanne has achieved many important personal goals, including developing healthier eating habits, moving into a better home, and accomplishing her goal of becoming employed. Today, she proudly serves as an In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provider, supporting several of our clients with compassion and dedication. She is the life of the party, bringing smiles to everyone around her with her love of singing and dancing. She is always the first to volunteer to help someone in need, offering encouragement, kindness, and support without hesitation. Whether she is assisting clients, helping in the office, or simply making someone's day a little brighter, Maryanne leads by example and reminds us of the power of compassion and community.

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 **catalysts** FRESNO



Wendy and Sam visited each office in our Northern California region! Thank you, for taking the time to visit our Central Valley offices! We truly enjoyed having you here. Your visit brought a great spark of energy, encouraged meaningful connections, and reinforced our culture of ensuring everyone feels welcomed, valued, and included. Thank you for investing your time with our teams and for helping strengthen the positive culture we continue to build together!

 **catalysts** STOCKTON



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ANNIVERSARIES TEAM MEMBERS

19	Ronald Clayton	San Diego	5	Elfida Acosta	Visalia
18	Teddy Agbayani	Stockton	4	Christina Casas	Fresno
17	Eula Wilburn	San Diego		Bao Xiong	Fresno
				Lourdes Valverde	Imperial Valley
14	Jacob Carter	Merced	3	Luis Torres	Fresno
	Christopher Solis	Fresno			
13	Tanya Sierra	Visalia	2	Keegan Wulf	Corporate
				Pat Phelan	Corporate
10	Geraldine Hood	Visalia		Frank Battle	Fresno
8	Esmeralda Rodriguez	Fresno	1	Danielle James	Corporate
				Amanda Flores	Fresno
7	Johana Ramirez	Imperial Valley		Natalie Duenas	Imperial Valley
	Aaliyah Cortez	Visalia		Ivory Laster	Veterans
6	Jande Hernandez	Stockton		Gloria Arce	Imperial Valley

ANNIVERSARIES CLIENTS

35	Nick A.	San Diego	8	Vicki D.	Merced	3	Steve A.	Stockton
31	Eduardo B.	El Centro	6	Cory J.	Visalia		Ernest B.	Visalia
28	Mollie W.	El Centro					Manuel L.	El Centro
21	Miguel S.	El Centro	5	Bill F.	San Diego		Eloisa G.	Merced
				Iris G.	Visalia		Damian W.	Merced
20	Jose A.	San Diego		Tanya C.	Visalia		Morgan C.	Stockton
				Daniel Q.	El Centro		Scott F.	Stockton
19	Chris V.	San Diego	4	Ray G.	El Centro		Charles F.	Stockton
				Timothy C.	Stockton		Kyle H.	Merced
15	Joshua B.	El Centro		Roberto G.	El Centro		Maria M.	Merced
				Belen B.	El Centro		Jacob M.	El Centro
11	Filiberto V.	El Centro		Danielle S.	San Diego		Prabjoat S.	Stockton
	Ramon V.	El Centro		Johanna M.	Merced		Paul B.	San Diego

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SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

UNDERSTANDING WILDFIRE RISKS

Rapid fire spread due to wind, terrain, and fuel conditions

Smoke inhalation causing respiratory distress

Potential entrapment in fast-moving fire situations

WILDFIRE SAFETY

BEING PREPARED

Have an evacuation plan ready

Prepare your home with a fire-resistant zone at least 30 feet around.

Find a room that can be closed off from outside air, close all doors and windows, setup an air purifier if possible

THE 6 P'S OF EVACUATION

Personal computer, hard drive & disks

People & pets

"Plastic" (credit cards) & cash

Papers, phone numbers & important documents

Prescriptions, vitamins & eyeglasses

Pictures & irreplaceable memorabilia

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POLICY OF THE MONTH

HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION PLAN

TYPES OF HEAT ILLNESS

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Fatigue, dizziness, nausea

HEAT RASH

Skin from excessive sweating

HEAT CRAMPS

Muscle pain caused by electrolyte loss

HEAT STROKE

Rapid breathing, hot, dry skin; Life-threatening emergency requiring immediate medical attention

RISK FACTORS & SYMPTOMS

High temperatures, humidity, and physical exertion all increase risk. Watch for:

- Dizziness and headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Confusion or disorientation
- Hot, dry skin (severe)

Remember: New workers need up to 2 weeks to acclimatize properly.



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TEAM ENGAGEMENT WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Submit your ideas to sparktank@adjoin.org!

The Spark Tank is a standing committee of Adjoin team members who serve as an intermediary between all levels of the organization and leadership to help identify gaps, explore opportunities, and create solutions that can enhance the services Adjoin provides.



Olivia is Adjoin's Chief Compliance Officer!

Any grievances can be directed to Olivia Blaylock at olivia.blaylock@adjoin.org

Submit an anonymous comment on
the Adjoin Team page!

All team members can access the Team page on
the Adjoin Website and submit an anonymous
comment at the bottom of the page.

<https://adjoin.org/team-member-information/>



**What is on your mind? Send Adjoin anonymous feedback or
your great idea!**

MESSAGE *

Please enter your comments.

e.g. The reason for my anonymous message is...

SEND ANONYMOUS MESSAGE

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STAY COOL AND SAVE: SUMMER ENERGY TIPS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

As temperatures rise across the region, increased energy use can mean higher bills. The good news? Small, simple adjustments can make a meaningful difference. By managing how and when your business uses energy, you can stay comfortable, reduce expenses and help support a more reliable energy grid.

Here are five practical ways to help improve your energy efficiency this summer:

Adjust your thermostat settings

During unoccupied hours, raise your thermostat to reduce cooling costs. During business hours, aim to set temperatures as high as comfortably possible. Using a programmable or smart thermostat can help automate adjustments after hours, on weekends or during holidays—so you save energy without thinking about it.

Manage sunlight through windows

Direct sunlight can quickly heat up your space and increase the demand on your cooling system. Use blinds, shades or window films to limit solar heat. Reducing excess sunlight can help maintain a comfortable indoor environment while easing the strain on your HVAC system.

Maintain Air Filters

Clean air filters are essential for efficient cooling. Dirty filters can restrict airflow, reduce system performance, and impact indoor air quality. Check filters monthly during the summer and replace them as needed to help your system run smoothly.

Reduce on-peak energy use

Energy demand and pricing is typically highest between 4 p.m. – 9 p.m., which can drive up costs and strain the grid. Reducing energy use during these hours can make a big impact. Simple actions, like adjusting thermostat settings, dimming lights or shifting non-essential operations to off-peak hours, can help lower your energy costs and support grid reliability.

Seal air leaks

Gaps around doors, windows, and ductwork can allow cool air to escape, making your HVAC system work harder than necessary. Sealing these leaks helps keep cool air inside, improving comfort and efficiency throughout your space.

Small Changes, Big Impact

You don't need major upgrades to start saving. Small changes can help reduce energy use, lower operating costs, and help your business run efficiently all summer long. For more tips and resources, visit sdge.com/MyBusiness.

Actual savings may vary and will depend on various factors, including geographic location, weather conditions, equipment installed, usage rates and similar factors. Completing multiple energy-saving measures will not necessarily result in cumulative savings.

