



# LifeLine News

EMPOWERING IMPOVERISHED NEIGHBORHOODS TO THRIVE

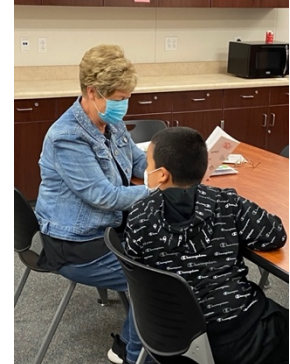
## HOPE AND RESILIENCE



Our newest addition 😊



BY MONIKA GRASLEY



Literacy Program at Rivera

*“But hope has an astonishing resilience and strength. Its very persistence in our hearts indicates that it is not a tonic for wishful thinkers but the ground on which realists stand.”* (Kathleen Norris)

I am so proud of our staff and the many volunteers who showed hope and resilience during the last 2 years. They have stepped up, stepped out and have been such a blessing to the communities. Their willingness to shift to address the needs of the communities has been such a blessing.

Here are some of the highlights:

- We are helping with VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). Last year we brought over \$800,000 back into the local communities.
- We partnered with Rivera Elementary School to help with tutoring 1<sup>st</sup> graders.
- We enjoyed having Interns with us from Fresno Pacific University and now Stan State – they have so much knowledge and wisdom and are a blessing to us.
- We received a grant to upgrade our internet at the community centers.

- All of our staff members are taking college classes through the Customer Service Academy – and how fun it is to see them learn, grow and then teach the rest of the staff.
- Our Christmas with Dignity Store was a success and we had so many thankful parents.
- We are starting a story time with Ms Ericka.
- Our community gardens are starting up again and we are thankful for people with a green thumb 😊
- Our Bible studies are helping us to grow and learn more about God and His plan for us, the community, and the world.
- Several of us are part of a capacity learning cohort, it is helping us to think through all of our work and do better.
- Our Community Centers are thriving and what brings the biggest hope is our conversations with community members. People live in isolation and trauma and having someone to talk to is so vital.
- Our PACT meetings (Probation/Parole and Community Team) are monthly one-stop events to help folks and their families reenter successfully into society after incarceration.

## How can you bring hope and resilience to our communities?

- Become a Literacy Volunteer – any day between 8-9am come and help a 1<sup>st</sup> grader.
- Help us with field trips – we love to have our kids learn about new places (Merced College, the Library etc) but we don't always have enough drivers and supervisors
- Come and use your gift at a community center – there are always people who would love to learn to sow, cook, read, etc.
- Help us start a community garden at Rivera Elementary School
- Promote the work of LifeLine
- Become a financial partner



Lifeline is helping people to build up their hope and resilience by creating a good root systems to flourish. We work in under-resourced neighborhoods and use a strength based approach to help people move out of poverty. Poverty is not the lack of money, as the lack of access to resources to flourish. Our work is wholistic – looking at every aspect of life and helping people move forward.



**FACTS:**

- \$16,000 is what we need to raise a month to keep our centers going
- 12-20 children come daily to our Meadows Community Center
- Over 150 people come to our community centers every month
- It takes 50+ daily paid working hours to make it all happen!!!!



- Pictures:**
- Staff VITA training at our home
  - Loughborough children working with Park's & Recs to help with the design of the Fahren's Park (civic engagement)
  - County Recognition about our work around COVID
  - PACT meeting – the speaker was a man I met at Chowchilla Men's Prison who got out after 25+ years and does amazing work with returning folks

You can give to LifeLine CDC via check:  
 LifeLine CDC 731 E Yosemite Ave Ste B # 165, Merced CA 95340  
 or via our Aplos link: <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/LifeLineCDC>  
 Want to learn more: 209-259-8950 or [lifeline@lifelinecdc.org](mailto:lifeline@lifelinecdc.org)