



# Kainos Klarion

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

Volume 49 • Issue No. 3

## Fall 2025

- ◆ Mentor Summer program
- ◆ Tribute Gifts
- ◆ Volunteer Activities
- ◆ New Residents & Staff
- ◆ Community Partners



## Director's Note

This spring a small group of Kainos residents and staff took a trip to Alaska. Specifically, a Princess Cruise Line trip departing from San Francisco and touring the inner passage and Glacier Bay. On its surface, there is nothing spectacular about this trip but right below the story is one that makes me supremely proud of Kainos, our mission and our values.

John Wallen, a Kainos resident since 1980 received a grave cancer diagnosis at the end of 2024. Kainos acted quickly and working closely with his brother we were able to have him move to Petes' Place where we could better support him. John acclimated well to his new home. He let us know that his one bucket list dream was to take a cruise, a Princess Cruise to Alaska. We asked John whom he would like to accompany him. He requested Olga MacFarlane, a long-time staff that has worked with John over a period of decades. We expanded the group to include his housemates Greg Tracey and Connie Steingrube and friend Dane Wilton. Ashley Stilleson joined as an additional support staff.

Ashley was kind enough to send a steady stream of photos back to Kainos as the trip proceeded. It was clear that Olga and Ashley were showing the group a wonderful time. Photos of bright glaciers, bright smiles and lots of laughter brightened our days at Kainos.

When they returned, I asked John what he thought of the trip. He said it was perfect. I asked what he liked the most and he replied, "Absolutely every moment." John has settled back into Petes' Place and is living each day to the fullest.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Summer Mentor Fun!



We were thrilled to kick off our mentor program with both returning and new mentors in attendance—welcome, everyone!

The evening featured a delicious BBQ dinner from Armadillo Willy's, including their signature chicken and cornbread. We had a great time connecting, enjoying music, and sharing stories. A special thank you to the Young Men's Service League (YMSL) volunteers who helped serve food, joined us for dinner, and stayed to clean up. We appreciate your support—thank you, YMSL!



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**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.



### Director's Note continued

In a deeply saddening yet strangely providential coincidence, Greg received a diagnosis similar to John's upon returning from the trip—and once again, the Kainos community is coming together to support him. We will be able to care for both men (who have both lived at Kainos for 45 years) for care for the rest of their lives through treatment, palliative care and hospice care. This level of commitment and the ability to meet our clients needs through the spectrum of their lives is unique. I am honored to be a part of an organization where heart and care are at the core of our mission.

-Andy

## Welcome to our New Staff



Jemry Grona

Assistant Program  
Manager  
Triplex Home



Stacia Schober

Employment  
Services  
Coordinator

## Welcome to our New Kainos Resident Noah Curiel-Miranda



Noah, in the middle above with his house mates, just moved into La Vista and we are happy to have him here! He enjoys watching TV and especially music by the Wiggles.

## Kainos in Motion: Employment Success; Service with Heart

Through Kainos' Employment Services, we don't just celebrate new beginnings, we honor the staying power of purpose and connection in the workplace. The following stories remind us of what's possible when individuals are given the opportunity, support, and encouragement to thrive.

As a fresh face at Grey's Paints in Menlo Park, Dane Wilton has quickly become a valued member of the team. In just a few short months, Dane's consistency, professionalism, and dedication have made a lasting impression. His positive energy not only keeps the daily workflow running smoothly but also uplifts team morale, serving as a reminder of the power of showing up with pride and devotion. Perhaps the most inspiring stories come from those whose journeys have spanned decades.

Several of our clients, who began working at local grocery stores such as Lucky's in Redwood City and San Carlos, are now celebrating remarkable milestones: Doug Kannenberg marks 20 years, and Charles Schutte celebrates an incredible 30 years of continuous employment. Meanwhile, Lukas Draper recently reached 10 years of service in the café at Gilead Sciences in Foster City.

These anniversaries are far more than just numbers—they're powerful reminders of what's possible when individuals are welcomed into workplaces that value consistency, inclusion, and long-term growth. Over the years, these team members have become trusted, familiar presences who help shape the culture of their organizations and foster meaningful connections that ripple throughout the community. Their stories highlight the strength of purposeful support and the enduring impact of meaningful work. These stories reflect what we aim to cultivate every day: meaningful careers, mutual respect, and long-term success. Because when people feel seen and supported, they don't just contribute, they lead, inspire, and last.

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# THANK YOU!



The following is a list of donations gratefully received between  
***April 29, 2025 through July 21, 2025***

Kainos Home & Training Center is very thankful to all of its generous contributors. With your assistance, Kainos is able to continue its mission to help adults with developmental disabilities become active, contributing members of our community.



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## Large Donations *Continued on Page 6*

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## Employment Spotlight: New Horizons at Hidden Villa

"Coming to Hidden Villa opened up a whole new world for me" Matthew shared. "I didn't know I could enjoy something like this so much—being outdoors, helping out, and feeling like I'm part of something real" - **Matthew Eastman - (Kainos Client)**

"Watching Matthew find his rhythm here has been incredible" said Raul. "He's taken on each new challenge with heart, and it's a reminder of how powerful it is to simply believe in Matthew and walk beside him." - **Raul Martinez (Tailor Day Services Staff)**



Nestled in the heart of Los Altos, California, Hidden Villa became more than just a scenic space for Matthew Eatman, it became a doorway to personal growth, independence, and discovery. Served through Kainos and a vibrant participant in Tailored Day Services (TDS), Matthew was introduced to the opportunity through a thoughtful connection.

When presented with the idea, his eyes lit up he was all in! With the support of Raul Martinez, his dedicated TDS staff member, Matthew embarked on a day of exploration at Hidden Villa.

The two spent time walking the trails, meeting the team, and diving into the rhythm of the farm's volunteer operations. The moment Matthew arrived, something just clicked. The environment was peaceful, purposeful and it gave him a true sense of belonging. This wasn't just a visit. It was an invitation to be part of something bigger.

Whether tending to the chickens, learning sustainable farming practices, or simply experiencing the fulfillment of contributing to a cause, Matthew embraced each moment with curiosity and pride. It wasn't just a volunteer opportunity it was a chance to do something meaningful alongside someone who believed in his abilities. With Raul's encouragement and guidance, Matthew took brave steps into unfamiliar territory and flourished. The experience reflected the heart of Kainos' mission: unlocking potential through trust, support, and connection to community.

***If you'd like to see this incredible place for yourself, Hidden Villa is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, making it the perfect time to visit this Fall and witness the legacy in action.***

continued on Page 5

Kainos has a new Logo!  
We are so pleased to be kicking off our next 50 years with this logo which reflects where we've been and where are going.  
Thank you for joining us on this journey.



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Continued from previous page

# Employment Spotlight: Nicole's New Chapter - Hospitality, Growth, and Purpose at Hurrica Restaurant & Bar

*"The team at Hurrica is very supportive, understanding and welcoming."*  
**Nicole Dokonal - (Kainos Client)**



**Nicole** recently began a new role at Hurrica Restaurant & Bar in Redwood City, California, a placement that not only aligns with her background in hospitality, but also brings her personal and professional passions full circle. With years of experience working for Bon Appétit at the Google Campus in Mountain View,

Nicole has long demonstrated a talent for providing exceptional service and creating welcoming environments for others. Now, with the support of her dedicated job coach, Rocio Gallegos, Nicole is stepping into this next chapter with confidence and pride. The transition to Hurrica has already brought exciting moments of discovery. Nicole is eager to apply her knowledge in a new setting while also learning new systems, connecting with her team, and building fresh routines that promote both independence and joy.

This opportunity represents more than just employment. For Nicole, it's a return to the work she loves, with renewed energy and a support system that believes in her every step of the way.

**To visit Hurrica and say hi to Nicole stop by for a cocktail or make a reservation by calling (650) 499-4858 or going online to [www.hurrica.restaurant](http://www.hurrica.restaurant).**

## Kainos Likes to Celebrate!



Another Kainos Value = **Authenticity**

We cultivate a space where all contributions are encouraged, people are fully present and transparent, feel safe to be who they are, and represent the Kainos values.

### Music in the Park at Stafford



### BBQ at La Vista Home



***In Memory of..***

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Thomas La Grave Sr.  
Tom La Grave Sr.  
Thurman Nichols on his 75th Birthday  
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Joyce Phipps  
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Janet Thomas  
Eric Tomita  
Eric Tomita  
Debra Uccelli  
Bruce Warner

***In Honor of..***

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Kainos staff  
Janay LaGrave  
Janay LaGrave  
Janay LaGrave  
Peter Matthes and the Triplex Home  
Kim Millard  
Alex and Benji Munoz' 26th birthdays  
Petes' Place  
Susan Regan  
Robb Smith  
Liz Zirbes and all Kainos Staff

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Mikhail and Elena Tsytkin  
Roz Bergman  
Amy Colmen  
Susan Hasse  
Betty Miller  
Mikhail and Elena Tsytkin

**Sylvia Marie Nelson**

September 24, 1943  
- February 11, 2025



**Sylvia Nelson was a true champion of Kainos and our mission.**

Her vibrant presence at our special events—especially the Kainos Fashion Show—added a touch of glamour and heart. Sylvia not only supported our clients but brought along family and friends to share in the joy and witness their moment to shine.

She will be dearly missed and forever remembered.

**Large Donations***continued from Page 3*

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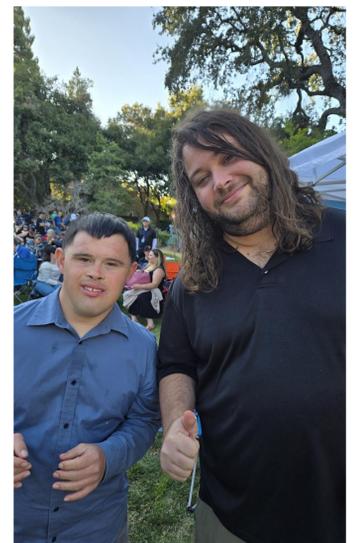
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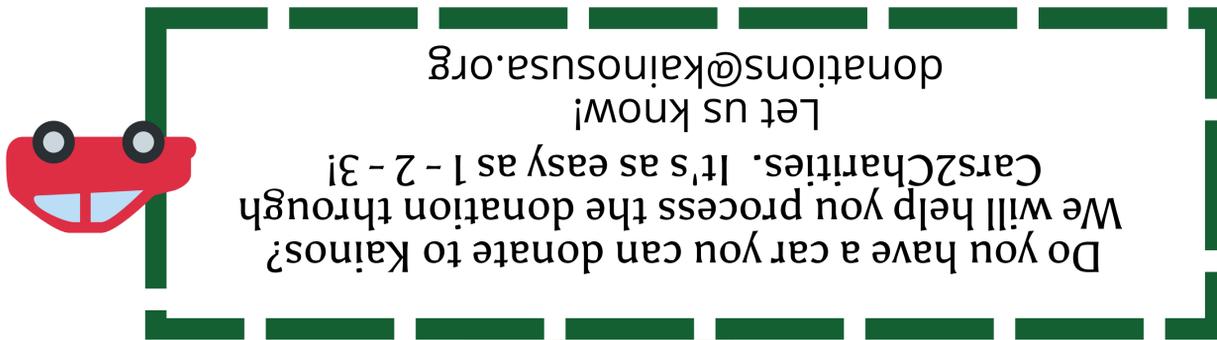
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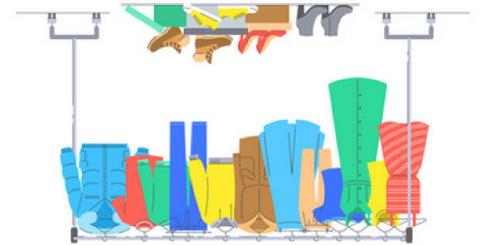
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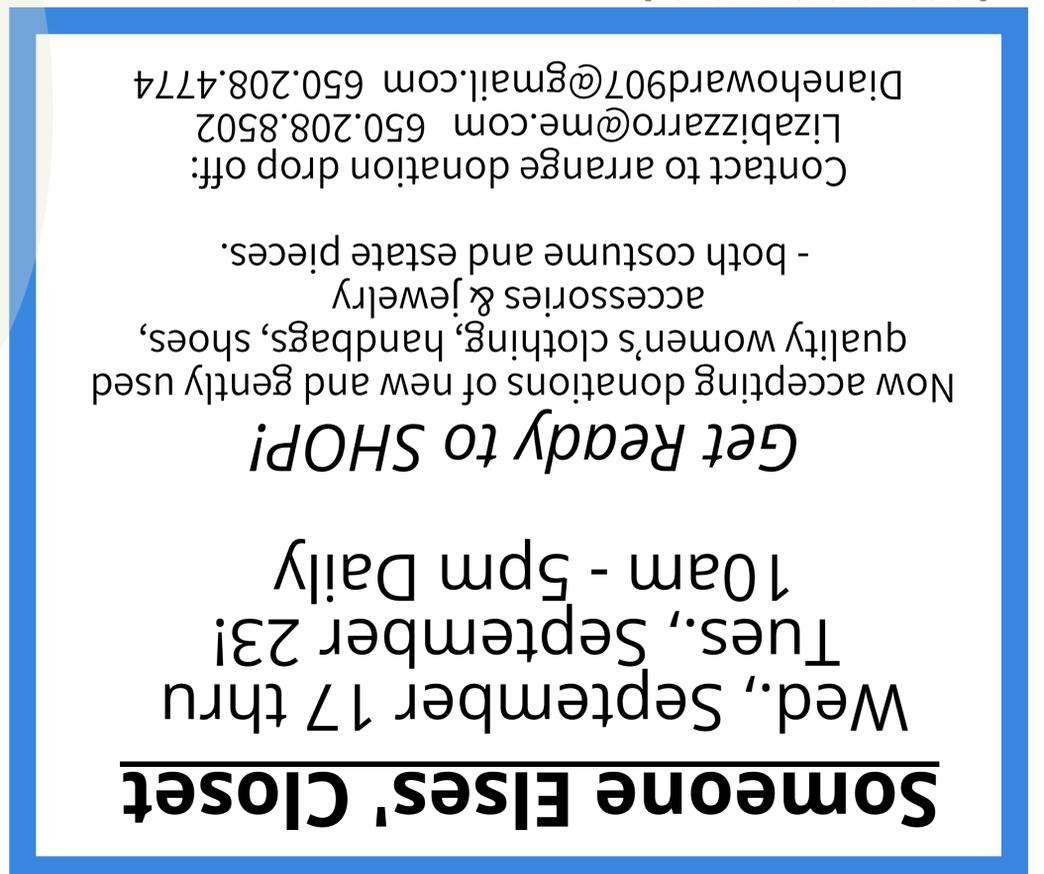
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October 4, 2025

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