



The Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center  
For Community Empowerment

*"Stronger Families Create Strong Communities"*

March 2026

Issue # 1

## NEWSLETTER

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In 2001 Lincoln Memorial United Church of Christ under the guidance of Rev. Gailen Reeves, decided to reinvest in community by developing the Lincoln Family Life Center, a 501C3 nonprofit organization to improve the quality of life of residents of Los Angeles.

We believe that every resident in Los Angeles and throughout the world deserve the chance to flourish. In July 2017, the Lincoln Family Life Center was officially renamed by its governing board of directors to the Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center for Community Empowerment (GCRC). While the organization bears a new name, its mission and vision remain constant.

### THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff and volunteers whose time, energy, compassion and commitment make everything we do possible. Your dedication and continued service strengthen our mission and have a lasting impact on the people we serve. We cannot do this work without you. Thank You.



*Volunteers at Work*

### Donors and Sponsors Matter

Behind every successful nonprofit stands a community of generous donors and dedicated sponsors who believe in our mission. Their support goes far beyond financial support - it's a powerful vote of confidence that fuels every program, outreach effort, and life-changing impact we make. Donors provide the steady lifeline that keeps essential services running, Sponsors, on the other hand, play a unique role by connecting their brands with meaningful causes, amplifying our reach and helping us build lasting partnerships.



### Our Work

Over the past 25 years, GCRC has given out more than \$38,000 in scholarships. We have provided mentorship to more than 100 teenagers. Our scholarship winners and youth who were in our mentor programs have gone on to be outstanding contributors to their communities. We have offered more than 200 Health Equity presentations, including 1 podcast.



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When the COVID 19 vaccine became available, GCRC was one of the first nonprofits to partner with Providence Health to host a vaccination clinic in the parking lot of Lincoln Memorial United Church of Christ.

In 2023 we were blessed to be one of the first to receive a grant from Council District 8. This enabled us to hire staff to assist in furthering our mission. Dr. Sheila De Gruy was one of our first hires. Shortly after, we were able to hire Jocelyn Coatney. Under their leadership, the Health Equity pillar exploded. They established The All-Things New Program. The service model is called **GCRC'S Human-Centered Services: A Proven Model for Housing Stability**. This approach succeeds because it delivers consistent, on-site, relationship-based services that no other organization provides at this scale or depth within housing communities. This approach is used with 10 apartment complexes that house families and seniors that were previously homeless. This approach fills the critical gap between housing placement and long-term stability. How do we do that?

1. **On-Site, Consistent Presence.** GCRC staff maintain a regular, visible presence inside these housing communities, making support without transportation barriers or complex systems.
2. **Daily Living Stabilization Services (GCRC's Core Services)** GCRC provides non-clinical, non-punitive, daily stabilizing supports that directly affect a resident's ability to remain housed. Services include food access and nutrition support, clothing and household essentials, medical equipment/mobility equipment,

socialization activities, informal check-ins that identify early warning signs of instability, health education, blood pressure checks and on-site vaccine clinics.

3. **Socialization Connection as a Stabilizing Intervention** GCRC treats social isolation as a housing risk factor, not a secondary concern.
4. **Bridging Housing and Case Management.** GCRC partners with organizations such as St. Joseph Center and The People Concern for formal case management. Our role is not duplication – it is reinforcement.
5. **Voluntary, Trust-Based Engagement.** All GCRC services are voluntary, non-judgmental, and relationship driven. This approach is critical for residents who have experienced trauma, system fatigue, or institutional harm.

GCRC 's model is effective because it is place-based, relationship driven, non-clinical yet essential and designed specifically for low income and post-homeless populations.





## The Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center For Community Empowerment

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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As part of the Health Equity Pillar, we provide health education classes, blood pressure screenings, and host a monthly Community Share where fresh produce, clothing, and household items are distributed. We also have a garden located at 4126 Arlington Ave.

Through our Education Pillar we offer a one-time scholarship to high school graduates who want to further their education. In addition, we have provided financial literacy courses for adults and organized a literacy camp for students in grades K–3 residing in the family apartments we serve.

With our Arts Pillar, we partner with an organization that teaches Mosaic Art classes to adults and children. These classes allow the participants to explore a talent that was not previously recognized. In 2021 we partnered with Amazing Grace Conservatory, CA Arts Council and USC School of Dramatic Arts to present the Sugar Hill Arts Revival Project (SHARP).



**Mosaic Art in the park**

### Upcoming Events

#### March

- 10th. Still Standing: A Mental Health Series (see attached flyer)
- 21<sup>st</sup>. Community Share
- 22<sup>nd</sup>. Virtual presentation on Colon Cancer presented by Dr. Anton Bilchik from Providence

#### April

- 14<sup>th</sup>. Still Standing: A Mental Health Series
- Gardening party. Date to be determined
- 18<sup>th</sup>. Community Share
- 19<sup>th</sup> In person Alzheimer's Presentation by Petra Niles, Alzheimer's Advocate.

#### May

- 16<sup>th</sup>. Community Share
- 12<sup>th</sup>. Still Standing: A Mental Health Series
- 30<sup>th</sup>. Elder Care Featuring LA County Sheriff Dept.



To all our donors, sponsors, partners, volunteers and staff. You are loved and appreciated. We would not exist if you did not support us with your time, talents and other resources.

Go to our website to donate. [www.gcrcla.org](http://www.gcrcla.org)