

MAY 2026

LIFELINE CDC

**I want to be the person I needed
when I was a child!**



**EMPOWERING
UNDER-RESOURCED
NEIGHBOORHOODS
TO THRIVE**

This past month has been full—full of stories, growth, hard work, and quiet moments that remind us why we do what we do. At LifeLine, we often say we focus on what's strong, not what's wrong. And this month, we saw that lived out in powerful ways.

Discovering Gifts Where None Were Seen Before

Recently, I sat with a young man in his 20s who is trying to rebuild his life after experiencing homelessness, foster care, and trouble with the law. When I asked him what he dreams about... he didn't have an answer. When I asked him what his gifts are, he couldn't name one. No one had ever asked him.

Moments like this break our hearts—but they also fuel our mission. Because this is exactly where LifeLine steps in. We get to walk alongside people as they begin to rediscover their strengths, find their voice, and take steps toward a different future. This young man is now working with us, gaining experience, building skills, and slowly beginning to dream again.

Investing in the Next Generation

We recently celebrated an incredible milestone at University of California, Merced. 138 students were honored for their community service—and 10 of them served right here at LifeLine. Each of these students invested over 450 hours into our community centers this year. They didn't just help with programs—they became role models. They showed our kids what is possible. They brought energy, consistency, and care into neighborhoods that deeply need it. And just as importantly - they themselves were transformed.

Bringing Resources Back Into the Community

Our VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program wrapped up—and the impact is incredible: \$632,229 in tax refunds returned directly to families in our community. That's not just a number. That's rent paid. That's groceries on the table. That's debt reduced. That's breathing room for families who need it most. And every dollar came back without costly tax preparation fees. We are so proud of our team and volunteers who made this possible.

Daily Faithfulness in Our Community Centers

Across our centers—in Winton, Meadows, and McNamara—life continues to happen every day:

- Kids receiving homework help and encouragement
- Adults getting support with resumes and job searches
- Families accessing food and resources
- Neighbors building relationships and trust

Looking Ahead

As we continue into the year, we are excited—but also aware of the growing need.

We are praying for:

- Continued financial support to sustain and grow our work
- Strength and balance for our team
- Open doors to deepen our impact in each neighborhood

Thank You

With gratitude,
Monika Grasley
Executive Director, LifeLine CDC

While we love the grants we receive,
we would prefer the freedom of individual donations.

\$1,500 is the cost of one day at LifeLine
\$125/month will cover one day at LifeLine a year.
<https://give-usa.keela.co/give-with-a-purpose>

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