

August 2026  
Summer



- ◆ Summer Mentor Events
- ◆ New Resident & Staff
- ◆ Director's Note by Andy
- ◆ 2026 Membership Gifts
- ◆ Tribute Gifts



Kainos  
Klarion

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

Kainos' Fashion Show was a spectacular event as our models blossomed, both individually and as couples, on the runway! About 116 friends, family members, and supporters gathered to cheer them on as they proudly modeled the beautiful outfits they picked out themselves!

Our very own Richard Farmer kicked things off by introducing Andy Fish, I mean, **Frisch!** Though "Fish" may have been fitting, since many of our clients will be heading off on an Alaskan cruise later this week!

This year has been full of exciting updates at Kainos and the Fashion Show gave us the perfect opportunity to highlight a recent one: **Kainos' purchase of the Belmont Home.** The gentlemen who live in the Belmont Home were among our wonderful models, making the afternoon even more special. Sybille, Lukas Draper's mom, shared a beautiful Family Perspective about the journey of finding the Belmont Home for Lukas and what having a place to call home for Lukas means to their family. Her words were a meaningful reminder of why this community matters so much. **All proceeds from this year's Fashion Show will go toward renovations of the Belmont Home,** helping make it an even more welcoming and comfortable home for its residents.

Dani Gasparini was a natural as our Fashion Show MC. Because she knows and loves so many of the individuals we serve, Dani was able to share fun facts, stories, and special details about each model as they made their way down the runway.

And no Fashion Show is complete without great music! JeNelle Wiley, Kainos staff member and now resident DJ, did an amazing job putting together the music that kept the celebration going.

We are tremendously grateful to our generous sponsors and to everyone who raised their hands to support our **Fund-a-Need campaign.** A special thank-you goes to Brian Morton for leading such a successful drive and inspiring so much generosity in the room. All said and done, the event raised close to \$100,000! Most of all, it was a beautiful day of celebrating our clients, reconnecting with old friends, meeting new ones, and experiencing the warmth and generosity of the Kainos community.

Thank you to everyone who modeled, volunteered, sponsored, donated, attended, and helped make this year's Fashion Show such a memorable event.

**Until next time!**

## KAINOS FASHION SHOW BLOSSOMING AT KAINOS

AUGUST 18, 2026

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Henry Rivas  
Connie Steingrube  
Heather Wachter  
Dane Wilton  
Simone Wright

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Dani Gasparini, Jim Kirkland, Saier Services,  
Aili Ice Designs, Brian Morris, Judith Barker, Robin Foucrault  
and the Kainos Clients and Staff





# Director's Note

by Andy Frisch

## Kainos and CARF: Continuing Our Commitment to Quality



**Are you familiar with CARF?** If not, here is a quick overview. CARF, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, was established in 1966 to promote best practices in the rehabilitation field and accredit organizations that voluntarily meet its standards. For many years in California, CARF accreditation was also required for organizations partnering with the State Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). Because DOR has been an important partner and funder of Kainos, CARF accreditation became an important part of our work as well.

For the past 46 years, Kainos has been associated with CARF, participating in regular accreditation surveys designed to ensure that organizations meet hundreds of best-practice standards. Over the years, I have personally participated in 13 of these surveys.

The process was demanding and costly, but it was also valuable. CARF gave us opportunities to meet and learn from peers across the country, exchange ideas, consider new approaches, and strengthen our programs. We are especially proud that Kainos consistently earned CARF's highest accreditation rating.

### A New Chapter

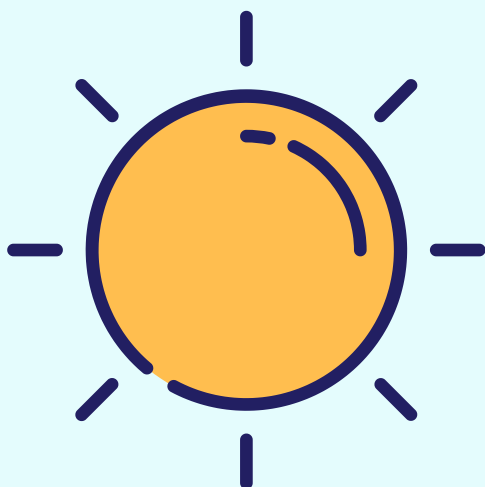
Recent changes in laws and requirements, along with changes in how Kainos receives funding and referrals, have given us the opportunity to reevaluate our participation in CARF. Today, a greater share of our referrals and funding comes through Golden Gate Regional Center, which does not require CARF accreditation. After careful consideration, Kainos has decided not to continue CARF accreditation at this time. This change does not mean a change in our commitment to accountability or quality. Kainos will continue to participate in all other required oversight reviews, audits, inspections, and monitoring processes. Most importantly, we will continue providing the high-quality services that individuals, families, and our community have come to expect from Kainos. We are grateful for everything CARF has contributed to our organization. Its standards and surveyors have helped shape many of the strong programs and systems we have today. Now, it is time to carry those lessons forward while forging a new path.

### Continuing to Learn and Improve

One of CARF's benefits was connecting our staff with peers and new ideas. We will continue creating those opportunities through our participation in Golden Gate Regional Center's Service Provider Advisory Committee and our membership in the California Disability Services Association. We hope even more members of our team will have opportunities to participate in these groups in the years ahead.

Just as important is ensuring that our commitment to best practices and continuous improvement remains strong. The principles that guide us remain firmly in place:

- A service leadership philosophy that prioritizes direct support professionals
- Strong partnerships with families
- Integration with our local community
- A commitment to volunteerism
- Strong ethical standards
- A shared and intentional community
- Lifelong learning and staff development
- Above all, a culture grounded in kindness



CARF accreditation may no longer be part of our path, but our commitment to quality, learning, accountability, and the people we serve remains as strong as ever. With your partnership, we look forward to continuing to make Kainos the best place possible for everyone we serve.

Thank you, **Andy**



New Adult  
Beginnings  
(AB)  
Resident!

Welcome to  
our  
Newest  
Staff



**Alex Alviola**

Direct Support Professional  
Petes' Place

Simone Wright is the latest and greatest resident to join our Kainos family.

She love coffees, eating out, spending time with her friends in the community, bowling, going for walks in the park, and watching movies. Her favorite color is purple.

**Welcome Simone, we are so glad you are here at AB!**





The 2026 Summer Mentor Program is more than halfway through and we've already made so many wonderful memories!

We've enjoyed Greek food and BBQ, not to mention plenty of ice cream and popsicles! We've played lots of games, met Chipper (the CHP mascot), and made new friends along the way.

We've also enjoyed live music performed by the talented high school musicians from Notes for All and sang our hearts out at karaoke.

A huge thank-you to all of our Mentors! We appreciate each and every one of you and are so grateful for all the fun, friendship, and special moments you bring to our community.

And the fun isn't over yet! We still have our Fall Festival and formal Gala to look forward to.

## From Doodles to DreamWorks: Fernando's Journey in Animation

For Fernando Gutierrez-Garcia, drawing began as more than a hobby—it was a way to connect with the world. Diagnosed at a young age with an auditory processing and expressive language learning disability, Fernando discovered that doodling helped him communicate when words were difficult. That passion for art eventually grew into a career goal.

Fernando first explored digital art at Canada College before transferring to the Academy of Art University, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Development in 2025. Visual development artists help shape the look, mood, and atmosphere of animated films and television shows, turning written stories into the visual worlds audiences experience on screen.

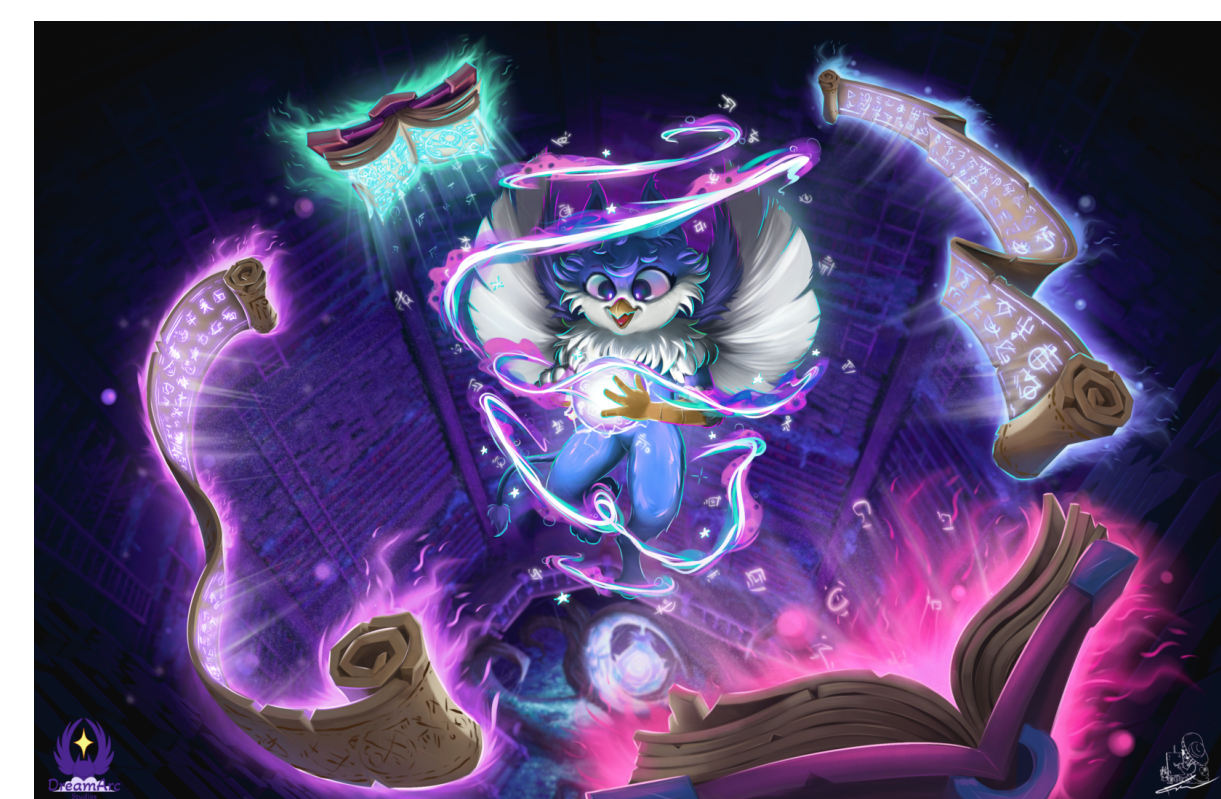
Soon after graduating, Fernando was selected for the highly competitive DreamWorks Early Career LAUNCH Fellowship Program. There, he received mentorship from experienced visual development artists, collaborated with a talented cohort of emerging creatives, and gained valuable insight into the animation industry.

Following the fellowship, Fernando joined DreamArc Studios, where he advanced from illustrator to background artist, expanding his experience in concept art and animation production. In 2026, he achieved another exciting milestone by joining the Asians in Animation Feature Pre-Production Program as a prop designer and color stylist, contributing to a short film expected to be released in 2027.

Throughout his career journey, Fernando has also partnered with Kainos Customized Employment Coordinator Emma Hmelar. Over the past year and a half, Emma has supported him in building confidence, strengthening his professional communication, organizing his job search, refining his resume and cover letter, and preparing for interviews. Today, Fernando continues to build his portfolio, expand his professional network, and pursue his dream of creating immersive worlds through animation. His story is a wonderful reminder that determination, creativity, and the right support can open doors to extraordinary opportunities.



**Fernando Gutierrez-Garcia**







## Let us count the ways we appreciate our volunteers!

People showed up from our community to do many different activities with Kainos.

Julie Lanesey and her business Floral Fusion started a 6 week gardening project at the main office with a few of our clients. A big bonus of her project is that our offices get beautiful flowers.

North Star Elementary came in one morning to join our weekly Music Jam program at the AB home and jumped right in with singing and dancing.

Young Men's Service Leagues, including the Redwood and the Crystal Springs chapters, make themselves so helpful at our mentor events serving food, setting up and cleaning. We don't know how we would do it so well without them!

Kainos was able to welcome many volunteers from Franklin Templeton at our mentor karaoke event as well as to help hand address envelopes for our annual membership mailing. We appreciate their time and their beautiful handwriting.

Speaking of our membership mailing, we can always count on our friends at the Redwood City Woman's club to step up and this year was no different. Thank you, Joanne Englehardt, Lynn Johnston, Lynn Pierce, Jenel Sherman, Leigh Wall, Barbara Wilcox and more!

We even recruited volunteers up in Bear Valley over the 4th of July holiday to help us with envelopes. Thank you, Basham family, Marcella Gadbem, Gibson family, Laura Mancuso, Steve Schwabauer, Lisa Simmonds, Kate Stuart and Jill Wegenstein.



## Belmont Ribbon Cutting



Kainos is proud to mark the ownership of our Belmont House with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that happened on August 5th.

We thank the City of Belmont for its continued support of inclusive housing opportunities. Together, we are creating a stronger, more inclusive community!

Please enjoy these few photos of the reception including our happy residents, Kainos board of directors and lots of friends.





# THANK YOU!

The following is a list of donations **gratefully received** between  
*May 19, 2026 and August 17, 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.

## Memberships

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| <i>In Memory of..</i>       | <i>From</i>                 | <i>In Memory of..</i>        | <i>From</i>                 |
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| In memory of Angela Territo | Hope Rhode Baker            | In memory of Barbara Chan    | Robert and Darlene Mah      |
| In memory of Babe Uccelli   | Carol Chan                  | In memory of Barbara Chan    | Ron and Carol Hing          |
| In memory of Barbara Chan   | Katherine Chan              | In memory of Barbara Chan    | Sandy Jones                 |
| In memory of Barbara Chan   | Wesley and Sheryl Chan      | In memory of Barbara Chan    | Shirlene Nakano             |
| In memory of Barbara Chan   | Georgina Chew               | In memory of Barbara Chan    | The Doi Family              |
| In memory of Barbara Chan   | Gary and Carol Chin         | In memory of Barbara Chan    | Victor and Melanie Low      |
| In memory of Barbara Chan   | Elizabeth Craig             | In memory of Barbara Chan    | Wendy Quan                  |
| In memory of Barbara Chan   | Geoffrey Cumming            | In memory of Barbara Chan    | Wesley and Sheryl Chan      |
| In memory of Barbara Chan   | The Doi Family              | In memory of Basil Ford      | Katherine E. Taylor         |
| In memory of Barbara Chan   | Patty Dumond                | In memory of Dan Baker       | Hope Rhode Baker            |
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| In memory of Barbara Chan   | Jean Houston                | In memory of Jim McLoughlin  | Jean Houston                |
| In memory of Barbara Chan   | John and Linda Hurzel       | In memory of John Uccelli    | Bill and Judith Uccelli     |
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| In memory of Barbara Chan   | Sandy Jones                 | In memory of Thurman Nichols | Tracey Tozzi                |
|                             |                             | In memory of Tom Gnam        | Robert and Christine Gnam   |

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|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| In honor of Belmont House                 | The Anita Larue Wilton Trust                  |
| In honor of Lorraine Haerr                | Carrie and John Follett                       |
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| In honor of Kainos Staff                  | Mikhail and Elena Tsyppkin                    |
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| In honor of Janay LaGrave                 | Carol Fanucchi                                |
| In honor of Janay LaGrave                 | Don and Beverly Dennehy                       |
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| In honor of Janay LaGrave                 | Victor Donchenko                              |
| In honor of Maureen McLoughlin's Birthday | Jean Houston                                  |
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| In honor of Robb Smith                    | Betty Miller                                  |
| In honor of Paula Uccelli's Birthday      | Susan Harris                                  |
| In honor of Mark Van Swearingen           | Judith Sullivan                               |

# Dr. Barbara Chan

May 19, 1960 - May 14, 2026

Barbara Chan, mother of Kainos resident Elyssa Chan, passed away on May 14, 2026.

Barbara was a dear friend to Kainos and a tremendous advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Barbara was particularly passionate about opportunities in the creative and performing arts for the individuals we served and we were thrilled that she (and her husband Ken) joined us when Kainos was represented by Elyssa and her peers at the international Special Olympics in Graz, Austria.

We will miss Barbara dearly and thank all of those who have contributed in her memory.





# Thank you, Canyon Inn!

Canyon Inn established 1973  
Kainos Home & Training Center established 1974

It is no coincidence that we are both around 50+ years later. Canyon Inn's service, food and dedication to our community is top notch.

Thank you Stephanie and Tim for inviting us in to enjoy a great meal with our friends and families. We already can't wait for the next one!



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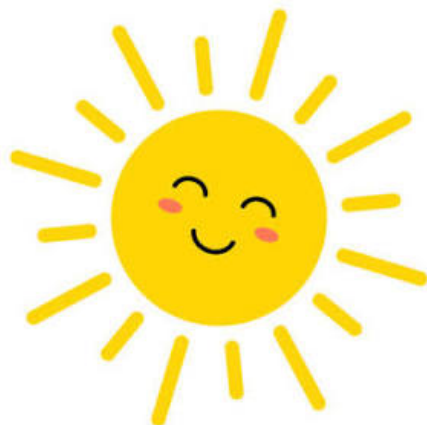




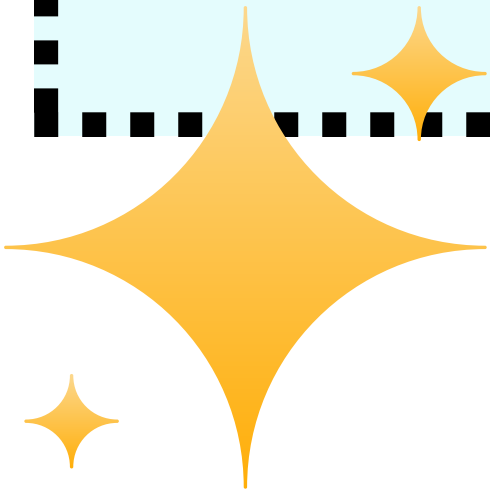
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**Communications@KainosUSA.org**



April 18, 2027  
Golf Tournament  
Stanford Golf Course

Feb 5, 2027  
Annual Luncheon  
Grand Bay Hotel



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website or to make a donation!

A Salute to Our Stars Gala  
Saturday September 26th, 2026  
5:30 No Host Cocktails  
6:30 Dinner  
8:30 Dancing  
Crown Plaza Foster City  
1221 Chess Drive, Foster City  
Tickets \$125  
Please respond with the enclosed remit by September 10th, 2026

