

Q3
2021

ISSUE 03, SUMMER

ANTHESIS PRESENTS

INCLUSION MATTERS

A QUARTERLY UPDATE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- You're Invited-Special Anthesis Association Meeting
- Showcasing Daniel C., Adult Development Center (ADC) Program
- Thank you Ahmanson Foundation!
- Spotighting Melody Clayton, Community Coach
- Legislation Matters
- Anthesis Picnic-Save the Date!
- You're Invited to Anthesis' Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



McCoy Equestrian Center Enclaves (Nathaniel B., Job Coach Jacob Stone, Christopher Z., and Nickolas S.)

OUR MISSION

To support independent and inclusive lives for adults with [dis]abilities through employment and community integration.



Matthew G., Adult Development Center program

YOU'RE INVITED — SPECIAL ANTHESIS ASSOCIATION MEETING

During my time as Executive Director, I've learned there's always room for improvement, and we have an opportunity for a more efficient governing structure.

The Association has been in place for many years, but the only responsibilities of membership were to meet annually to vote in new Board Members and approve bylaw changes. These responsibilities are better suited for Anthesis' Board of Directors, so Association members do not face any potential liability issues and we have one cohesive governing body.

With the advice of Public Counsel, Anthesis has drafted new bylaws to remove the Association as the governing body of the organization. After approval of this change, the Board of Directors would be the sole decision-making unit.

On Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm, we will host a final Association Meeting to vote to approve these new bylaws.

Any stakeholder – family, care provider, community member, funder, or other interested party – is welcome to join the meeting and participate in the vote.

**Special Anthesis Association Meeting
Friday, August 4 at 6:00 pm
Zoom Meeting ID #86021494528**

Register for the Special Anthesis Association Meeting and reference the new and old bylaws at anthesis.us/event/association/.

If you are unable to attend and wish to express your opinion regarding this change, please feel free to contact me at 909-624-3555 ext. 241 or mitch@anthesis.us.

Thank you,
Mitch Gariador
Executive Director

SHOWCASING DANIEL C., ADULT DEVELOPMENT CENTER (ADC) PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



Daniel C. began his journey with Anthesis in 2000 as part of the Work Activity Program and later joined the Adult Development Center program in February of 2011. At first, Daniel had difficulty communicating with staff because he was very shy and timid. Daniel struggled with clear communication, avoided interactions with others, and spoke only when someone asked him a question.

As time went on, Daniel started coming out of his shell and felt more comfortable socializing with his peers. With the help and dedication of the staff at Anthesis' Adult Development Center (ADC) program, Daniel was given the opportunity and space to learn social skills and how to advocate for himself. Through ADC, adults with disabilities can participate in valuable opportunities, like volunteering in the community. Daniel was excited to explore his community with his peers! Anthesis supports Daniel to be the best he can be by empowering him to advocate for himself, engage with his community, and pursue his interests. With the right support, patience, and an inclusive community, Daniel now easily advocates for himself, interacts with others, and continues to flourish.

THANK YOU AHMANSON FOUNDATION!



THE AHMANSON FOUNDATION

Over the past few years, Anthesis has worked diligently to revamp programs and change operations to adapt to new federal regulations. In 2020, The Ahmanson Foundation generously awarded Anthesis a grant of \$100,000 to assist us in continuing to serve individuals with disabilities as we focus on community-integrated activities. The funding was used for a newly installed elevator, which includes 2 sliding door entry points and ADA hands-free built-in phone in case of emergencies, a new FORD T150 transit van to transport participants to and from program and work sites, and necessary purchases related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including sanitation supplies, personal protective equipment, thermometers, and COVID testing.

Thank you, Ahmanson Foundation, for fueling our mission with your valued and generous grant!



SPOTLIGHTING MELODY CLAYTON, COMMUNITY COACH

Melody began her employment at Anthesis on March of 2017 and has worked as both a Job Coach for the Supported Employment program and a Community Coach for the Transition Program. Melody works hard to communicate regularly with the participants she works with and never fails to show up for them. Melody is consistent, which means that her group has much needed structure and dependability. They know that they can count on Melody! Melody loves her job because she enjoys seeing the participants in her group grow, learn, and thrive. Melody looks forward to every day as a Community Coach because she is ecstatic to support her group and help them reach their highest potential.



Thank you, Melody, for your dedication in making a difference in the lives of our participants!

LEGISLATION MATTERS

It is budget time again! Each year the passage of the California state budget seems to have unique challenges. The process has been smoother in the past decade, though, due to a 2010 state law that withholds legislator pay if a budget is not passed by 6/30 of each calendar year. Additionally, with the Democrats holding a super-majority in both houses, the process has avoided the normal partisan politics. In the last two years, however, the budget struggle has returned, and tough negotiations have resumed between the Governor's office and state lawmakers.

Last year, when California was deep into the COVID-19 shutdown, Governor Newsom forecasted a \$54 billion deficit. He proposed a budget that included many cuts, but state legislators submitted one that kept funding stable— with both sides anticipating federal relief. The state legislature won those negotiations and, thankfully, no cuts were needed for any programs.

This year, considering a \$100 billion dollar surplus, Governor Newsom and state lawmakers proposed differing scenarios for the 2021-2022 budget. Quite a turn-around in one year! The Governor is suggested a plan to spread this wealth among many sectors—

but, unfortunately, he did not propose any new money for programs servicing the intellectually and developmentally disabled (I/DD) communities. Thankfully, he did recommend permanently eliminating a few recession-era cuts that we have struggled with since 2008—but this funding should have been restored years ago. Further support for the disabled community has been sorely lacking in Governor Newsom's budgetary proposals.

Many members of the state legislature understand the plight of our industry and want to do more— and they acknowledge that California has been neglecting its duty to the disabled community for years. Their budget proposal included a provision that would fully fund the 2019 Rate Study. Commissioned by the state legislature, this study analyzed the funding system for I/DD services and discovered that our system was underfunded by at least \$1.8 billion. A down payment on that shortfall was passed in 2019. Yet, programs like Anthesis received only about 8% in additional funds for our programs. We are still grateful for that increase, but in their budget proposal, the legislature aimed to fully fund the remaining \$1.4 billion over 3 years. We completely

Help Improve Funding to the I/DD System

supported this plan and are happy to report that the Governor and Legislators agree to a budget at the end of June that included funding of the Rate Study over 5 years.

It was imperative that this funding pass— as our programs depend upon it. We could pay our staff a wage that is commensurate to the important work they do, create more training opportunities for our staff to collaborate with our participants, and ensure that person-centered activities are the continued focus of our mission. Due to the pandemic and systemic underfunding by the State of California, many programs have closed, and it is very difficult to retain and recruit staff. This year's state budget is an opportunity to help improve funding to the I/DD system. We appreciate everyone who advocated for this important issue and thank the Governor and Legislators for this unprecedented funding augmentation.

SAVE THE DATE FOR ANTHESIS' ANNUAL PICNIC!

Mark your calendars! You are invited to attend Anthesis' Annual Picnic. Join us for a fun-filled day of community, music, food, games, raffles, and more!

Wednesday, October 6, 10am-2pm

Chino Hills Community Park
3280 Eucalyptus Ave.
Chino Hills, CA 91709

RSVP by September 27 at anthesis.us/event/anthesis-picnic-2/

See you there!



Under the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3) Anthesis is classified as a non-profit, public benefit, tax-exempt, charitable organization with nothing given in return for donations.

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**EMPOWERING
ADULTS WITH
[DIS]ABILITIES
TO BLOSSOM.**

You're Invited!

Anthesis
*Grand Opening &
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*

Join us to celebrate the grand opening of Anthesis' brand new headquarters located in Ontario!

Friday, August 20 | 2:00PM-6:00PM

Enjoy our ribbon cutting ceremony, tour our new building, learn about Anthesis' programs, and meet our staff! Light refreshments will be provided.

For more details go to anthesis.us/event/grand-opening/

Get in Touch

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