

Gateway Center Staff



FALL 2022

Care and Compassion In Action



OUR MISSION

At Gateway Center of Monterey County, we serve adults with Developmental Disabilities. We fully support their individual rights and choices, and empower them to live full and productive lives with dignity and independence within the community.

WHO WE SERVE

We serve adults with Developmental Disabilities.

WHAT WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE

We are successful when our participants are able to achieve meaningful, joyful, and productive lives within their communities. We strive to support each person to enable them to achieve their goals, attain independence and empowerment, with dignity.

HOW WE WORK WITH OUR PARTICIPANTS

Our services and programs are individualized and client driven to ensure a safe, stable, and nurturing environment. We consistently deliver a broad spectrum of Person Centered Services at the highest standards of care.

THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY AND SUPPORT CIRCLE

We maintain collaborative relationships and communication with family, friends and others in our participant's support network.

HELLO ONLINE SHOPPERS!



Do your holiday shopping AND support Gateway Center! Please sign up with AmazonSmile.com and choose Gateway Center of Monterey County as the nonprofit you want to support: smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2660677.

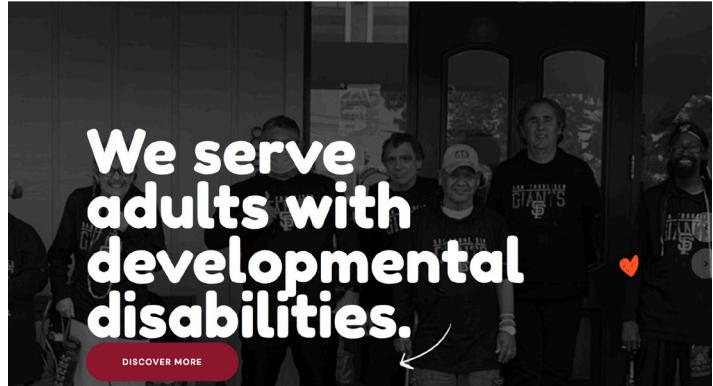


New Website!

Gateway Center is excited to announce that we have launched a new Website! For the past few months, friend of Gateway Center Frederico Dias, has been working very hard to bring to life our vision for this website! The new website has a fresh design, easy to navigate and allows for viewing on mobile devices. We have an updated overview of our Programs and we're making it easier for Applicants to apply for open positions. We hope the new website will be your connect to all things related to Gateway Center!

A huge thank you to the Community Foundation for Monterey County for providing us a grant to cover the cost and to Frederico for the huge discount and in-kind services he provided!

There will be additional updates and tweaks coming over the next few weeks, so please bear with us. In the meantime, please feel free to browse our new site and tell us what you think!!



Corinne and Remi enjoying sunshine on the patio.

A Message from the Executive Director

We just finished up a wonderful summer! Activities this season included field trips to the San Jose Giants and Monterey Bay FC Soccer. All participants had a fantastic time, and Gateway Center was welcomed warmly by fans and teams alike with an honored display on the Big Screen. Additionally, our day program went out on daily trips throughout the summer to the Sally Griffin Center, where they cleaned buckets for the Meals on Wheels Program, as well as participated in Native Plant Restoration through the Watershed Institute at CSUMB. It warms my heart to see our clients making an impact in the community! Our Residents partook in weekly swimming and, of course, trips to their favorite coffee houses and eateries. Without Walls students made trips to Monterey Peninsula College, Gidzich Ranch (where they got pie!), and sold their art at the Good Ol' Days. It is incredibly rewarding to see our Residents, Clients, and Students return to the community where they can learn, explore, and have fun. If you have been following us on Social Media you will have seen a lot of smiles and laughter. We are all living our best lives. As the Executive Director, this is a primary focus as it fulfills our mission to empower and improve the lives of our clients. However, this is only a launching point and not a plateau. There is more to be done, and we have been very busy accomplishing all we can! We just launched a new website which we feel is bright and engaging; we will strive to keep it updated and relevant. If you have not already, please look and let us know what you think. We have also made several facilities upgrades. These may not be the most glamorous milestones, but they are decidedly needed and, in some cases, were on the project schedule for many years.



Looking ahead, we intend to upgrade our Vehicle fleet while lowering our impact on the environment by purchasing an Electric Wheelchair Accessible Transport Van. Thanks to a \$60,000 grant from the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, as well as commitments from a key donor and our Board of Directors, 82% of the cost for this vehicle has already been raised. I believe we will be the first agency of our type to incorporate an electric van as they were only made available last month. If you wish to support this campaign, please let me know.



Chris loves his Starbucks!

Finally, I would like to focus on our cover page/photo. It is incredibly important to recognize our staff as, throughout the worst of the pandemic, they were there for our residents, clients, and students. Regardless of the challenge, they overcame it with professionalism, commitment, care, and compassion. Please join me in a tip of the cap to our amazing staff! In the next newsletter, I will highlight some fantastic plans we have to celebrate them. Until then, thank you for your continued support; we cannot do all the great things we do without you!

Robert Freiri
Executive Director



Day Program Volunteers Make a Difference in the Community

Gateway Center representatives Skip, Evelyn S, Evelyn C., Christopher, and their staff Cat volunteer at Sally Griffin Senior Center in Pacific Grove every Thursday by cleaning the Meals on Wheels Food Buckets. After two-hour shifts, they have washed nearly 400 buckets! At the end of their shift, the Gateway Crew is provided a free hot lunch. Sally Griffin provides our volunteers with a rewarding weekly experience in which they enjoy participating and contributing to the community.



A Message from the Director of Operations

It has been another busy and productive quarter here at Gateway Center!

We are finally beginning to see an uptick in the hiring of qualified staff, so we are happy to report that we are now bringing in new Day Program participants who have been on waiting lists for more than a year! This also provides some relief for staff who have worked diligently throughout. As always, we thank each and every one for being amazing team players in challenging times.

Our ILS/SLS Programs are also accepting new individuals who live, or strive to live independently in their communities. We serve all of Monterey County, from Pacific Grove to Soledad, so please reach out to us or your SARC Service Coordinator for more information.

Our ICF's and Reindollar homes are stable and flourishing, as well. As mentioned in the ED Report, our residents are engaged in various activities and events in the community and have been taking full advantage of the beautiful weather we have been experiencing this summer in Monterey.

Aside from working to keep everyone we serve happy and healthy, we are focusing efforts on staff trainings as we work towards full compliance with the DDS (Department of Developmental Services) Directive for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) "Final Rule", which are federally mandated Best Practices for all providers working with individuals with developmental disabilities. These "Rules" include Person Centered Practices and Client's Rights, designed to optimize the level of independence and strengthen the personal autonomy of those we serve in all facets of life. We have also been focused on continuing education on our Covid-19 response, Crisis Intervention Prevention strategies, but above all, methods for providing individualized and quality services to each and every one of our individuals across all programs.

Please contact us directly, or check out our NEW website for more information about our programs and services. Once again, gratitude to our hard working staff for all they do, and thank YOU for your continued support.

In Gratitude,
Amy Wright,
Director of Operations



SAVE THE DATES!

Monterey County Gives!

Once again Gateway Center was chosen to participate in the annual **Monterey County Gives!** campaign. With your help we hope to raise over \$50,000! Donations as part of Monterey County Gives! begin November 10 until December 31, 2022.



Thank you for your continued support!

#MontereyCountyGives! * November 10 - December 31, 2022

MONTEREY COUNTY **GIVES!**

montereycountygives.com/gateway

Giving Tuesday

This year, **Giving Tuesday** will fall on November 29th, 2022. This global giving day takes place each year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Following the consumer-driven holidays of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday encourages communities to do good and usher in the charitable giving season. 'Tis the Season to Give!



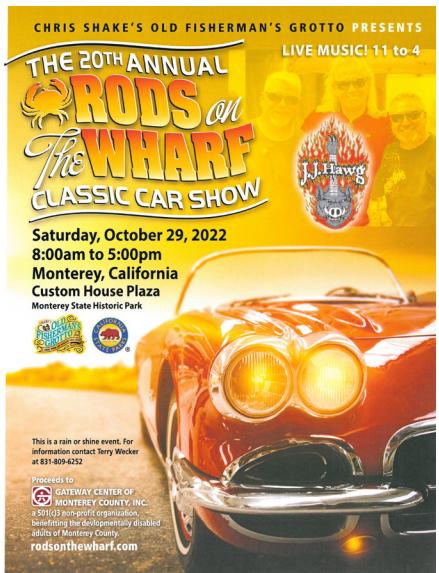
Together we give.

SAVE THE DATE

November 29, 2022

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

15th Annual Monterey Rock and Rod Festival



The Monterey Rock & Rod Festival-15, a major fundraiser and awareness event for Gateway Center of Monterey County Inc., took place on June 17-18, 2022. This year's Sock Hop kicked off at the General Stilwell Ballroom in Seaside, with the Carmel Valley Kiwanis no host BBQ beginning at 5:00 PM. There was a great showing of classic cars in our outdoor patio that lit up the night. The silent auction opened at 5:30 PM with a bounty of silent auction items, donated by committee chairs, Gateway Center, and the general public. The evening entertainment commenced at 6:00 PM with the opening act, 6-piece group with brass section, The Lost and Found Band. The live auction was held at 7:00 PM raising additional funds for Gateway Center's Patio upgrade. At 7:30 PM the Las Vegas Act, featuring, Jeremy "Elvis" Pearce & the Memphis Sons took place with a special presentation to Jeremy for 14 years of wonderful performances for Gateway Center. Our host band the Yard Dogs took center stage at 8:30 PM just in time for the Best Dressed and Best Dance Contest Awards.

On Saturday the free to the public event moved to downtown Monterey into the Alvarado Street Mall and Custom House Plaza. With warm weather and large crowds you could feel the excitement of this festival. There were over 160 classic, muscle, hot rods, street rods and custom's with an array of colors, from the 1920's to 1975. This year's headliner was Big Brother & The Holding Company, featuring Darby Gould on vocals. Also performing through-out the day were local favorite, Red Beans and Rice, along with Los High Tops, Yard Dogs and Jeremy "Elvis" Pearce & the Memphis Sons opening for Big Brother. Special awards were also presented to Los High Tops and the Yard Dogs for being part of this fundraiser for Gateway Center for each year of the festival.

Merchant Award Trophies were presented to 90 participants, along with 15 awards of excellence, long distance award winner from Bakersfield, and the Best of the West Award

winner. The Carmel Valley Kiwanis Club put on the no host bar and provided the proceeds to Gateway Center. All in all it was a great year with a check in the amount of \$30,000 presented to Gateway Center in July 2022.

Our next fundraising event for Gateway Center, is the 20th Annual Rods on the Wharf Classic Car Show, sponsored by Chris Shake of Old Fisherman's Grotto. This event will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2022, in the Alvarado Street Mall and Custom House Plaza, featuring over 120 classic cars and trucks, along with the J J Hawg Band performing from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This event also kicks off the Salvation Army canned goods program, along with a Halloween themed event. We will also be honoring our veterans with the All Service Color Guard from the DLI presenting the colors at 11:00 AM. We will be presenting 80 merchant awards, along with long distance, Mayor's Choice Award and Best of Show. Most importantly is the awareness that these events bring to Gateway Center, through advertising, signage, and one on one contacts, along with the opportunities for sponsorship, volunteering and ongoing contributors.

Terry Wecker,
Event Chair & Board Member

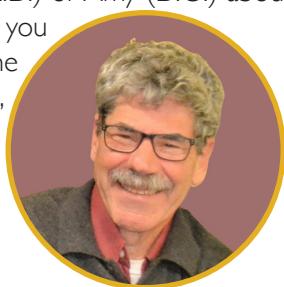


A Word from the Board Chair

The GWC board is proud to announce our newest member, Jared Wiegand. Jared is the son of former board member and longtime Gateway Center supporter, Nels Wiegand. Jared brings his extensive connections in The Monterey Peninsula Community to the Board. At the August Board meeting, he said that as a GWC board member, he would work to help spread the word about what an exceptional organization Gateway Center is among the community of younger professionals in the area. He added that it is currently unknown among younger professionals.

Are you looking for something to make life more rewarding and meaningful...Consider volunteering at Gateway Center. Volunteers are needed to help with office tasks, providing client entertainment, landscaping and serving on the Board or one of its committees. For more information please call 831-372-8002 and speak to either Robert (E.D.) or Amy (D.O.) about current opportunities. If you prefer, you can simply submit the form in the volunteer section of our website, www.gatewaycenter.org.

Sincerely,
Jim Landman,
Chairman, Board of Directors





An Interview with Amy Entwistle

1. What brought you to Gateway Center of Monterey?

I stumbled upon a job working with adults with developmental disabilities while living in the Bay Area in 2013. I ended up loving it, and when I moved to Monterey a few years later I knew I wanted to stay in the industry. Gateway immediately jumped out to me because of the energy that greeted me on my first day on site. The environment was lively and warm, and many residents approached me out of curiosity before my interview even began. I was also drawn to the number and diversity of roles within the company. Having worked in a much smaller facility prior, I did not fully understand how many layers were involved in caring for this population until I came to Gateway.

2. How has working at Gateway Center of Monterey changed you or affected you?

I think I've learned to be a better advocate, both at work and in my own life. A big part of my role as Client Care Coordinator is advocating on behalf of my residents when they are unable to do so. When I was younger, I was a total people pleaser and rarely expressed a dissenting opinion, even if I had one. Because my job requires regular communication with doctors and providers who may not always understand the particular needs and considerations of this population, I have developed a knack for using my voice and amplifying the voices of those who are not always heard. That has been a very useful new skill in my own life as well.

3. What keeps you here and why?

First and foremost, the residents! One of my favorite parts of my time at Gateway has been finding unique ways to get to know and communicate with each of them. The best feeling in the world is breaking through a communication barrier, and understanding something about the person that I did not understand before. Secondly, I stay because there is something new to learn every day. I have especially loved the opportunity to observe and participate in many different areas of the medical world, which is a personal interest of mine.

4. Tell us something about yourself we don't know

I was a competitive swimmer from childhood through my college years. Now I probably wouldn't be able to make it from one side of the pool to the other!

*Amy Entwistle is the Client Care Coordinator (CCC) in Intermediate Care Facility 2 (ICF2).

We Are Proud To Announce Our Six Newest Managers

We want to introduce you to a few of our new Gateway Center Managers!

Danya Hill has been promoted to ICF2's Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP). Danya has been with Gateway Center for nearly a year, in the Resident Staff Coordinator role. Danya also has previous QIDP experience, so we know she'll do a great job leading ICF2.

Edith Rodriguez has been promoted from a Lead Direct care staff to ICF2's Residential Staff Coordinator. Edith has been with us since 2020, and her knowledge of residents and enthusiasm for her work will make her an excellent manager. Also promoted recently from Lead direct care staff is Kaylyn Pasikala. Kaylyn has taken on the Community ADC Manager Position. Kaylyn has been with us for nearly seven years as a Lead care staff in ICF1. The day program staff and participants are delighted to have her in this new role.

Dan Lomeli, has been promoted to Community Integration Coordinator of our Without Walls program (WOW). Dan has been with WOW since its formation in 2018. We are very excited to have Dan at the helm of this ever changing and growing program.

Scott Paim, was promoted to Facilities Manager earlier this summer. Scott has been with Gateway Center for 3 ½ years in our Facilities Department. In addition to managing the department, Scott is coordinating major facilities projects and Implementation of the new Computer Maintenance Management System.

Robert Gagnon, stepping into the Kitchen Coordinator role late last year on an emergency basis, is now a permanent member of our management team. Robert has been serving great meals since he has joined us and we are delighted he will be with us for a while.

Last but definitely not least, Teuta (Tea) Yengst joined us earlier this year as our New Finance Director. Tea has held various roles with Monterey Peninsula non-profits over the past six years including finance, operations and executive director roles. Tea has transformed our Finance Department, streamlining our financials, and getting out our reports quickly and accurately!

We are so excited to retain such qualified, dedicated staff members as they move up into management roles and become leaders within our organization! All of our Managers have the same common goal: to provide the best care, services, and programs possible for the individuals we serve.



Gateway Center Day at the San Jose Giants

Gateway Center was honored on Wednesday, July 27th at Municipal Stadium in San Jose at the San Jose Giants Game. We took 30 residents, clients, and Without Wall Students and staff to the game. Part of the ceremony was Executive Director Robert Freiri throwing out the ceremonial first pitch and getting Gateway Center on the Big Screen! Our folks had their own private shaded area and a great BBQ. And we got to see a Giants win! It was a great day to get our team out in the community and a great way to get some recognition!!



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Thank you to our wonderful donors and sponsors!
This list reflects donations made from May 1, 2022 — July 31, 2022.
If there are any errors or omissions please contact us at info@gatewaycenter.org.



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CARE & COMPASSION IN ACTION



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