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## President's Message

### Welcome to the Fall and Holiday Season!

Dear Members,

As the crisp autumn air begins to settle in and the holiday season approaches, I am thrilled to welcome you to our latest newsletter. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and looking forward to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for our IE CWC Chapter.

Last month, our chapter was bustling with activity. We hosted two "Meet a Hiring Manager" events, which provided invaluable insights into the EDD's hiring process and resources for upward mobility. The first event took place at the Chino Hills DI office, where we were warmly welcomed by the office management team. A special thank you goes to Office Manager Maribel Rivas and Assistant Managers Mallory Bray and Hedi Avila-Hernandez for their support and expertise. The event was both informative and inspiring, and we are grateful for their hospitality.

Our second event was held at the Riverside DI office and saw a similarly enthusiastic turnout.

We extend our sincere thanks to Maribel Rivas for participating in both events, and to Assistant Manager Atif Khan for his assistance and insights. These events have undoubtedly empowered our members with the knowledge and tools needed to advance their careers.

In addition to these professional development opportunities, our chapter also dedicated time to giving back to the community. Our team was on-site at the Ronald McDonald House (RMDH) in Loma Linda, where we prepared a heartfelt lunch for the residents. In our last newsletter, I shared the remarkable contributions of RMDH to families whose children are receiving care at the Children's Hospital of Loma Linda. Please take a moment to read more about our visit in this edition.

Looking ahead, I am delighted to announce a new addition to our board, Secret Winbush, who joins us as our Fundraising Chair. Secret is the visionary behind Project Cheer, an annual fundraiser that brings joy to children by collecting and distributing toys to families in December for Christmas. We are excited to have Secret on board and look forward to her leadership and passion driving our fundraising efforts. Welcome, Secret!

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# Honoring Our Veterans: Serving Those Who Have Served Us

By Violeta Velazquez



As Veterans Day approaches, I find myself thinking not only of the veterans here in our organization but also of those closest to me—my family. My father, a Vietnam combat veteran who joined the Army in 1968, and my younger sister, who has dedicated nearly 20 years to the Navy, have both devoted their lives to service. Growing up with their stories and sacrifices has given me a deep appreciation for the unique journey veterans undertake—both during their service and when they return to civilian life.

Veterans often carry experiences and memories that aren't easily shared, and for many, adjusting to the civilian workforce can be as challenging as the battles they've faced in service.

Here at EDD, we're committed to walking that path with them. Through our [Strengthening California's Veteran Workforce](#) initiative we provide veterans with the targeted resources and support they need to succeed in the civilian workforce, along with stories of those we've helped. This includes offering priority of service to employment, training, and supportive services to veterans, service members, and their eligible spouses.

I am particularly proud of our work with veterans because I know how life-changing it can be. When my father came back from Vietnam, the support networks we have today were still emerging, and transitioning back to

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# Honoring Our Veterans: Serving Those Who Have Served Us

FROM PAGE 2

civilian life was often isolating. Today, thanks to initiatives like Strengthening California's Veteran Workforce, we can offer veterans a better pathway—one that acknowledges their sacrifices, builds on their strengths, and provides the practical support they need to thrive in their careers.

To my veteran colleagues, thank you for your service, your resilience, and for all that you bring to our team. And to our workforce professionals, thank you for being champions of veterans' success and for supporting those who have given so much for all of us. This Veterans Day, let's honor and celebrate the veterans among us—and keep working to make sure they have the opportunities they deserve.



ULYSES LOPEZ  
U.S.M.C.  
COMBAT VET  
UI CARNEGIE  
ARU 857



LUIS G. PADILLA  
(MY FATHER)  
U.S. ARMY  
COMBAT VET  
VIETNAM JUNGLE-  
1968

## President's Message FROM PAGE 1

In addition, I encourage you to read the special article in this newsletter dedicated to honoring our veterans, as Veterans Day will be observed on Monday, November 11. This tribute recognizes the sacrifices and contributions of our brave servicemen and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our freedoms. Let us take a moment to express our gratitude and appreciation for their unwavering commitment.

As we embrace the season of fall and the spirit of the holidays, let us continue to support each other and our community. I am also excited to announce that we will be working on an Award recognition program and will be sending more information soon. I encourage everyone to nominate deserving individuals for awards, which will be reviewed for nominations and recognized during our Annual Education and Awards Conference in May and locally within the IE Inland Chapter. Thank you for your ongoing engagement and dedication to our chapter. Together, we can achieve great things.

Warm regards,  
John Szeibert  
President, IE CWC Chapter

Let's  
**GIVE**  
**THANKS**



# Warm Meals and Smiles to Ronald McDonald House



RONALD McDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES  
By John Szeibert



Front row: Rosa, Rodriguez Justine Erin, Nicole Palomino, Margaret Martin, John Szeibert, Joanie and Peter Gallerani (former IE CWC Chapter President), Jillian Hernandez. Back row: Juan Garcia, Atif Khan, Claudio, Sofia, and Jessica Escobedo.



In a heartwarming display of community spirit, members of the IE CWC Chapter, joined by friends, volunteered to prepare lunch at the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda. The house, which features 54 guest rooms, serves as temporary accommodation for families using the Loma Linda University Children's Medical Center.

Led by former IE CWC President, Peter Gallerangi, the team arrived promptly at 10:00 a.m., ready to make a difference. As a group of 13 volunteers, we received our instructions from Peter on preparing the afternoon meal. Dividing into smaller groups, we utilized four mini kitchens to prepare a delightful spread that included chicken alfredo, ham sliders, salad, and cookies.

As we worked together in the kitchens, we took the opportunity to get to know one another better. Stories and memories of previous CWC events were shared, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie. Juan Garcia from UICC reminisced about past events where they volunteered to paint homes, while for many, like Justine from UI, this was their first time volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House.

The preparation went smoothly, and the lunch was a success. Volunteers connected with the residents in various ways, whether through friendly conversations, touring the facility, or simply relaxing in the beautiful day room. The sense of community was palpable, and goodbyes came all too quickly.

The day was a tremendous success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. It was a beautiful day filled with kindness, support, and a shared goal of making a positive impact on the lives of the families at the Ronald McDonald House.

# Project Cheer

By Secret Winbush

**Tis'** the season to be jolly and give back! Project Cheer is a charity project hosted every year in December. Since 2014, it has spread holiday cheer through annual caroling events and giving projects for our Inland Empire communities.

We know that the holiday season is supposed to be one of the most joyous times of the year but can often be a time of lack and loneliness for the elderly, individuals, and families in need. As a result of recent inflation, we know there are still many families that will be in need this holiday season. This year, we will again host our Holiday Soiree Drive-through Toy giveaway for the members of the Inland Empire community on **Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 10 AM to 2 PM at Relationship Community Church in Rancho Cucamonga, CA.**

We are looking for community partners like yourself to help make this event happen and to assist as many as we can this year. We are asking for toy donations and monetary donations to help purchase toys and gift cards for children ages 0-17. In addition, we need volunteers to assist with organizing and distributing toys the night before and the day of the event. Last year, we provided toys to more than 300 children and know we will surpass this number this year.

If you would like to make a donation, you can bring toys to your local office and place them in the drop box. You can also make a monetary donation through:

- Paypal: An external link was removed to protect your privacy.
- Venmo: @ProjectCheer-IELA
- Check or Money Order: Make it payable to Secret Place Adult Women Transitional Home (Write Project Cheer in the reference)

Mail checks and money orders to: Secret Place Adult Women Transitional Home Attn: Project Cheer 305 N 2nd Ave #269 Upland, CA 91786

Project Cheer has been successful due to supporters like CWC, and we look forward to spreading more joy through giving in 2024. Your donation is tax-deductible. If you would like further information, you can call 909-347-0143 or email [projectcheerIE\\_LA@yahoo.com](mailto:projectcheerIE_LA@yahoo.com)



# 29TH VALLEY-WIDE EMPLOYMENT EXPO

By Violeta Velazquez

On September 19, 2024, I had the privilege of attending the 29th Valley-Wide Employment Expo in Indio, California. This annual event brought together nearly 90 employers and approximately 1,500 job seekers, providing a valuable space for individuals to connect directly with hiring organizations and explore new career opportunities.

Our Indio office team, led by Office Manager Javier Rojas, played an essential role in the success of the event, handling key planning, organizing, and setup tasks. During the expo, they hosted a booth to share information about the employment services we offer, ensuring attendees were aware

of the resources available to support their career journeys. Workforce Services Branch (WSB) Deputy Director, Javier Romero, who served as a guest speaker, expressed admiration for the Indio team's dedication to the local community, saying, "At the expo, I had the pleasure of meeting WSB team members from our Indio office, who demonstrate qualities we can all learn from across the branch. It was clear they are deeply connected to their community, including local employers, educators, and community-based organizations (CBO). While their collaborations reflect the unique needs of their area, all our offices have untapped collaborations waiting to be created or strengthened."

The event also featured workshops that offered attendees hands-on support in resume building and interview preparation. Events like these remind us of the power of community partnerships in building a stronger, more connected workforce.



Front : Lance Sayavong, Bradford Smith, Middle row: Marisa Tijerina, Violeta Velazquez, Javier Romero, Ruben Mendoza, Javier Rojas. Back: Clark Staehle.



## Welcome Secret Winbush Fundraising Chair

Secret Winbush is currently a Employment Program Representative (EPR) for the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Branch, at the San Bernardino UI Center, ARU 041. Secret is a highly skilled EPR and has experience in claim filing, rulings, and adjudications

She also has extensive experience in training and mentoring which she is highly passionate about. Secret is an active CWC member, and has supported and participated in many of our activities. Welcome Secret to the team, we are thrilled to have you on board and look forward to your leadership and passion driving our fundraising efforts.



## Membership Application

New   
  Update   
  Renewal   
  Cancellation

Date:

Mail application and payments to: **CWC Membership Coordinator**, P.O. Box 7858, Oxnard, CA 93031  
 or email application to [cwcworkforceconnection@gmail.com](mailto:cwcworkforceconnection@gmail.com) (mail payment, if applicable)

<b>*Full Name:</b>	First MI	Last
<b>*Local Chapter:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>*Personal email:</b>		
<b>*Address:</b>		
<b>*Employer:</b>		<b>*Location:</b>
<b>*Job Title:</b>	ARU#	<b>*Bargaining Unit #:</b>

*Type of Member	Annual Dues	*Payment Option
<input type="radio"/> <b>Employment Development Department (EDD) Employee (Bargaining Unit 1 or 4)**</b>	\$48.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$4.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>EDD Supervisor/Exempt Employee**+</b>	\$0.00	*SSN:
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Other State Employee (Non-EDD)**</b> <i>Refer to your Bargaining Unit Contract for possible reimbursement</i>	\$98.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$8.17) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Partner (Non-EDD)</b>	\$98.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check
<input type="radio"/> <b>EDD Student/Youth Assistant**</b>	\$36.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$3.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Retiree</b>	\$36.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check

I recognize that the processing of this form/payment may take 1-3 months. If I have selected the **Automatic Deduction** option, I hereby authorize the State Controller's Office (SCO) to automatically deduct from my salary each month the amount listed above and transmit, as designated, an amount for membership dues to the CWC; I understand that processing may take 2-3 pay periods. If I have selected the **cash or check** option, I hereby agree to be sent annual dues renewal invoices (**make check payable to: CWC**). I agree to provide my full social security number, which will be kept confidential. I certify that I am now a member of the CWC and allow the organization to establish, change, and/or cancel my deduction, as applicable. I understand that this authorization will remain in effect until I submit a written request to the CWC Membership Coordinator to terminate my membership and cancel any deduction, as appropriate. I also understand that the CWC organization does not issue refunds for unused dues or the months taken for processing.

**\*Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Recruiter (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

\* Required  
 \*\* If you do not wish to provide your Social Security Number (SSN), then you must pay the full membership dues for that type of member by cash or check.  
 + For this membership type, if you do not wish to supply the SSN, then the amount due is \$98.00.