

# Creative Support Alternatives

FEBRUARY  
NEWSLETTER  
2014



## Welcome Neiman!

We would like to officially welcome our newest Community Living Coordinator, Neiman, to our Southern California team. Joining Creative Support Alternatives in December 2013, Neiman has quickly made his impact felt, as evidenced by his leadership in partnering with Angela, Kyle, and Chris and their support teams.

A native of San Diego, Neiman has worked as a Paramedic as well as a Program Coordinator for people with autism. He graduated from UCSD with a Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Psychology. Neiman is currently enrolled at Alliant International University, where he is pursuing his Doctorate degree in Consulting Psychology.

Please join us in welcoming Neiman as he becomes acquainted with the people we support, their families, and their team members. We are thrilled to have you on board, Neiman, and look forward to collaborating and working together!

Mary Ellen Sousa-Hiner  
Director

Kristoffel van de Burgt  
Associate Director

Melissa Hough  
Coordinator

Neiman Hatcher  
Coordinator



*Creative Support Alternatives* believes that all individuals share the basic right to live in a real home, which reflects personal choice and control as to lease/ownership, location, and potential occupants, as well as to work at a real job in the community which offers meaningful work, fair compensation, and dignity. Central to the agency's core values are the themes of inclusion and interdependence. We believe that the quality of life experienced by the individual, as well as others in the community, is enhanced when support services are focused on the individual's active participation in community activities, events, and routines, including the building of personal social networks.

## Dave Moves In!

Congratulations to David, who recently moved into his very first apartment in the town of San Andreas! David began partnering with our Creative Support Alternatives Northern California team in late November 2013. His goal: to leave the group home as soon as possible for a place of his own, nearer his friends, family, and other supports. Working closely with Emilie (Support Facilitator), along with Mary Ellen (Director) we developed an Independent Living Assessment with David, outlining his strengths, skills, and support needs.



Things moved along quickly when his hoped-for apartment became available in late January. David shared that while living on his own can be a little scary at times, he also said “I can do what I want to do now. I can have friends over. I’m getting ready to have my house-warming party, too!” A very special thank-you to Connie and Ken of northern CA (San Diego Coordinator Melissa’s mom and step-dad!) who not only donated numerous furniture and household items, but even delivered them to David’s new place! We are so grateful for their generosity and support, as well as that of David’s VMRC Service Coordinator, Cindy Brewer, who has worked tirelessly to help make Dave’s dream a reality. David also benefitted from assistance provided through our Tiffany Fund. Embracing the challenges and rewards that lie ahead, we now continue partnering with David and his circle of support as he builds the life he chooses.

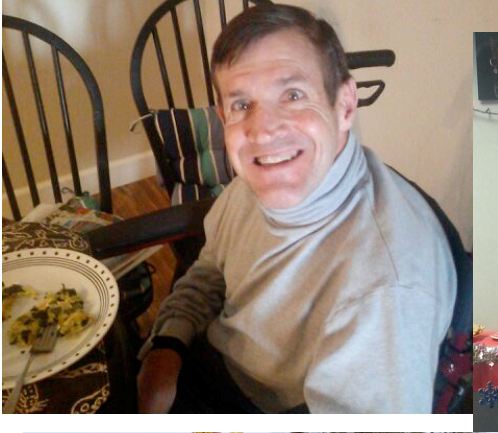
## Employee Recognition

**Pam Camp:** Whenever anyone on Chris’ team needs assistance, they turn to Pam. Pam has supported Chris since 1997 and always has her best interests at heart. Her commitment to providing quality support is unwavering. She routinely goes above and beyond, whether its getting a number at a food bank in the early morning or helping by providing morning support for a team member that has fallen ill. She is a true believer in the values of inclusion and providing opportunities for people to shine.

**Janet Estrada:** Janet has been a solid member of Nita’s team for the last year. Her experience with Supported Employment and Therapeutic Parks & Recreation allows her to use her understanding of community resources to Nita’s advantage. She is constantly bringing new ideas to the team in order to provide the best support possible. Well done!

# Photo Montage

What better way to celebrate people's lives than pictures!



## Special Announcements:

## Welcome New Employees

Antonia Roybal  
Kenfort Williams

## Upcoming Events

- Involved Exceptional Parents Day - March 15 in San Diego
- Cal-TASH Conference - March 7 & 8 in So. San Francisco
- CHOICES Institute Conference - April 4 in



**Creative Support Alternatives** functions as a small, grass-roots agency committed to empowering people to live full and included lives as members of their chosen communities.

We accomplish this by:

Developing unique patterns of support with people with developmental disabilities who live in homes of their own.

Promoting individual choice and control through person-centered planning.

Engaging resources available through SDSU's Center for Community Living/ Interwork Institute to research, demonstrate,

and evaluate support services that promote best practices in the field.

Facilitating the discovery and pursuit of people's dreams and visions for their future.

Supporting people to build positive reputations and become valued members of their communities.

Assisting people to develop and maintain relationships.

Standing with people throughout the challenges and celebrations of life.

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