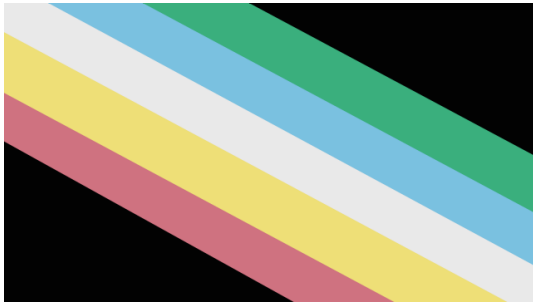
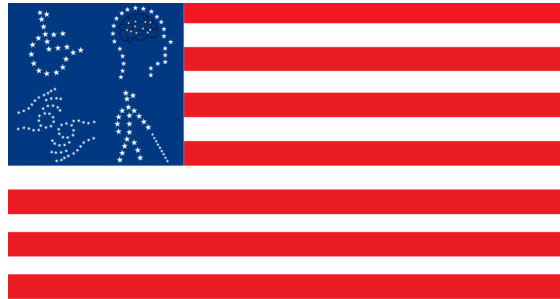


SHOUT OUT
"Nothing About Us Without Us"

SCRS Website Disability Pride Parade & Festival Download the SCRS App



Disability Pride Flag



SCRS Disability Pride Flag

Disability Pride Month

July 2023

Disability Pride Month celebrates disabled persons embracing their disabilities as integral parts of who they are, reclaiming visibility in public and interacting fully with their disabilities out in the open, and rejecting shame and internalized ableism. It is a time for our community to come together, uplift, and amplify one another's voices and be heard. It is crucial to acknowledge, appreciate, and show respect for all disabilities and the various intersecting identities they encompass.

One way to achieve this is through the observance of Disability Pride Month.

Disability Pride Month takes place in July and serves as an occasion to commemorate the history, accomplishments, experiences, and challenges faced by the disability community. Why July? It coincides with the anniversary of the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, a groundbreaking legislation that aimed to eliminate barriers and promote inclusivity in society. Despite the progress made, barriers still persist, underscoring the importance of honoring all types of disabilities, the individuals who identify with them, and the diverse range of support they require to thrive.

Take Disability Pride Month as an opportunity to learn disability history and support and learn from activists, community members, and individuals with disabilities.

Educate yourself about ableism.

The basis of ableism is the idea that individuals with disabilities need to be "fixed," and it defines people according to their disabilities. Similar to racism and sexism, ableism labels entire racial or ethnic groups as "less than," and it includes demeaning assumptions about those who have disabilities.

Support advocates on social media.

[@Blindishlatina](#)

[@HabenGirma](#)

[@AaronWheelz](#)

[@Kaelynnvp](#)

[@Nuerodivergent_lou](#)

Read Up: Awareness and education aren't possible without research, and reading books is a crucial way to understand disability pride better.

- **[Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories From the Twenty-First Century](#)**
Edited by Alice Wong
- **[Demystifying Disability: What to Know, What to Say, and How to be an Ally](#)** by Emily Ladau
- **[The Pretty One: On Life, Pop Culture, Disability, and Other Reasons to Fall in Love with Me](#)** by Keah Brown
- **[The Deafblind Women Who Conquered Harvard Law](#)** by Haben Girma
- **[Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of Disability Rights Activist](#)** by Judith Heumann and Kristen Joiner
- **[What Can a Body Do?](#)** By Sarah Hendren

Employment Services

Mock Trial Interviews...

are used to test our consumer's interview skills in a professional environment. Arcadia ES had their consumers come to the office dressed professionally, and employment specialists asked them real-time interview questions based on jobs they told us they were aiming for, and at the very end, their employment specialist provided them with feedback.



Since these interviews, Arcadia ES has seen a very sizable jump in their group's social and interview skills, and some of them have had interviews since then and done very well, with two of their consumers successfully landing internships at a museum. Consumers are becoming more confident, social, and improving their skills. Arcadia plans to use this as a jumping-off point and continue to push these improvements in their skills.



Job Club

Arcadia ES organized a job search event where attendees learned effective online job searching techniques using platforms like Indeed, Monster, and ZipRecruiter. Participants received personalized assistance, explored various career paths, had their resumes reviewed, and networked with others. The event concluded with a raffle and distribution of goodies.



Irwindale Job Fair

The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce and the City of Irwindale proudly hosted the 2nd Annual Community Picnic & Local Hire Job Fair presented by Georg Fischer Signet. Arcadia ES consumers showcased their skills from pre-employment training classes and interacted with employers. One consumer even secured an on-the-spot interview!



A Journey: Overcoming Challenges, Embracing Growth, and Pursuing New Opportunities

Victor has worked with the SCRS Arcadia office since March 2022. While with the program, Victor has been working full-time with Bowlero Bowling Alley and continuously attending employment services classes, training, and events. Previously, Victor had shown hesitancy to change or look for different jobs; however, Victor has shown he has large aspirations and

Victor's attitude has seen a large shift as he previously had avoided working full time due to his leg pain but now prefers to work full time. Although working already, Victor is pursuing new work in different fields as he currently wants to enter the banking industry. Most recently, Victor was one of several chosen to attend a new class at the SCRS Arcadia office for higher functioning individuals teaching them advanced work skills and scenarios to prepare for. When speaking to Victor, he is always a large ray of positivity and hope in everything he does and always respects those he speaks to. Victor has used his knowledge and skills and has not let issues such

goals for himself and continues to push himself forward to try and develop new skills to give himself new opportunities. Prior to entering the program, Victor had known difficulties with having friends and communicating well; however, Victor is now social with all his peers in class and has exhibited incredible progress in his interview and communication skills.

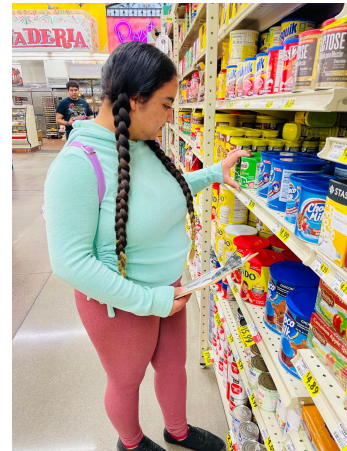
as his speech concerns affect him or his performance, and he continues to excel in the workplace.

Life Skills . . .

play a vital role in enabling adults with disabilities to live more independently, participate fully in society, and achieve their goals. These skills enhance their confidence, self-esteem, and overall well-being, while also fostering inclusion and equality.

Community Outing

Consumers participated in a scavenger hunt activity at a supermarket. They learned to find products, read the price tags, read the aisle description, know if the product is on sale or not, and how to pay, and bag the items.



Shoe Cleaning

Consumers learned to clean their shoes. They were very excited to see the outcome.





Dress for Success

Consumers participated in mock interviews to prepare them for real life job interviews. They dressed for success as part of the training.



Robot Testing

Guest speaker Tonny visited the program to encourage consumers for the robot war project. Consumers got to test the robot.

Shoutout
Community Outreach Board

EL MONTE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER FOOD PANTRY

LA Care
blue california
Promise Health Plan
Community Resource Center

SAVE THE DATE 2023
DATE

Empowering the Disability Community Sir

June 14, 2023

Advocate Training Coordinator
Jacqueline Toscano



June 28, 2023



erating the Disability Community Sir
SCRS-IL | Southern California
Resource Services for
Independent Living
Embrace, Educate & EmPOWER

Workforce



The Amity Foundation works towards including and rehabilitating marginalized individuals affected by addiction, trauma, and criminality. SCRS's Director of Workforce Programs, Jimmy Serrano, attended an event introduced by Hector Ochoa, Director of College Transitions. SCRS was among the ten organizations present. Jimmy aimed to share program information, network, and recruit talent for SCRS. The event was successful, and Jimmy plans to invite the Amity Foundation and other organizations to our Disability Pride Parade in October.

Triumph Over Unemployment: A Journey of Resilience and Success

The story below was written by Vicki B., who shares her experience regarding how her resilience was rewarded.

When COVID hit, I had been working at AV Ford for nearly 20 years. Like millions of others, I was suddenly unemployed. Once businesses began to reopen, the dealership had been sold and staffed with the new owner's employees. I had to start over again looking for work, which I had not done since 2001. A lot has changed in the last 20+

years, specifically the way we look for work. Suddenly, everything is now done "virtually"; millions more people are looking for work, and the competition is fierce.

I found the DOR through Tarzana Treatment Center. It took a couple of months before I was matched with Tania Rodriguez. I was lost as to how to look for work effectively. Tania took me under her wing and brought me up to speed in preparing me for the new way of looking for work. First up was resume writing. With her guidance and for about a month, I had a resume that I was proud of.

Next, I had to re-learn the interviewing process in today's environment. I was terrified; remember, it had been 20+ years since I had to look for work, and I was insecure. Tania was attentive, motivating, and extremely supportive! I slowly regained my confidence and began "actively" looking for work.

After a month and 75 job applications, I interviewed only 3 times. I was so frustrated and truly felt that I had so much experience to offer, yet, nobody was interested in hiring me! What am I doing wrong?!? Devastated, I was ready to give up! I turned back to Tania; she talked me off the edge on several occasions. I've never been one to give up on anything, especially MYSELF. I dusted myself off and got back on that horse. Tania met with me every week for a month! I kept reworking my resume, with Tania's guidance, of course. Another 30 applications later, I had 2 more interviews, still "crickets"!

I was told that "finding the job for me was like a matching game." Tania reminded me, "You are strong and working so hard; it's just a matter of time." She, my faith, and hope helped me through an agonizing 3 months of looking for my "dream job." I start work at the end of June "DESERT INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY"! I have found my new "FOREVER JOB"!

THANK YOU, TANIA, FOR ALL OF YOUR TIME, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND SUPPORT!

Educating Disability Groups through Education (E.D.G.E)

Team Work Makes the Dream Work!



Following the end of the 2023 Spring Semester, the Downey Education Assistants gathered at Dave and Buster's to celebrate. Hector Ochoa, the Director of College Transitions, joined them for the outing. He expressed that because his team is dispersed across different college campuses, he seldom has the chance to connect with everyone. By arranging this team-building event, he recognizes their unwavering dedication to serving our Downey E.D.G.E consumers and their exceptional contributions to SCRS.



Join us in celebrating June's work anniversaries! Thank you for your contributions and dedication to SCRS-IL!

- Gabriela Ramirez - 11 years**
- Ignacio Gonzalez - 8 years**
- Kimberly Session - 1 year**
- Diana Borja - 1 year**
- Raylene Orozco - 1 year**
- Isaac Sermeno - 1 year**



Congratulations to our June 2023 "Above and Beyond" Employee!

Carlos Maldonado

Interested in nominating an SCRS Employee for going above and beyond?

Above & Beyond recipients can be nominated by SCRS-IL consumers, employees, management, volunteers, community partners, and stakeholders.

Click [here](#) to nominate the next employee of the month!

Upcoming Events



All Abilities Celebration | Segerstrom Center for the Arts

Segerstrom Center for the Arts and Orange County Arts & Disability is proud to present the fourth annual All Abilities Celebration! Enjoy performances and engage with local community partners who highlight opportunities for individuals with disabilities. From information booths to performances and workshops, there's something for everyone to explore.

Free Event | All Ages | Sat. Jul. 29, 11:00 AM

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More



Southern California's Disability Pride Parade & Festival

Join SCRS-IL this year for our 5th Disability Pride Parade & Festival. Come march in solidarity for disability rights. Bring your friends and family! There will be food, music, a petting zoo, and a pumpkin patch for your enjoyment.

Free Event | Registration Required | All Ages | Oct. 8, 2023 10:00 AM

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2023 Global Conference & Expo - Disability:IN

Disability:IN is the leading nonprofit resource for business disability inclusion worldwide. Their network of over 500 corporations expands opportunities for people with disabilities across enterprises. Their central office and 25 Affiliates serve as the collective voice to effect change for people with disabilities in business. The global corporate disability inclusion event of the year is taking place in Orlando from July 10 to 13, 2023.

Cost Required | Virtual & In-Person | Registration Required | Jul 10-13, 2023

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Los Angeles County - Parks & Recreation

Sign up for in-person and virtual classes to learn a new skill, take up a new hobby or stay healthy and active! Classes start May 30, 2023 and registration is on a rolling basis.

All Ages | Sign up Required

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Inland Empire Disabilities EXPO

The Inland Empire Disabilities EXPO showcases services and products that enhance independent living for persons with disabilities. The event brings together exhibits on: Health, Housing, Advocacy, Transportation, Education, Recreation, Assistive Technology, Employment, Senior Services, Youth Services, and so much more!

Free Event | All Ages | Registration Required | Sat. Aug 26 10:00 AM

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Yes



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