



# Kainos Klarion

*Helping adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities live their best lives.*

Volume 49 • Issue No. 2  
Summer 2025

- ◆ Donors
- ◆ Tribute Gifts
- ◆ Volunteer Activities
- ◆ New Residents & Staff
- ◆ Community Partners



Kainos celebrated our Annual Luncheon on Friday, April 11th. It was a wonderful afternoon seeing friends from our community and celebrating our staff and partners who make Kainos so special. The room was filled with love!

Thank you to Saier Services and the Morton Family for your outstanding support over the years. You have made our events so special!

Loren Spiekerman was awarded with the Dorothy Philbrick Memorial Award for his continued support and dedication to Kainos as a social worker with Golden Gate Regional Center. We appreciate you!

Kainos was also honored to recognize the Redwood City Parks and Rec and the Redwood City Parks and Rec Foundation along with the Magical Bridge Foundation, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for bringing so much kindness to our community.

Congratulations to our staff who received awards this year including Stephanie Rolland, Emma Hmelar, Lisa Pressler and Dom Lalaquit.

And finally, we want to thank our own Scott Hronziencik's sisters, Amy Selmi and Lisa Stathas for sharing about their experiences as a family and then finding so much happiness in Kainos. We are so glad to know you all!



**Barbara Rovins, President**  
**Jack Castle, Secretary**  
**Glen Nissen, Treasurer**

**Executive Members**  
**Liza Bizzarro**  
**Shirley Carlson**  
**Jack Easterbrook**  
**Ellen Haas**  
**Diane Howard**  
**Debbi Jones-Thomas**  
**Henry Thierry**  
**Paula Uccelli**  
**Sally Vitello**

The mission of Kainos Home & Training Center is to enable adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities maximize their potential while becoming active, contributing members of our community.



# Welcome to our New Kainos Staff



Maricel Guevarra  
Program  
Manager  
Triplex Home



Leslie Dale  
Direct Service  
Professional  
AB Home



Em-Em Dittbenner  
Direct Service  
Professional  
SLS Homes



Tess Frieria  
Direct Service  
Professional  
La Vista Home



Leonardo Sarver  
Instructor  
Community  
Connections



Oliver Lomibao  
Direct Service  
Professional  
Petes' Place

# Welcome to our New Kainos Residents

Robbie Batista



Kamya Bickford



Kainos clients come in all ages and each have their own set of interests so it isn't surprising to hear that there is a group heading to a play and another going to see the Giants. But what is really cool is that they are also participating in activities weekly such as Zumba, bowling, bingo, volunteering, and riding their bikes or walking around town.

Alex Munoz-Bergman



## Director's Note

Recently, a series of public remarks by Robert F Kennedy Jr about individuals on the autism spectrum have sparked concern across the disability services community. While misunderstandings about autism still exist, it's especially disheartening when such views are expressed by public figures whose words carry significant influence. Some of these comments painted a bleak and inaccurate picture of life on the autism spectrum, suggesting a lack of independence, connection and contribution.

At Kainos, we know a very different reality. Every day, we have the privilege of supporting individuals who are living full, dynamic lives—lives with dignity, agency, talents and an important contribution to our broader community.

For us, this isn't just work—it's personal. Team members, families, and friends are inspired by those we serve daily. All are individuals with hopes, dreams, and achievements that deserve to be recognized and celebrated.

This moment reminds us why your support matters so much. At a time when harmful narratives can shape public perception—and potentially public policy - your investment in Kainos helps amplify the truth. It is important for all of us together to continue to ensure that the individuals we stand with receive not only the services they need, but also the respect and opportunities they deserve.

We remain committed to delivering compassionate, person-centered supports that empower each individual to live their best life. With your continued partnership, we'll keep breaking down barriers, challenging outdated beliefs and building a future that is inclusive, respectful and full of possibility.

Thank you for standing with us and with the incredible individuals we serve. - **Andy**



# THANK YOU!



Kainos  
Volunteers  
are our STARS!



*"I can say unequivocally that helping with the Kainos art class is 100% f.u.n.!! The staff are delightful and dedicated; the projects are creative and varied; and the artists, oh my, my, the artists are simply The Best They bring such positivity and joy to the world both in their art and in their personalities. What an honor to be a member of the Kainos community."*  
**Elisabeth Doxsee, Volunteer**



**Gerelyn Gilbert-Soto with Sergey Brin and Jennifer Gilbert-Soto with Nat Cisneros catered and entertained us with magic tricks and juggling at our Easter Party for Victor Cooper and other Kainos friends.**

At Kainos Home & Training Center, we believe in the power of community—and nothing embodies that more than our dedicated volunteers. Your time, compassion, and support have made a lasting impact on the lives of the adults with disabilities we serve every day.

Whether you've helped with events, spent time with our residents, assisted with programs, or simply offered a kind smile, you've made a difference. Your efforts help us create a nurturing, empowering environment where everyone is seen, valued, and encouraged to thrive.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and heart. You are an essential part of the Kainos family, and we couldn't do this without you.

From all of us at Kainos—**thank you.**



**David Rosen at AB House with Kamaya for Music Jam**



**Robin Roach with her mentor, Nicole Wilson & furry friend**



**Bay Area Special Olympics Lions Club - BASO hosts regular dances for our clients.**

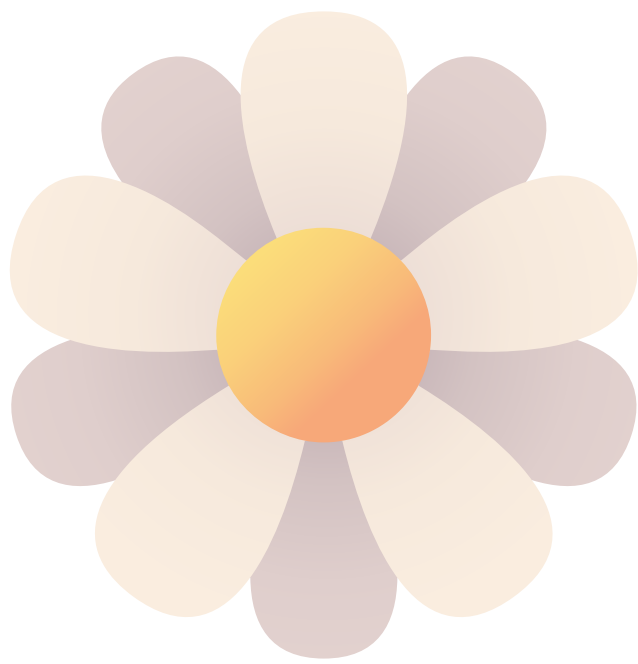


**Young Professional Network, YPN of the San Mateo County Association of Realtors organize fun activities for Kainos.**



*In Memory of*

*From*



Madeleine Banfield  
Michelle Baumbach  
Frank Bizzarro  
Frank Bizzarro  
Frank Bizzarro  
Frank Bizzarro  
Beverly Caruso  
Beverly Caruso  
David Eugene Jones  
Alla La Grave  
Thomas La Grave, Sr.  
Thomas La Grave, Sr.  
Audrey Lampert  
Julie Leach  
Armando Pera  
Cecelia Roselli  
Eric Tomita

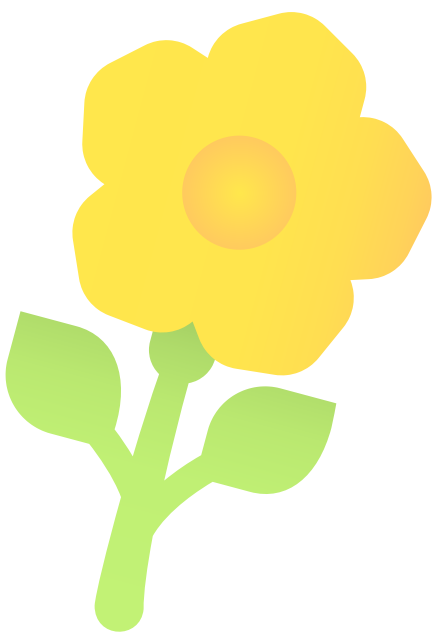
Robert and Linda Leggero  
Andrew and Ginny Frisch  
Shirley and Jerome Carlson  
Susan Smith  
David Fair  
Andrew and Ginny Frisch  
Andrew and Ginny Frisch  
Clem and Diane Smith  
Debbi Jones-Thomas  
Mark and Kathleen LaGrave  
Carol Toomey  
Mark and Kathleen LaGrave  
Andrew and Ginny Frisch  
Joyce and Gerald Kafoury  
Robert and Linda Leggero  
Susan Smith  
Ann Morrison



**Michelle Baumbach** passed away on April 4th. Kainos is already missing her so much. She moved to Kainos in 1987 and was a big part of our community. Michelle loved sports, particularly the Giants and the 49ers. She loved cats and her boyfriend Peter (who she's pictured with in the photo to the right). She loved shopping with her Mom. She touched many lives and was loved by even more.

*In Honor of*

*From*



Andy Frisch  
Andy Frisch  
Yvette Haworth  
Yvette Haworth  
Janay La Grave  
Janay La Grave  
Janay La Grave  
Janay La Grave  
Louie Shiff

Paul Michel  
Bryan Neider  
Paula Uccelli  
Marilyn A. Territo  
Victor Donchenko  
Michael and Adrienne Delfino  
Carol Toomey  
Mark and Kathleen LaGrave  
Cory Higgins



Truebeck Construction and our Kaionos crew on Saturday, April 26th!

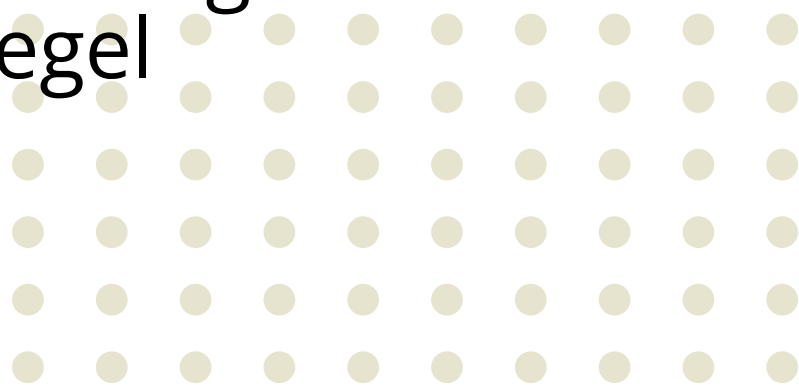
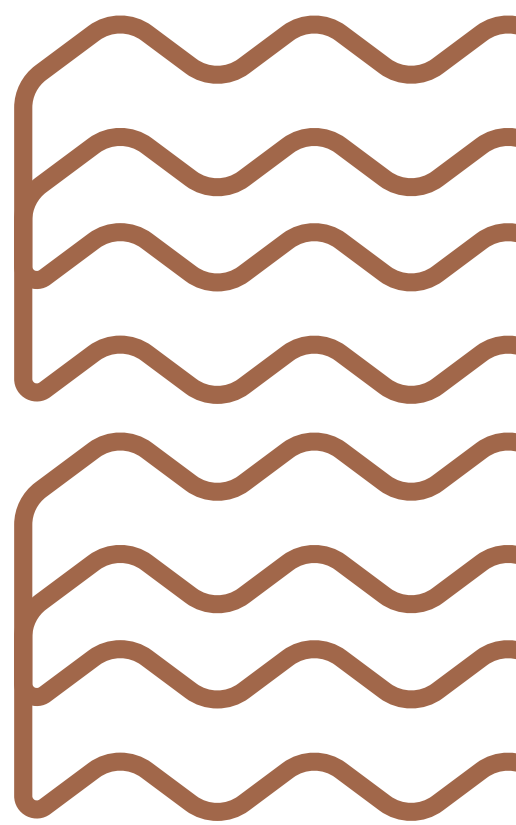


# Donations

Jason Agie  
Deborah Baker  
Hope Rhode Baker  
Frank and Kathy Bartaldo, Jr.  
Huguette Bartels  
Christiane Barth  
Bobbi Baumgartner  
Robert and Kathryn Bedbury  
Dan and Kathy Belick  
Grace Billman  
Virginia and Richard Buzzard  
Shirley and Jerome Carlson  
Mary Carrigan  
John and Raegene Castle  
Patricia A Clothier  
Dawn and Walt Coffman  
Stephen and Bernadette Connolly  
Ian Davis  
Mary Ellen Dearstyne  
Michael and Adrienne Delfino  
Victor Donchenko  
Jeff and Sybille Draper  
Jack and Eileen Easterbrook  
Jan Eastman  
David and Karyl Erickson  
Alejandro and Ruth Esteverena  
Carrie and John Follett  
Betty Garcia  
Alyn Beals and Dani Gasparini  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger L. Goad  
Bob and Janet Grubb  
Ellen Haas  
Mark Haberman  
Christine Hatton  
Trynie Hermary  
Dr. Steven and Diane Howard  
Bill Hroziencik  
John and Linda Hurzel  
John and Lisa Hutar  
Julie Hyde  
James and Kathy Janz  
Kristopher Johnson  
Barry Jolette  
Debbi Jones-Thomas  
Diana and Stephen Kadash  
Janet King  
Dolores La Casse



Thomas J. LaGrave, Jr.  
Mark and Kathleen LaGrave  
Rob Lajoie  
Michael and Jill Latham  
Robert and Linda Leggero  
Lucy Lyons  
Kathleen McLoughlin  
Bernadette Mellott  
Paul Michel  
Christina Morris and Gabe Maldonado  
Ann Morrison  
Sheryl Munoz-Bergman and Jose Munoz  
James Naftzger  
David Nathanson  
Glen and Mary Nissen  
Rick Phister  
Ms. Diana Post  
Robin Prior  
Geraudo and Mary Kate Puerto  
Anne and Bruce Robertson  
Carl Roque  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Ruder  
Robert and Marjorie Ruff  
Darlene Rutkowski  
Tara Fowler Saccuman  
Michael Scanlon  
Amy Selmi  
Craig Shaw-Butler  
Paola Silva  
Cathy and Randy Smith  
Clem and Diane Smith  
Susan Smith  
Loren Spiekerman  
Lisa Ann Stathas  
Judith Sullivan  
Marilyn A. Territo  
Carol Toomey  
Lorraine Tracey  
Connie Uccelli  
Paula Uccelli  
Karen Van Swearingen  
Ron and Joan Wachter  
Jacqueline and Clinton Ward  
Larry and Toni Wilson  
Susan Wright  
Margaret Ruby Young  
Lisa and Jim Zuegel





## Transforming Spaces, Uplifting Lives: A Heartfelt Thank You to Rebuilding Together Peninsula, Truebeck Construction and W.L. Butler

At Kainos, every improvement to our space is more than just a physical upgrade—it's a reflection of our ongoing commitment to creating a welcoming, empowering environment for the individuals we serve. Thanks to the incredible support of *Rebuilding Together Peninsula (RTP)*, we recently experienced a transformation that goes far beyond walls and windows.

Through RTP's generous connection and coordination, we were introduced to two exceptional contractors: W.L. Butler and Truebeck Construction. Their work at Kainos' Day and Employment Services Program Site (KVS) and one of our Residential Homes in Belmont, has elevated our facilities to new heights. Their talent, time and heart have gifted us more than a remodel, they've created spaces filled with new life, purpose and pride. These renewed environments now better reflect the vibrant spirit of the people who use them every day.

### Project 1: Belmont Home

Led by **Truebeck Construction**, their generous work included:

- Replacing all carpet in common areas
- Installing new kitchen flooring
- Updating lighting
- Painting all bedrooms, laundry room and gym space



### Project 2: KVS

Led by **W.L. Butler** has embraced our entire wish list.

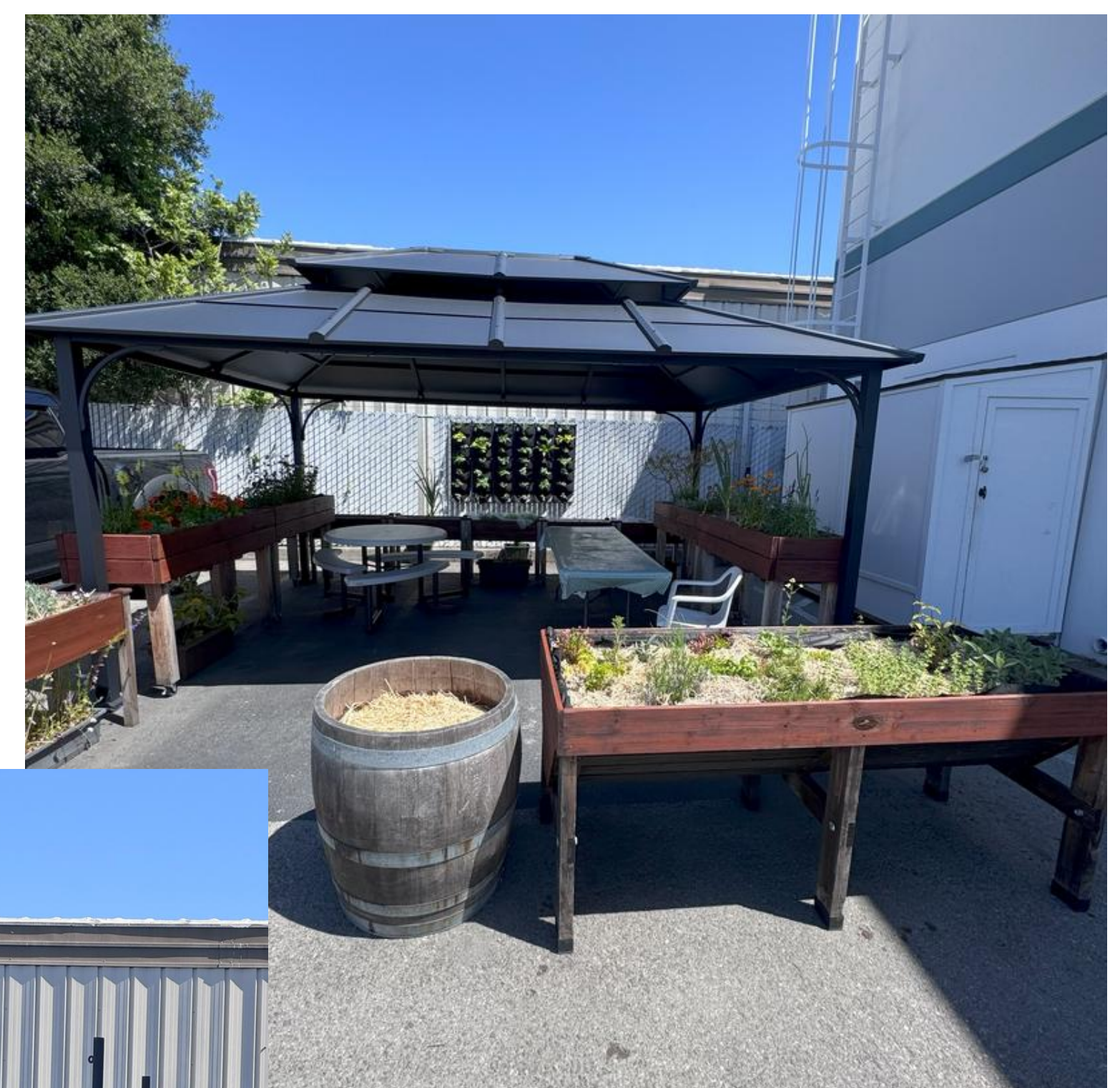
Highlights include:

- A brand-new client kitchen
- A full gym room remodel
- New paint throughout (even 20 feet up the ceilings!)
- Updated window treatments, bathrooms, landscaping and data lines

This partnership is a shining example of what's possible when community organizations come together with a shared vision. Rebuilding Together Peninsula continues to be a beacon of that collaboration, working tirelessly to strengthen local nonprofits and improve lives across the region. We are deeply grateful for their belief in our mission and for the care they've shown every step of the way.

To the team at RTP, W.L. Butler and Truebeck Construction, we thank you. Your impact will be felt for years to come in the daily experiences, milestones and happiness of all who walk through our doors.

**Together, we're not just building better spaces, we're building a stronger, more inclusive community.**





## Building Hope: W.L. Butler and Teams Enriching Lives for Years to Come (Transformation at KVS)



Kainos had a dream to one day update our kitchen for our growing cooking classes and to create a space for our expanding dance, yoga and exercises classes at Kainos' primary Day and Employment Services program space (KVS). This main space is used by Day, Employment and Residential Clients. Kainos had begun making plans to create these spaces and asked Rebuilding Together Peninsula if there was a partner who would be willing to take this large project on. After a few tours, Rebuilding Together connected us with Joel Butler and Margaret Sims from W.L. Butler who walked through and asked us for our wish list. Without a blink of an eye, W.L. Butler agreed to not only help us with one of our asks, but took on the entire KVS Building! We were left in disbelief.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of W.L. Butler and an incredible team of Subcontractors (listed below), Kainos' primary Day and Employment Services program space has undergone a remarkable transformation, one that promises to inspire, uplift and enrich the lives of everyone we serve. The W.L. Butler Team, led by Mike Curran (WLB), Jorge Figueroa (WLB), many other incredible WLB Staff and the most incredible group of Subcontractors worked tirelessly over the month of April to ensure everything came together perfectly for Rebuilding Together Day on April 26th.



What was once a well-loved and functional meeting and program space has now been reimagined into something truly extraordinary. The newly renovated environment is bright, spacious and thoughtfully designed to meet the diverse needs of those we serve and the growing and enriching classes offered. From improved accessibility features to modern finishes, calming colors with fresh paint, new window treatments, new external horticultural spaces (with gazebo) and flexible areas for learning, gathering and growth. The internal and external spaces now reflects a renewed commitment to dignity, possibility and inclusion. Not to mention a completely renovated kitchen with new appliances (thank you to the Shiff Family for the new oven), storage, kitchenware, etc., and a new gym/dance studio that will be used constantly. The W.L. Butler team has brought new life into the building and in turn into Kainos' already outstanding array of classes. These classes are a vital cornerstone in empowering individuals with the skills and confidence they need to fully thrive as valued, contributing members of their communities.



This project was more than just a renovation—it was an act of generosity and vision. The team at W.L. Butler donated not only their skills and materials, but their heart. They listened to our hopes, understood our mission and delivered a space that will support creativity, connection and personal growth for years to come. Today, individuals arrive with smiles, eager to explore new opportunities in an environment that celebrates who they are and what they can achieve. This beautiful new space stands as a symbol of community partnership at its best and we are endlessly grateful to W.L. Butler and all involved for making it all possible. We extend our deepest gratitude to W.L. Butler and every single person who brought this vision to life. Your dedication, craftsmanship and heart have created something extraordinary. Kainos would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Bill Butler and the entire W.L. Butler team. Your unwavering support over the years has been nothing short of inspiring and this milestone is a reflection of that long-standing partnership.

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With immense respect and gratitude, we acknowledge all who played a masterful role in making this dream a reality:

- Paul Hanley, WLB/AAER Rental Manager for Equipment
- Ralph Freshour and Eric Guerrero, WLB I.T. Support with Internet
- Division 8 for Window Film and Mirrors
- Pacific Space Design for Cabinets and Counters
- AMS Heating for HVAC
- Mission Electric for Electrical
- Terry Mechanical for Plumbing
- Knights Flooring for Exercise Flooring
- G&G Painting for Painting



Hurrica Restaurant so graciously chose Kainos as their beneficiary for their **Oysters for Change** donation program.

We were thrilled to accept this check from one of our favorite community partners!

Make sure you don't miss the fabulous food and service out here at Westpoint Harbor also known as the 'Silicon Valley Riviera'.

*Seen in photo is MeeSun Boice, Co-Founder of Hurrica.*



Another Kainos Value = **Person Centeredness.**

Kainos demonstrates a holistic approach to our work through adaptability, responsiveness, and advocacy to support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be the authors of their own lives. We carry this ideal into our service of one another and our community.

**IN-KIND DONATIONS**



Thank you to our community who continues to donate gifts, supplies and items for our upcoming clothing sale!

La Honda Winery  
Mayers Jewelers  
Leslie Pettinelli  
Dennis and Cynthia Pettinelli  
Daisy Segal  
Sally Vitello  
Laurie Wilson






Kainos Home & Training Center  
3631 Jefferson Ave.  
Redwood City, CA 94062

# DATED MATERIAL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please email us your name and address if there have been any changes  
or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list. Thank you!  
**communications@KainosUSA.org**

Do you have a car you  
can donate to Kainos?  
We will help you  
process the donation  
through Care2Charities.  
It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!



Let us know!  
donations@kainosusa.org

US this QR Code to go to our donation page.  
donations@kainosUSA.org

Donate Online Any Time!  
Let us know if we can help you Double Your  
Donation by requesting a matching gift  
through your company.





Someone Else's' Closet  
3rd Weekend in  
September  
More Info  
Coming Soon!

**CALLING ALL  
Mentors for 2025!**

Please send us your name and email if  
you want to be added to our list to be a  
mentor to one of our fabulous clients!  
Or if you just want more information.  
We can't wait to meet you!

volunteer@kainosUSA.org