

VOL. 7 ISSUE 8 • AUGUST 2026

REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER

Serving Del Norte, Humboldt,
Lake, and Mendocino County



Canva

International Assistance Dog Week

CELEBRATING THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF OUR FURRY COMPANIONS

By Renee Thompson

August 3rd through the 9th is International Assistance Dog Week and a time to celebrate the support, companionship and positive impact that dogs have had on the lives of individuals with disabilities.

International Assistance Dog

Week was created by Assistance Dog International, a group of non-profit organizations that raise awareness surrounding these important canines. An Assistant Dog is a guide, hearing or service dog that is specifically trained to do more than one task to assist

Continued on next page

Days to Remember

August is Back to School Month

August 2nd

National Friendship Day

August 3rd-9th

International Assistance
Dog Week

August 9th

International Day of World's
Indigenous Peoples

August 17th

National Nonprofit Day

August 20th

National Accessible
Air Travel Day





International Assistance Dog Week

Continued from previous page

with an individual's disability. These dogs are federally protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and have full public access rights.

In addition to Assistance Dogs, our canine friends also provide many other supports. Facility dogs are trained to work with a professional to aid multiple people in settings such as hospitals, schools and courthouses. Therapy dogs are trained to address the mental health needs of many people in different settings by providing affection, comfort, and support. Emotional Support dogs give support and comfort to an individual with a mental health disability, such as depression, anxiety, or PTSD. These are just a few of the support roles our canine friends can provide.

This month, we'd like to give a shout out to a few of the dogs in our community that are providing support.



Maya K9 5011



Maya K9 5011 is more than a service dog, she is a trusted member of the Lakeport Fire Department, providing comfort, emotional support, and a calming presence during critical moments in the emergency department, at the firehouse, on emergency scenes, and throughout the community. She helps create meaningful connections with firefighters, patients, families, and community members, offering compassion when words alone aren't enough. Maya's presence reduces stress, encourages conversation, and reminds everyone that no one has to face life's toughest moments alone.



Mishka in his birthday bandana.



This is Mishka. He's a registered Emotional Support Animal. After experiencing a traumatic

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RCRC Newsletter

To include your story in our newsletter, contact rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org





International Assistance Dog Week

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event, Mishka's owner struggled with anxiety and fear about going into public spaces. Mishka provided his owner with a sense of comfort and security that made it possible for her to feel confident reconnecting with the community again. Even though he may just look like an average dog in the park, he's always working to make sure his owner feels safe.



Meet Parmesan, an Emotional Support dog for a Regional Center Client.

"I met Parmesan (aka Parm) at the Sequoia Humane Society. When he came into the room, he immediately jumped on my lap and started licking my face.

Parm's old name was Chuck, but it didn't really fit him. One day, I was observing his light brown-tinted white fur, and it reminded me of a Parmesan rind. So, I named him Parmesan.

My family officially adopted



Parmesan sharing a loving smile.

Parm in April, but we fostered him for a bit before that to see if our home would be a good fit for him.

Parm just got certified as an Emotional Support Animal! He is a playful and loving companion who brings me joy and comfort. One time, I started crying and he immediately came over to me and sat right next to me. As an autistic person with co-occurring mental health conditions, Parm makes me feel safe and supported."

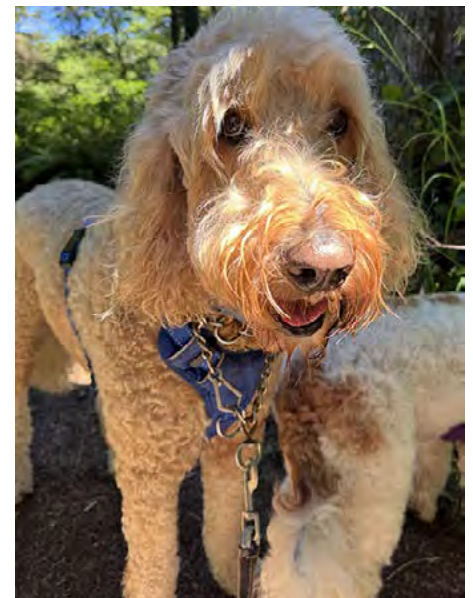


In Memory of Scout, an assistant with North Coast Nurture Center:

"We are grieved to share that our beloved goldendoodle, Scout, passed away unexpectedly on July 9th.

Scout was the gentlest soul in our NCNC family. Nearly every day, for the last five years, he happily came to work. In the clinic, Scout always greeted and welcomed families, children, and everyone he worked with. He brightened our days and poured happiness into our hearts. Scout spent his entire life sharing his unending love and affection--with everyone, each and every day. His kindness and sweet nature made everyone who knew him feel loved.

We will forever love and miss our Scouty, 6/14/2019-7/9/2026."



Sweet Scout

RCRC Newsletter

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International Assistance Dog Week

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International Assistance Dog week is a great time to celebrate our guide, hearing and service dogs. We'd also like to acknowledge and thank all our canine friends who help and give us support in our daily lives.



To learn more about assistance dogs, visit: <https://assistancedogsinternational.org/>

Calling all Entries!

Do you have a client focused story, project or event you'd like to share in the newsletter?

We would like to hear from you!

Please submit to Redwood Coast Regional Centers Social Media Coordinator for review and possible publication at rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org

Note: photos of clients and their families require a signed photo consent form.



Redwood Coast Regional Center
Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

RCRC Newsletter

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Call for Volunteers

JOIN THE RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are looking for representation from all four counties: clients, families of clients, and business professionals with experience in legal, financial, real estate, and other business areas.



For more information, email board@redwoodcoastrc.org

RCRC Newsletter

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Getting to know our community

BURT RICHARDSON

What is your position at RCRC?

I am a Fiscal Assistant.

What inspired you to get into this field of work?

My younger sister was working at UVAH and I needed a job. She told me about this one and it sounded like a good opportunity. I worked in accounting and credit

management for over 30 years prior and thought it was a good fit for me.

Tell us about an inspirational experience working with RCRC?

My most inspirational experience has been working with parent/vendors. Understanding their needs and giving them all the help they need.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I ride my Harley Trike. I just got back from a 5,000 mile ride to Alabama.



Burt's Trike

“My most inspirational experience has been working with parent/vendors. Understanding their needs and giving them all the help they need.”



BURT RICHARDSON

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AUGUST 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Del Norte

Humboldt

Mendocino

Lake

Virtual

Please enjoy the following events hosted, sponsored or tabled by Redwood Coast Regional Center. (Click on flyer to enlarge)
Additional events hosted by community partners can be found on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) platforms.

REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER AND FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

RCRC Family Resource Fair

Saturday, August 1st, 10:00am-2:00pm (while supplies last)

Adorni Center, 1011 Waterfront Dr., Eureka

For more information, contact Susan Hernandez at 707-445-0893 ext. 379.



REDWOOD DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Playgroup

Every Thursday, 10:00am-12:00pm

August 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

612 G Street, #102, Eureka

Free for all RCRC families & our diverse community.



FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

Shelter Cove Playgroup

Friday, August 7th, 10:30am-12:30pm

1555 Upper Pacific Dr., Shelter Cove

For more information, contact the Southern Humboldt Family Resource Center at 707-923-1147 or visit: <https://www.first5humboldt.org/for-families/playgroups/>



REDWOOD CAREGIVER EVENT

Support Group

Saturday, August 8th, 12:00-1:30pm

Game On, 411 1st St., Eureka

For more information, contact Alex at 707-601-8293 or alex@multiplicityinc.com



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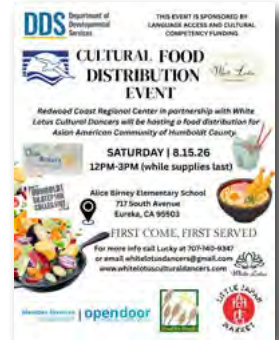
REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER AND WHITE LOTUS CULTURAL DANCERS

Cultural Food Distribution Event

Saturday, August 15th, 12:00pm-3:00pm (while supplies last)

Alice Birney Elementary School, 717 South Avenue, Eureka

For more information, contact Lucky at 707-407-8004 or email whitelotusdancers@gmail.com.



FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT

Redway Playgroup

Wednesday, August 19th, 10:00am-12:00pm

344 Humboldt Ave., Redway - Room 22

For more information, contact the Southern Humboldt Family Resource Center at 707-923-1147 or visit: <https://www.first5humboldt.org/for-families/playgroups/>



HOOPA TRIBAL EDUCATION

6th Annual Back to School Block Party

Wednesday, August 19th, 5:00-7:00pm

Hoopa Tribal Education Building, 47 Orchard St., Hoopa

For more information, call 530-625-4413 or email hoopaeducation@gmail.com



BLACK HUMBOLDT

Back to School Event

Saturday, August 22nd, 12:00-4:00pm

Downtown Arcata



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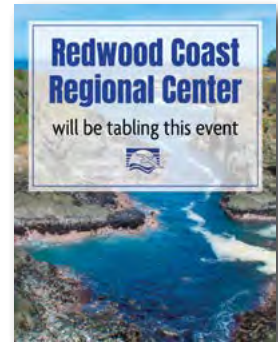
CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

Part-Time Job Fair

Tuesday, August 25th, 10:00am-2:00pm

Cal Poly University Quad

To learn more, visit the Cal Poly website [HERE](#).



REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER AND MARIPOSA PLAY CENTER

Bilingual Storytime

Tuesday, August 25th, 3:30-4:30pm

Mariposa Play Center, 1590 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka

For more information, contact Susan Hernandez at 707-445-0893 ext. 379

Registration required. To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/3QioCaE>



REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER

Attend, Learn, and Share!

The first Friday of each month, 11:00am

August 7th

Redwood Coast Regional Center, 1116 Airport Park Blvd., Ukiah

This group is in Spanish

For more information, contact 707-234-5415



MENDO LEAP

Neurodiversity Night!

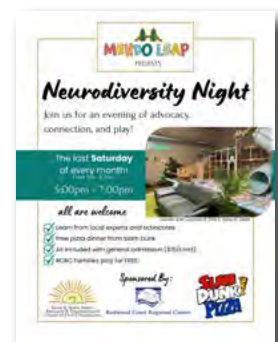
Last Saturday of each month, 5:00-7:00pm

August 29th

2146 S. State St., Ukiah

RCRC families play for FREE!

For more information call 707-671-4536.



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Additional events hosted by community partners can be found on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) platforms.

RCRC CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Client run public meeting

Wednesday, August 19th, 6:00-7:00pm

Zoom - Meeting ID: 882 2141 5395

Passcode: 413432 or Dial: 1 669 900 6833 (US)

Call your Service Coordinator for more information.



REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER

Autism Caregiver Community Group

Wednesday, August 26th, 1:00-2:00pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 929 3857 8582

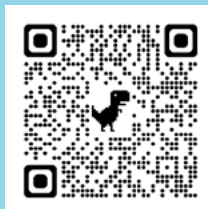
Passcode: 418240

For more information contact Stephanie Vanlathanith at 707-445-0893 ext. 348 or email svanlathanith@redwoodcoastrc.org.



TO VIEW ALL OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE HERE

<https://redwoodcoastrc.org/resources-hub/news/rcrc-news-letter/>



News ★ Stories ★ Calendar ★ Events ★ Highlights ★ Resources & more!

INFORMATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE PARTNERS



Clínica Virtual de Educación Especial PREGUNTAS Y RESPUESTAS CON SCDD

¿Tiene preguntas sobre Educación Especial y los IEPs? ¡Estamos aquí para ayudar! Únase a 2 sesiones para hacer preguntas sobre educación especial y aprender estrategias efectivas para navegar el sistema y asegurar que su hijo/a reciba los servicios y apoyos que necesita. Los temas incluirán:

- Elegibilidad de educación especial
- Estrategias para una reunión de IEP efectiva
- Como entender evaluaciones
- Concepto de Entorno Menos Restrictivo (LRE)
- Como desarrollar metas SMART de IEP
- Inclusión
- Reportes de padre
- Importancia de tener cosas por escrito
- El debido proceso y quejas

4 y 12 de agosto de 2026
5:30—7:30pm

Nos Vemos en Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83692709839?
pwd=pD3hQqQNH3FQuTZlQgBxQQ5qzRzXOm.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83692709839?pwd=pD3hQqQNH3FQuTZlQgBxQQ5qzRzXOm.1)

Número de Reunión: 836-9270-9839
Contraseña: 2026

Para más información: Sofia Cervantes
818-943-4195 * sofia.cervantes@scdd.ca.gov

[ZOOM LINK](#)



Threat Assessment & Violence Prevention:

Recognizing Concerning Behaviors, Supporting Early Intervention, & Building Safer Communities

Thursday, August 27th, 2026 | 1 - 3 PM on Zoom



[Register on
Eventbrite](#)

tinyurl.com/b7y58a42



Presented by Chief Brian Peete,
Director Riley County Police
Department, Kansas and
Board Member of Crisis
Intervention Team (CIT)
International

For more information contact:
yolanda.cruz2@scdd.ca.gov or
(619) 571-0121

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES Threat Assessment & Violence Prevention:

Recognizing Concerning Behaviors, Supporting Early Intervention, and Building Safer Communities.

Thursday, August 27th, 1:00-3:00pm

For more information, contact yolanda.cruz2@scdd.gov

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

RCRC Newsletter

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INFORMATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE PARTNERS



TRI-COUNTIES REGIONAL CENTER & THE LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR PERSON CENTERED PRACTICES

The California Gathering - Open Registration

Wednesday, October 7th-Thursdays, October 8th.
TLCPCP Trainer Development Day is Friday, October 9th.

The Marriott Santa Ynez, 555 McMurray Rd., Buellton, Ca.

Get ready to connect, collaborate, and cultivate change! Join us for three days of inspiration and deep learning as we explore how to embed person-centeredness into every aspect of our work and lives.

The California Gathering brings together a diverse community of people who value Person-Centered Thinking. In this space we all can connect, collaborate, create, and share

For more information email Jessica Chauvel at jessica@tri-counties.org or visit: <https://www.tri-counties.org/person-centered-practices/california-gathering/>

[SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE HERE.](#)

REGISTER FOR THE OCTOBER 7TH & 8TH:
[THE GATHERING ~ MAIN EVENT](#)

REGISTER FOR THE OCTOBER 9TH:
[TLCPCP TRAINER DEVELOPMENT DAY](#)

Join a focus group for
LGBTQIA+
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES

Meetings are held every other month



Information shared is kept **private and safe**

For more information email
LGBTQplus@dds.ca.gov

DDS Department of
Developmental
Services

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS) LGBTQIA+ Focus Group

Meetings are held every other month. Information is kept private and safe.

For more information, email LGBTQplus@dds.ca.gov

[JOIN THE GROUP!](#)

RCRC Newsletter

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INFORMATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE PARTNERS



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS) Individual Program Plan (IPP) Survey

We invite you to participate in the IPP survey, which is designed to gather your insights and opinions. Your feedback is incredibly important, as it will provide valuable information that will help guide and improve future initiatives.

The IPP survey is brief and confidential. By taking a few moments to share your thoughts, you will play a crucial role in improving the IPP experience for everyone.

[SHARE YOUR INSIGHTS HERE](#)



ARCA'S Voter Voice Campaign

ARCA has launched a new system designed to make it easier for our community to engage and take action on state and federal issues that affect the developmental disabilities system. Personal stories significantly influence the shaping and impact policy. We recognize the power our community holds when we unite for a common cause. ARCA's positions are representative of the needs identified by the regional centers and the communities they serve.

ARCA has introduced Voter Voice, a platform that will allow our community to engage in various campaigns benefiting California's developmental services system. This includes activities such as phone banking, writing letters, connecting with representatives, attending rallies, or simply remaining informed about legislative and budgetary issues.

To get involved and sign up for ARCA's Voter Voice System, visit the link below.

[VOTER VOICE CAMPAIGN](#)

RCRC Newsletter

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REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER RESOURCES

Become a Registered Behavior Technician

Start your career in the rewarding field of Applied Behavior Analysis and help persons on the autism spectrum or with other developmental disabilities gain functional social and life skills.

- Are you passionate about making a difference in people's lives?
- Are you interested in a career that you can grow in & develop professionally?
- Are you 18 & a HS grad (or will be soon)?

RCRC provides:

- The 40-Hour RBT Training
- Job Placement Assistance
- Stipends to cover exam costs

Registration Waitlist

Be notified when new classes are available;



Redwood Coast Regional Center
Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

rbt@rcrcdei.org – for more info

REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER Become a Registered Behavior Technician

Start your career in the rewarding field of Applied Behavior Analysis and help persons on the autism spectrum or with other developmental disabilities gain functional social and life skills.

[REGISTER FOR THE WAITLIST](#)



STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ORIENTATION



Join Us to Learn...

- What is SDP*
- Steps to Enroll in SDP
- How SDP Works
- Key Roles in SDP
- The Principles of SDP
- Your Next Steps

* Self-Determination Program

For more Information and Registration

Click the link below:

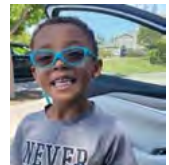
<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation>



POLI



KATIE



KION

...Are Self-Determined!

Learn if the Self-Determination Program is
Right for You!

A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION WILL BE PROVIDED.
AN SDP ORIENTATION IS REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN SDP.

SCDD AND DDS STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ORIENTATION

Want to learn more?

Contact your Service Coordinator at RCRC or a
Participant Choice Manager.

Participant Choice Managers

Humboldt & Del Norte Counties:
Alex Ostell

(707) 445-0893, ext. 317 or aostell@redwoodcoastrc.org

Mendocino & Lake Counties:

Sheila Keys

(707) 462-3832, ext. 254 or SKeys@redwoodcoastrc.org

RCRC Newsletter

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REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER RESOURCES

REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM

Redwood Coast Regional Center and participating partners are proud to offer The Blue Envelope program.

The program is designed to promote inclusivity and serve as an enhanced communication awareness tool between law enforcement and community members with a condition or disability such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Dementia, Alzheimer's or other conditions that might require additional accommodations or awareness during a law enforcement interaction.

The Blue Envelope Program provides individuals with Blue Envelope materials to display when engaging with law enforcement or community service personnel. These Blue Envelope-branded items can contain essential documents, and other relevant paperwork.

To learn more about the Blue Envelope program, participating locations, and where you can receive your free materials, visit redwoodcoastrc.org/resources-hub/the-blue-envelope-program/



LOCAL & REGIONAL RESOURCES

Find these and many more on our website at:
redwoodcoastrc.org/resources-hub/local-resources/



Redwood Coast Regional Center believes that access to information, supports, and learning is necessary for all people to achieve their life goals.

RCRC Newsletter

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Contact Us

Learn more about our services and programs reach out to an office near you.

Redwood Coast Regional Center Offices

CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE

Ukiah Office | Corporate Office

1116 Airport Park Blvd.
Ukiah, CA 95482
Phone: (707) 462-3832
Fax: (707) 462-3314
Mendocino County

Fort Bragg Office

121-A Boatyard Drive
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Phone: (707) 964-6387
Fax: (707) 964-0226
Mendocino County

Lakeport Office

180 3rd Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
Phone: (707) 262-0470
Fax: (707) 264-6537
Lake County

Clearlake Office

14888 Olympic Dr.
Clearlake, CA 95422
Phone: (707) 621-6169
Fax: (707) 264-6537
Lake County

Eureka Office

525 2nd Street, Suite 300
Eureka, CA 95501
Phone: (707) 445-0893
Fax: (707) 444-3409
Humboldt County

Crescent City Office

1301-A Northcrest Drive
Crescent City, CA 95531
Phone: (707) 464-7488
Fax: (707) 465-4230
Del Norte County

Visit us online

WWW.REDWOODCOASTRC.ORG

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 [@REDWOODCOASTRC](https://twitter.com/REDWOODCOASTRC)

 [@REDWOODCOASTRC.BSKY.SOCIAL](https://www.bsky.social/REDWOODCOASTRC)



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