

MAY 2023



LifeLine News

BY MONIKA GRASLEY

EMPOWERING UNDER-RESOURCED
NEIGHBORHOODS TO THRIVE



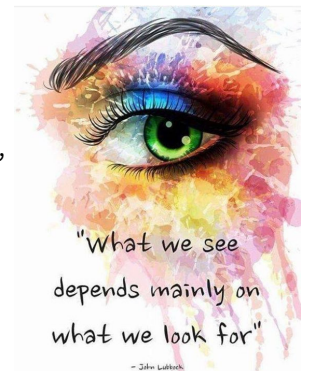
"Don't judge my journey until you have walked my path."

It always amazes me how fast we can judge a person, how fast we decide their worth, and how easy it is to put a person in their 'box.' But the reality is that we are all on a journey, all looking for a better life and something that will change our future.

At LifeLine, we are learning not to judge people, assume things of people, and not put them in categories. We are learning that often, we want to be known for our roles while we give labels to people who are 'other' than us. When we are open to seeing a person as they are created in the image of God with gifts, passions, and abilities. We can look beyond the exterior and see into the heart and soul of a person.

This has been such a fantastic season for us. Here are just a few highlights:

- We just completed our VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), where our two centers helped under-resourced families get their taxes done for free. Over \$450,000 came back in refunds to our local communities!!!
- We had the gift of two UC Merced College Corps students with us. Odalis helped tutor first graders at Rivera Elementary School and helped with our kid's programs. She is passionate and creative and loves being with our young people. Gustavo started a school garden at Rivera Elementary School and is now teaching some gardening skills to the kids; he also helped with the kid's program at the community center. His quiet and focused nature opened so many doors to help kids.
- Our young people continue to grow, do homework, learn social skills, and engage in various activities every afternoon in the Meadows apartments.
- Our Centers are hubs where people can do their resumes, look for jobs, practice their typing skills, volunteer, and find ways to step out of the labels given to them.
- Our PACT (Probation/Parole and Community Team) meetings are helping returning community members reenter successfully into their neighborhoods.
- Monika has been accepted to return to school at Fresno Pacific University to work on her MA in Strategic and Organizational Leadership to lead LifeLine better.
- We are looking to open two more community centers this year and are excited about the reception we are receiving.
- We are starting to plan for our summer (can you believe it is only a month away).
- These are challenging times for our young people; there is much pressure to fit in, and we want our people to stand out for the wonderful people they are becoming.
- We see a greater need for resources for our adults and especially our older people, and we want to make sure that we have the resources to help people.



We are all on a journey! In everything we do, we want to see people who are gifted, beautiful, and strong.

How can you help?

- Partner with us! We need 300 more people at \$50/month to cover the cost of our Community Centers. ***
- Pray for us that we use our resources and energies effectively.
- Volunteer with us - we are always looking for people who care enough to act.

*** We are trying to rely less on grants so that we have more focus on our message.



- Decorated wall at Center
- Easter
- Homework for all ages
- UC Merced
- Honored as volunteer of the year
- PACT meeting
- Rivera Elementary School garden
- Bible Study book
- Natl Day of Prayer team



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