

- ◆ Director's Note
- ◆ Monterra and Kainos!
- ◆ Our Resident Author
- ◆ New Residents & Staff
- ◆ Tribute Gifts



# Kainos Klarion

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

## Director's Note By Andy Frisch

**Dorothy Philbrick**, our founder was born one hundred years ago on June 15, 1926. Although she has been gone for over thirty years the legacy of Dorothy still lives on today at Kainos. It is a remarkable story in itself.

Dorothy was a school teacher and a Mom and she had a vision for something better for her son Jim. There were very few community-based services available at the time and Dorothy was among a wave of parents and others who were developing programs, homes and services that offered an alternative to the state institutions that were not meeting the needs of our loved ones.

I was a volunteer at one of those institutions in the 1970's and 80's and remember how saddened and shocked I was by the quality of care provided. I could share horror stories that stick with me to this day.

It was not easy in the 70's for anyone to follow this path. As a woman, she faced sexism. As a devout Christian, she faced skepticism from a social service system that was suspicious of religion. And as a Mom, she was looked down upon by the professionals.



The fact that Kainos became a reality is a testament to her leadership, the parents who stood alongside her, our early foundational staff including Vera Bennet, Diane Smith and Lorraine Tracey, and the unwavering support of local community members who believed in both the vision and the woman behind it.

Today, Dorothy's fingerprints can still be felt in our organization. We expect that our staff always see the families of our clients as our most important partner (alongside the individual themselves) in planning for each individual's support services.

In our services, Kainos still sets the goal to help each individual lead their best life as an active and contributing member of the community., something that was critical to Dorothy. We still think its important to place our training in a moral framework. It's not enough to teach people to be independent but essential to tie that with a feeling of responsibility to a moral code and a responsibility to one's peers and one's community.

There are many things that have changed at Kainos in our first 50 years. Times have changed! I am sure that if Dorothy is watching she would be pleased that her impact is still felt and more importantly that over 150 people are supported by a kind and caring staff, engaging in a welcoming community and each setting a course for leading their own best life.



Thank you, Monterra, for being one of our favorite community partners! We were thrilled to see CEO Wade Painter and the Monterra team present their generous gifts to Kainos and our own Andy Frisch.

Their staff built and beautifully decorated nine Little Free Libraries, which are now installed beside each of our homes. Monterra also filled them with books and activities for our clients to enjoy and keep. It's a truly wonderful gift and one that will bring joy to our Kainos community every single day.



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**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.**

January 2026



**Disneyland 2026 By Heather Washington**

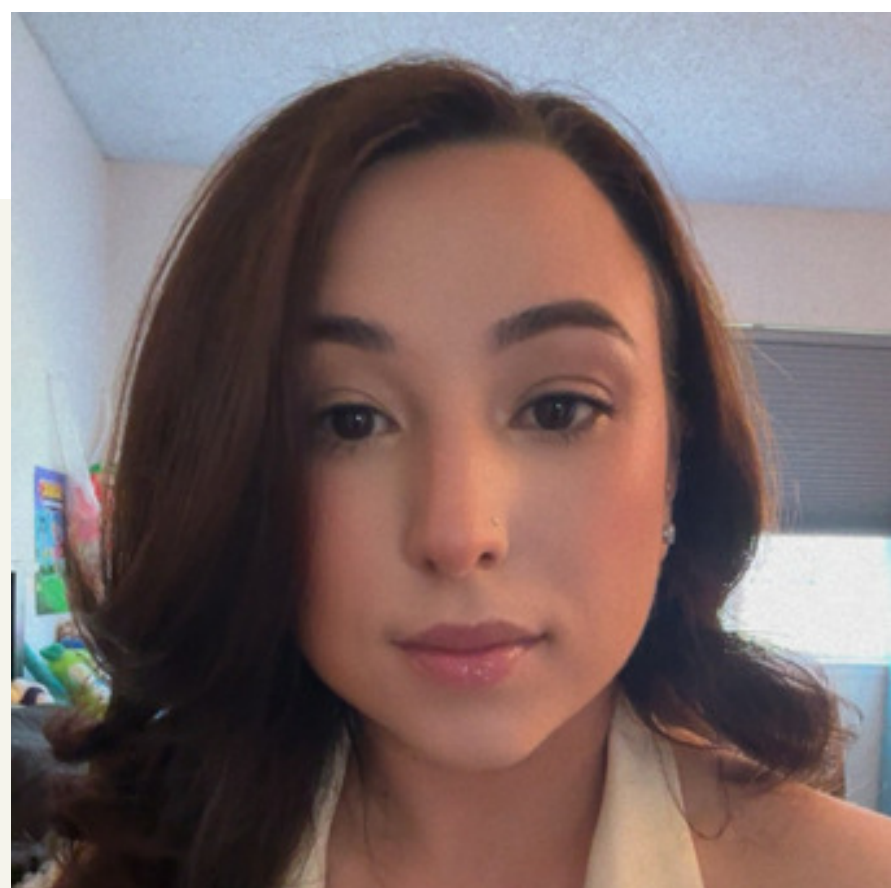
A great time was had by all during a recent trip to the Happiest Place on Earth. Our fearless leaders successfully planned a wonderful 3-day trip! We all hopped back and forth to Disneyland and California Adventure. Lots of yummy food was eaten and fun was had by all! One of the best things was seeing our clients make closer relationships with one another. Smiling and laughing together helps make memories that will last a lifetime. Meeting our favorite Disney characters is always a highlight!

I heard many reports that most people went out of their comfort zones and tried new rides. On the last evening of our trip I was able to take one of our clients back to the park to go on some of his favorite rides at night. It was a great way to end the trip.

The cast members at Disneyland treated everyone like GOLD and helped make our trip extra special. Kindness and patience for one another was a common theme during the trip.

Thank you Kainos for making a great trip possible for everyone! We already can't wait for the next trip.

**Welcome to our Newest Staff**



**Liz Peraza**  
Instructor  
Community Connections



**Jesus Fuentes**  
Instructor  
Community Connections



**Theo Geronimo**  
Direct Service  
Professional  
Petes' Place



**David Newlands**  
Direct Service  
Professional  
La Vista

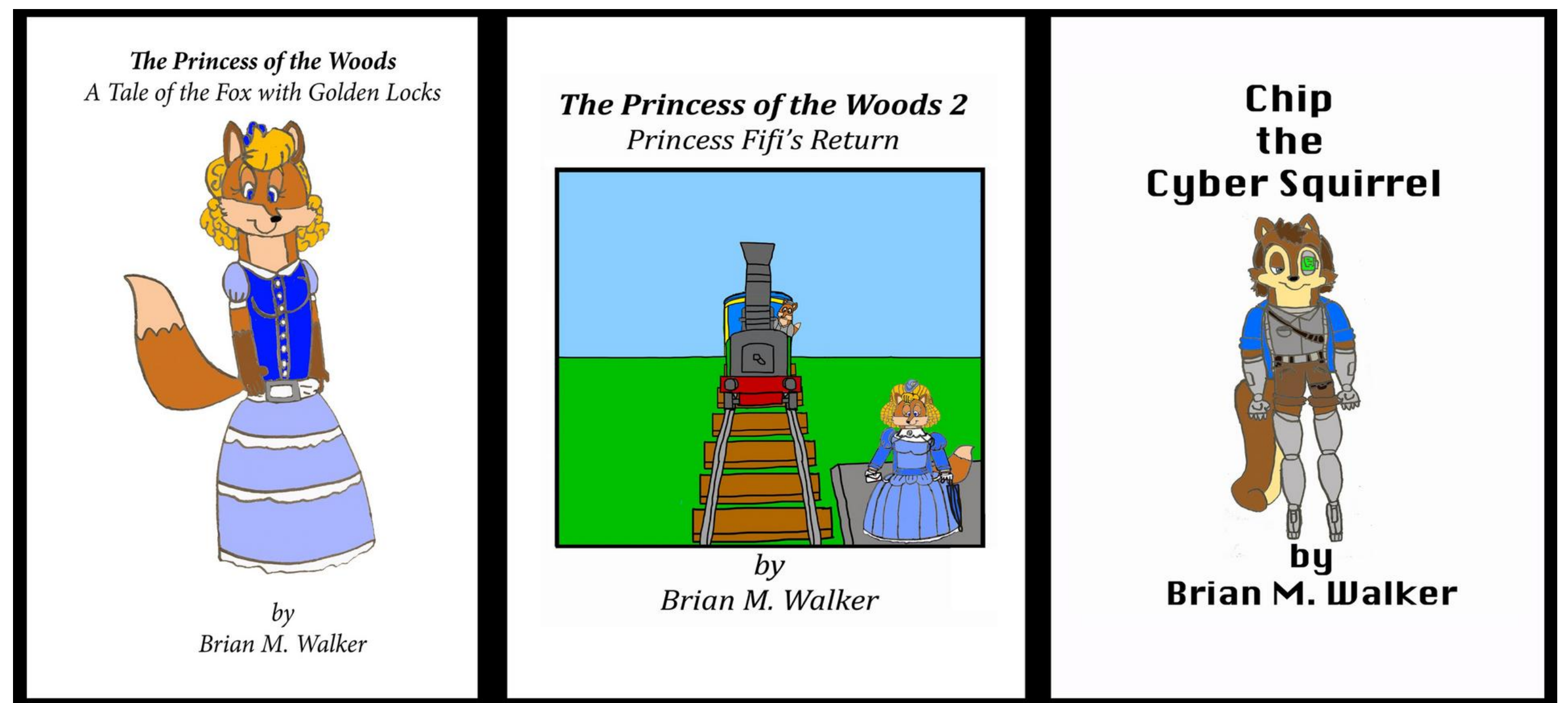
## “From Dreams to Published Stories” a story about Brian Walker.



Brian Walker's passion for storytelling began in childhood, but it was a vivid dream in 2011 that sparked the creation of his first book, *The Princess of the Woods*. "I always had a passion for storywriting since I was a kid," Brian recalls. "I first envisioned the main character Princess Fifi in a dream I had in 2011, and I was also inspired by a trip I took to Fussen, Germany, for the book's setting." The character of Fifi herself took shape over nearly a decade, with Brian drawing inspiration from a dream of a regal female fox in a frilly Victorian dress. By 2020, after taking classes in Digital Art and Animation, he finalized Fifi's design, blending his childhood imagination with his newly honed artistic skills.

Brian's creativity extends beyond fairytale worlds. His character creation often draws from a wide range of genres. For example, in *Chip the Cyber Squirrel*, he introduces a cybernetically-enhanced squirrel inspired by his love for cyberpunk fiction and films like *Blade Runner*. When asked about his favorite scenes, Brian cites the thrilling chase in the Haunted Forest from his first *Princess of the Woods* book and Princess Fifi's ride on the royal train in the sequel—a nod to his childhood fascination with trains.

The journey of publishing his first book brought its own excitement. Brian shares that drawing the illustrations was the highlight, as it allowed him to see his artistic growth, particularly after taking a Color Management and Theory class at Cañada College. "I've had several story concepts in my head for a while," he says. "Now that I'm able to self-publish my stories through Amazon KDP, I feel very happy." His advice to aspiring authors is practical and encouraging: start small, consider self-publishing, and work with a story editor to refine your vision.



Brian's personal reflections reveal the depth behind his work. As someone on the autism spectrum, he acknowledges both the challenges and unique perspectives it brings to his creative process. "It can be frustrating at times, but I was finally able to learn my skills as an artist and author," he explains. Receiving the Shining Star Award from Kainos was a proud moment for him, validating his dedication and hard work. Through his stories, Brian hopes to inspire other creatively-minded individuals, particularly those with disabilities, as well as fellow residents at Kainos.

Looking ahead, Brian is busy developing sequels to *The Princess of the Woods* and potential follow-ups to *Chip the Cyber Squirrel* and *The Adventures of Captain Sark Starlight*. His long-term dream is to expand his self-published books into animations, leveraging his artistic training to create videos for platforms like YouTube. Collaborating with a renowned animator like Don Bluth remains an aspirational goal, as Brian seeks to refine his craft and bring his imaginative worlds to life in new ways.

**Q & A with Brian continued on the next page.**



**The side of 3631 Jefferson where our main office and the La Vista and AB homes stand is getting a beautiful facelift! See photo to the right of what the finished product will be or come on by and see it in person.**

**Thanks go to Chris DeCaprio, Steve Brann, Alex Ruiz and their team of clients including Jitek, Bill, Robert, Falaa and Scott.**

**Way to go guys!  
It looks so good.**



Q: What inspired you to write your first book, *The Princess of the Woods*?

## Q & A with Brian

**Brian:** "I always had a passion for storywriting since I was a kid. I first envisioned the main character Princess Fifi in a dream I had in 2011, and I was also inspired by a trip I took to Fussen Germany for the book's setting."

Q: Can you tell us more about the inspiration behind the character Fifi?

**Brian:** "I had a vivid dream in 2011 where I was watching an animated movie on VHS that featured a female fox character with regal blonde ringlets who was dressed in a frilly blue Victorian dress. The design was later finalized around 2020 when I took a few classes in Digital Art and Animation."

Q: How do you come up with your characters — like the Cyborg in *Chip the Cyber Squirrel*?

**Brian:** "I am usually inspired by various genres in fiction, like cyberpunk after seeing *Blade Runner* and so I like to put my own spin on it such as having it star a cybernetically-enhanced squirrel."

Q: Do you have a favorite scene from any of your books?

**Brian:** "My favorite scenes would either be the chase in Haunted Forest in the first *Princess of the Woods* book since I like how exciting the scene is or Princess Fifi's ride on the royal train in the sequel, because there isn't many fairytale fantasy stories that feature trains, which was another childhood interest of mine that inspired me."

Writing Journey:

Q: What was the most exciting part of publishing your first book?

**Brian:** "The most exciting part for me was drawing the illustrations for my first book, because I could see how my drawing skills improved after taking the Color Management and Theory class at Cañada College."

Q: How did it feel to see your characters come to life on the page?

**Brian:** "I've had several story concepts in my head for a while and now that I'm able to self-publish my stories through Amazon KDP, I feel very happy."

Q: What advice would you give to someone who wants to write a book but doesn't know where to start?

**Brian:** "I suggest someone try to self-publish through websites like Amazon KDP and it's nice to have a story editor too."

Q: How has being on the autism spectrum shaped your storytelling or creative process?

**Brian:** "As someone being on the Autism Spectrum, I do have my own quirks and interests. It can be frustrating at times, but I was finally able to learn my skills as an artist and author."

Q: What does receiving the Shining Star Award from Kainos mean to you?

**Brian:** "I feel proud of what I accomplished and I'm happy to receive such an award."

Q: What message do you hope readers take away from your stories?

**Brian:** "I hope my works will inspire other creatively-minded people with disabilities and also other residents at Kainos."

Looking Ahead:

Q: Are you working on any new projects at the moment?

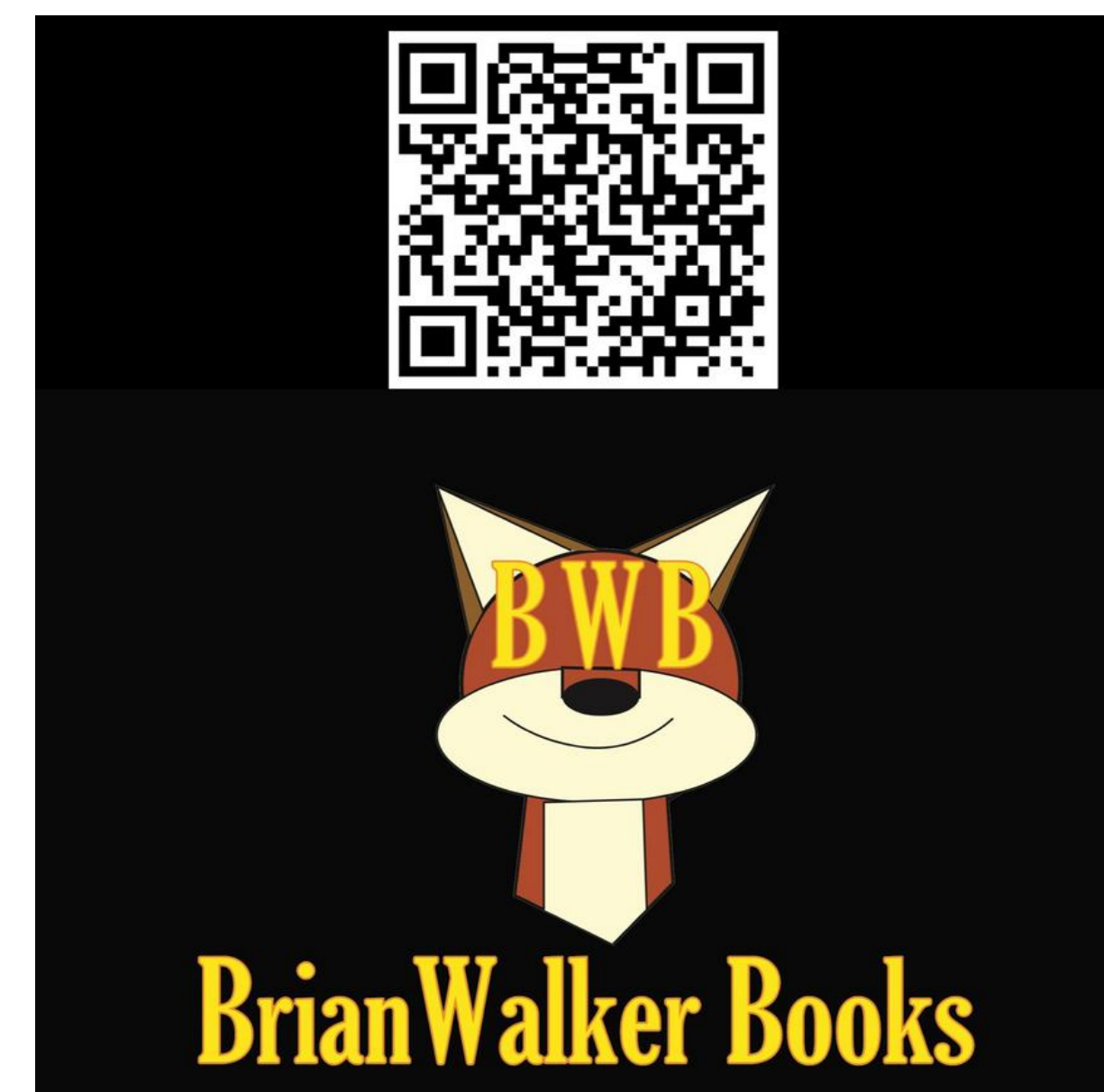
**Brian:** "I'm currently working on several sequels to the *Princess of the Woods* as well as potential follow-ups to *Chip the Cyber Squirrel* and *The Adventures of Captain Sark Starlight*. Those are the three stories that show the most promise as book series."

Q: What are your dreams for Brian Walker Books in the future?

**Brian:** "I wish to continue my brand of self-published books as well as being able to turn my stories into animation with a certificate I have; maybe simply making videos for sites like YouTube."

Q: If you could collaborate with any artist or writer, who would it be and why?

**Brian:** "I wish to collaborate with a famous animator like Don Bluth since his animated films inspired a couple of my books like *Princess of the Woods* and *The Adventures of Captain Sark Starlight*."



# THANK YOU!

The following is a list of donations gratefully received between  
*November 15, 2025 thru February 18, 2026*

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.

## Large Donations

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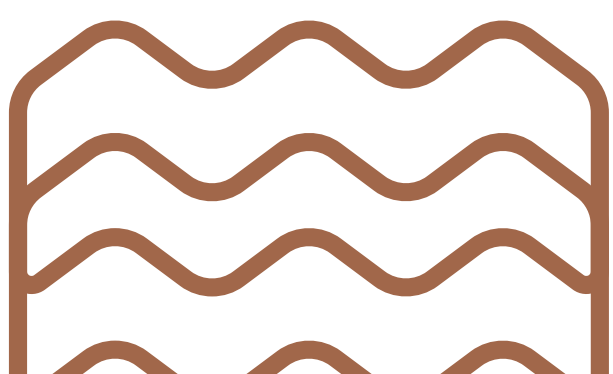
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Julia and Charles Weber  
The White Family  
James and Lia Whitehead  
Janice and Ed Wohlleb



Photo by Mikey Ward,  
Community Connections client

Henry "Hank" Thierry passed away in early 2026.

Hank was a board member of Kainos for many years and was extremely dedicated to the cause of community programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Hank's sister Marianne, who passed away in 2021 at the age of 87, had an I/DD and as a young adult there were no programs like Kainos in the Redwood City area. Marianne spent her adult life at St. Coletta's in Wisconsin. Hank was incredibly devoted to Marianne, St. Coletta's and to Kainos as well. He will be missed by all here.



<i>In Memory of..</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>In Honor of..</i>	<i>From</i>
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Linda Lee Davis	Trey Brown	Trynie Hermary's Birthday	Brian Hamilton
Sharon Erickson	Jim Burnett	Eric Hutar	Victor Donchenko
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Jack Trollman	Susan Smith	Paula Uccelli's Birthday	Jack and Dee Bartkiewicz
Angela Uccelli	Bill and Judith Uccelli	Sue Uccelli's Birthday	Jack and Raegene Castle
Babe Uccelli	Bill and Judith Uccelli	Paula Uccelli	Susan Harris
John Uccelli	Bill and Judith Uccelli	Our Wedding Anniversary	Jack and Raegene Castle
Joseph Wilson	James and Carole Fogelstrom	Liz Zirbes	Mikhail and Elena Tsytkin

# Dan Baker

*March 7, 1951 - December 25, 2025*

Dan Baker passed away on December 25, Christmas Day, 2025. Dan lived at Kainos' Petes' Place for many years and had been on hospice for most of 2025.

Dan was one of the original Kainos clients. His mother, Ann Baker was one of the first parents who worked with Dorothy Philbrick to create Kainos and was an early Kainos employee. Dan attended our initial social programs, our Work Activity Program and our Senior Day Program. He lived at the La Vista Home, the Adult Beginnings Home and Petes' Place.

In the Work Activity Program, Dan was one of the most consistent workers in producing wrapping paper for a local florist. He also worked on the French Transit contract, numerous mailing and assembly jobs as well. Dan played the guitar, square danced and was a dedicated swimmer at the Sequoia YMCA.



Perhaps more importantly than any of this was Dan's warmth and charm. He had a smile that lit up the room and that endeared him to his coworkers, housemates, mentors and staff. Dan loved coffee and spent a lot of time bonding with people over cups of joe, fancy or regular, as long as it was hot, Dan was happy.

Dan enjoyed listening to music, perusing magazines and being with family and friends. Up until the week of his death, Dan was actively participating in events at Petes Place and attending multiple holiday parties. Dan will be remembered for the love and joy that he shared with all of his friends and of course his wonderful smile.



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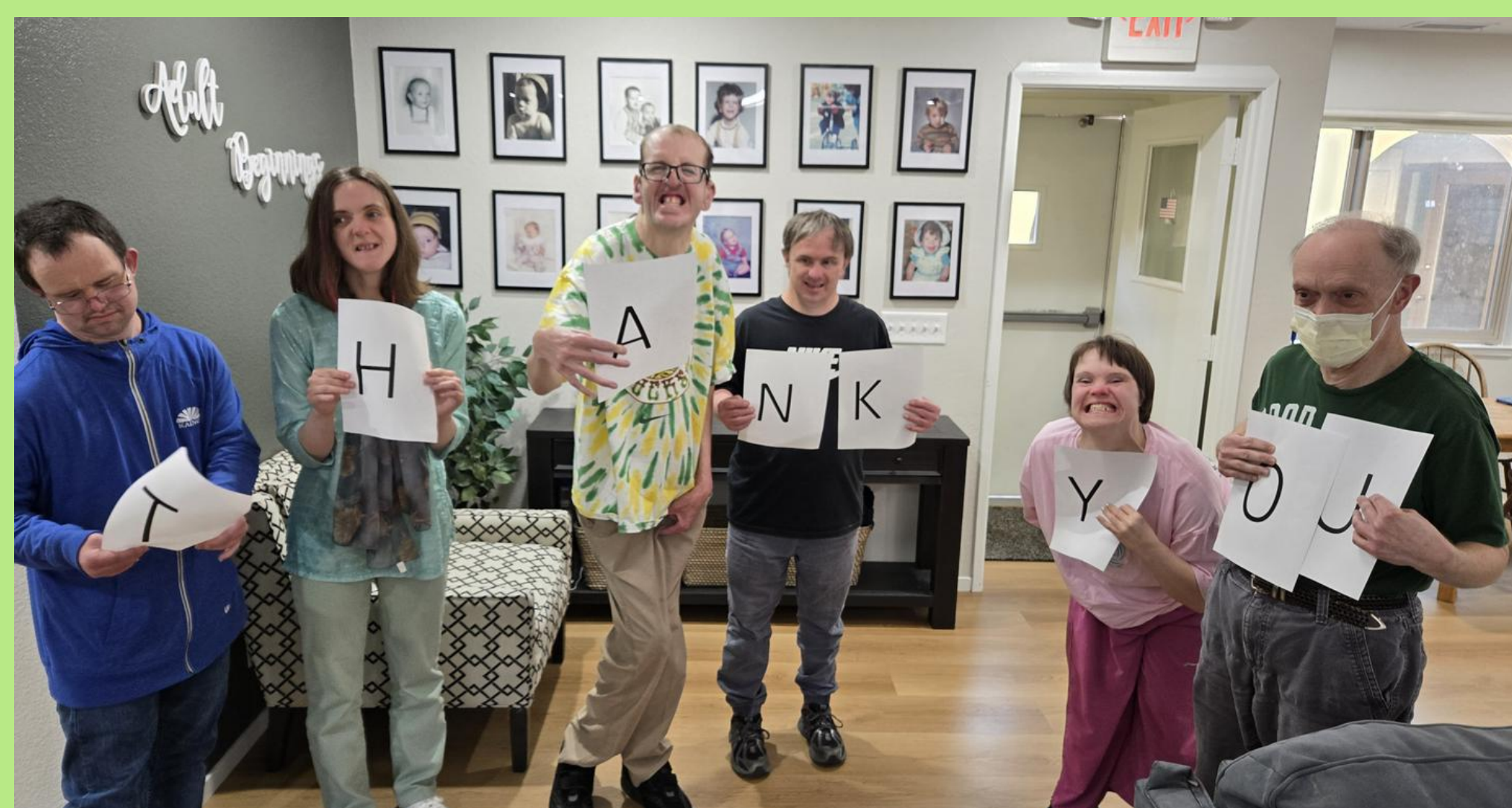
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**[Communications@KainosUSA.org](mailto:Communications@KainosUSA.org)**



**Kainos Summer Mentor Program**

Kainos Home & Training Center

Please email us at [Volunteer@kainosUSA.org](mailto:Volunteer@kainosUSA.org)

May thru September  
Redwood City | 2026



Be a Mentor to a Kainos community member! Only need to give about 14 hours for the whole summer program to have some BIG fun! Grab a friend or colleague and sign up now. Just send an email to [volunteer@kainosusa.org](mailto:volunteer@kainosusa.org) and once our summer dates are planned we will reach out to confirm your interest. Thank you!



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2026!**

**Annual Lunch**  
March 6, 2026  
Grand Bay Hotel  
Redwood City

**Golf Tournament**  
April 27, 2026  
Stanford Golf Course

**A Salute to our Stars Gala**  
September 26, 2026  
Crowne Plaza  
Foster City

