



The Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center  
For Community Empowerment

# AUGUST *newsletter*

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

August reminds us that growth begins with a single act of kindness. This month's stories celebrate hope in action—from Girl Scout Troop 6205 earning their Gardening Badge to the lives being transformed through GCRC's All Things New Program, and young people beginning college.. Every volunteer, donor, and community partner helps us create opportunities for children, families, and formerly unhoused neighbors to thrive. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier, and more connected South Los Angeles. Thank you for your continued support and for believing in the power of community. We invite you to join us as we continue planting seeds of hope and empowering lives.

### GROWING TOGETHER THROUGH SERVICE: LEARNING & COMMUNITY

#### *Girl Scout Troop 6205 Earns Gardening Badge at GCRC's Community Garden*

This summer, the Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center for Community Empowerment proudly welcomed **Girl Scout Troop 6205** for a hands-on gardening workshop that helped the girls earn their **Gardening Badge** while discovering the rewards of growing healthy food and caring for the environment. Led by **Master Gardener Monique Coates**, the Scouts learned how a thriving garden begins with healthy soil, careful planning, and consistent care. Working together in GCRC's Community Garden, they planted, watered, weeded, and harvested a variety of vegetables, including **collard greens, spinach, green beans, corn, tomatoes, peppers, and herbs**. The Scouts also learned how to make Oragami envelopes for seed saving. Beyond gardening techniques, the girls explored the importance of nutrition, sustainability, teamwork, responsibility, and environmental stewardship. They experienced firsthand how gardens can nourish families, strengthen communities, and inspire healthy living. The day was filled with laughter, curiosity, and hands-on discovery as each Scout proudly completed the requirements for her Gardening Badge. Congratulations to Girl Scout Troop 6205 on a job well done! We look forward to watching these young leaders continue to grow—in the garden and beyond.





The Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center  
For Community Empowerment

# AUGUST newsletter

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### *All Things New: Beyond Housing*

Every week, GCRC's All Things New Team brings hope directly to eight supportive housing communities by delivering fresh produce, nutritious food, gently used clothing, household necessities, vaccines, wellness resources, and opportunities for social interaction and connection. Our Beyond Housing model helps low income and formerly unhoused residents build stable, healthy, and thriving lives long after they receive the keys to a home. Our team is led by community advocate and champion Dr. Sheila DeGruy who works tirelessly to ensure those in our care have the option to choose what they like from the donated goods that she and her team deliver week after week.





The Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center  
For Community Empowerment

# AUGUST newsletter

## FORD REYNOLDS STAR SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT:



### *S. Belle Carlysle*

The Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center for Community Empowerment proudly recognizes **2023 GCRC Scholarship recipient S. Belle Carlysle** for her continued academic success.

Belle is pursuing a degree in **Pre-Veterinary Science** at **Los Angeles Pierce College** and plans to graduate in **2027**. She hopes to earn a bachelor's degree, attend veterinary school, and build a career providing compassionate care for animals. Committed to serving her community, Belle also plans to educate pet owners about responsible animal care, nutrition, and disease prevention. Her dedication to learning and service reflects the mission of the GCRC Scholarship Program, and her journey.

### A FINAL WORD

As summer draws to a close and students, families, and communities prepare for a new season, we are reminded that hope grows when people come together with purpose. Every scholarship awarded, every child encouraged, every family supported, and every neighbor served reflects what is possible when a community invests in one another.

At the Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center for Community Empowerment, we believe that lasting change begins with compassion, opportunity, and action. None of this work would be possible without the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers, and the commitment of our community partners. Thank you for helping us create pathways to brighter futures throughout South Los Angeles.

Will you join us in making an even greater impact? Whether you choose to donate, volunteer, sponsor a program, or share our mission with others, your support helps us empower youth, strengthen families, and uplift our community every day. Together, we are not just changing lives—we are building a stronger, healthier, and more hopeful South Los Angeles.

. Donate to GCRC at <https://bit.ly/4e5znGJ>