



The Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center
For Community Empowerment

AUGUST *newsletter*

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

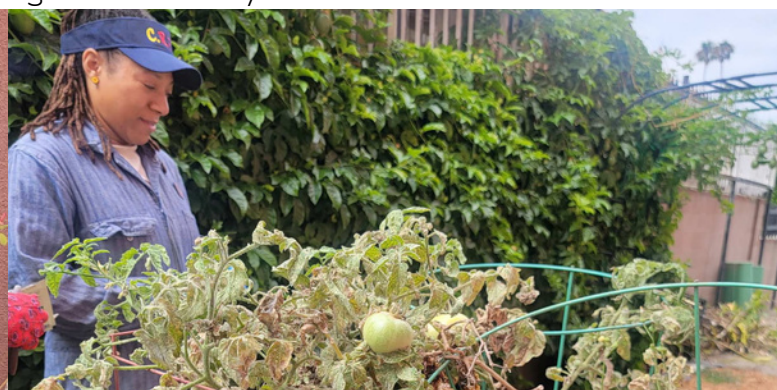
August reminds us that growth begins with a single act of kindness. This month's stories celebrate hope in action—from Girl Scout Troop 6205 earning their Gardening Badge to the lives being transformed through GCRC's All Things New Program. Every volunteer, donor, and community partner helps us create 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.





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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.





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FORD REYNOLDS STAR SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT:

A Message to Our 2026 Ford Reynolds Star Scholarship Recipients

As you prepare to begin your first semester of college, the Gailen and Cathy Reeves Center for Community Empowerment extends our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to our 2026 Ford Reynolds Star Scholarship recipients:

Joshua Arron • Gavin Brooks • Kahli Bush • Kevin Dawson • Lola Jefferson • Robert Shaw

This scholarship recognizes not only your academic excellence but also your character, leadership, and commitment to serving your community. We are honored to be a small part of your educational journey. As you begin this exciting new chapter, remember to attend every class, manage your time wisely, ask for help when you need it, and take advantage of the many opportunities your campus has to offer. Build meaningful friendships, stay focused on your goals, and never lose sight of the dreams that brought you to college.

Most importantly, believe in yourself. You have already demonstrated that you have the determination, talent, and resilience to succeed. We are confident that you will make a positive impact both on your campus and in the communities you will one day serve. May God bless you with wisdom, strength, and success throughout the coming school year. We are proud of each of you and look forward to celebrating your accomplishments in the years ahead.

As August 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.



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A FINAL WORD

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