



SCLARC

South Central Los Angeles  
Regional Center

*persons with developmental disabilities*

# Annual Report

## FY 2012-2013

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center





## LEGACY PLAZA

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### We Are Proud to Serve

Serving South Los Angeles since 1974, SCLARC gives assistance to its consumers and their families within a service area that includes the cities of Paramount, Cudahy, Downey, Bell Gardens, Huntington Park, South Gate, Compton and Carson. We also serve the communities of Watts, the Crenshaw District, Leimert Park, View Park and Baldwin Hills. South Central Los Angeles Regional Center is one of 21 regional centers throughout the state of California assisting people who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability.



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## Board Member Spotlight

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### Edgar Herrera

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Edgar Herrera is the proud parent of a beautiful two-year-old who is also a SCLARC consumer. His daughter has a diagnosis of Down syndrome, and from the very start he and his wife have been active participants in many events and programs offered by SCLARC's Family Resource Center (FRC). Herrera says a three-session Down syndrome series that focused on genetics, speech and language development, feeding as well as nutritional issues related to young children with Down syndrome was most helpful.

"We learned so many things that we simply did not know. Knowledge is power. I am so glad that we were able to

experience the series that had such great information. It answered a lot of questions for us," said the involved dad.

The Herreras also attend the monthly Down syndrome play dates held at LA Care Health Family Resource Center in Lynwood. He has assumed an active role in the group where he provides and asks advice from other parents. Edgar questions center around child development and how he can improve his daughter's life.

He says he looks forward to being a link between the Board and our stakeholder community. Mr. Herrera is currently

pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. He holds an Associate of Science Degree in Math and in Drafting. He has an A.A. in Liberal Arts from East Los Angeles Community College. Along with his many educational accomplishments, Edgar Herrera volunteers in his community by offering homework help to students in his neighborhood. His hobbies include automobile mechanics and green energy research, especially alternative fuels.

**"We learned so many things that we simply did not know!"**

The SCLARC Family Resource Center staff places much needed attention on the family strengthening and community-building aspects of the agency's mission. The FRC

supports families of children who are at-risk for, or who have been diagnosed with, a developmental disability. The Family Resource Center provides a wide range of services including:

- \* A help-line to provide parents and caregivers with community resources, information and referrals in English and Spanish
- \* One-to-one peer counseling support for families and caregivers
- \* Educational workshops and training for parents and professionals
- \* Ongoing outreach and public awareness to the community
- \* A lending library with a special needs bibliography, videos and community resources
- \* A toy loan library with typical and adapted toys
- \* Parent support groups
- \* Play Dates





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## Sonia Barksdale: SCLARC's Most Tenured Employee Retires

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Sonia M. Barksdale has worked in various capacities at South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) since September of 1974 when the agency opened its doors. Sonia's tenure began as an Intake worker under the umbrella of Central City Community Mental Health Center. She was quickly transferred to the then Compton Health District to work as a bilingual, Client Program Coordinator (CPC), now known as a Service Coordinator. Sonia enjoyed her position as Service Coordinator and worked in that capacity for 29 years.

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During those 29 years, she was selected to be a Team Leader. In 2000, she earned her Masters degree in Education, with a concentration in Early Childhood Development. In 2004, she accepted the position of Program

families. She says she is extremely grateful for the opportunity and privilege to serve South Central Los Angeles Regional Center community and its stakeholders.

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## Paul Amuchie Also Says Goodbye to SCLARC

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Dr. Paul M. Amuchie joined SCLARC on August 11, 1981 after visiting the company at the invitation of the late, legendary Dr. J. Alfred Cannon whose leadership and activism led to the creation and development of mental health, cultural facilities and programs throughout South Los Angeles. Dr. Amuchie was hired initially as a part-time Program Evaluation Specialist in the

and participated in both internal and external audits. Additionally, he was responsible for coordinating the Program Development Fund.

In October 1990, Dr. Amuchie was promoted to Manager of the Residential Services Department in the Southern Catchment Area. In 1990, he coordinated the conversion of the Community Care Facilities from the old prescriptive rate to the current Alternative Residential Model (ARM). When SCLARC reorganized in 1993, Dr. Amuchie was reassigned as the



Community Services Department. After obtaining his Doctorate degree from UCLA in 1983, he was offered a full-time position.

Dr. Amuchie was responsible for developing Evaluation and Monitoring Tools and Procedures for both residential and day programs. He led and coordinated evaluation teams and was also the CDER Coordinator. He also developed the SCLARC Residential Care Provider's Manual

Area Program Manager, Consumer Services South. He was responsible for case management, resource development, quality assurance, new vendor orientation at Compton College and home-based employees.

In 2007, Dr. Amuchie took the helm of the Specialized Services Unit (SSU). He supervised staff responsible for the judicially involved consumers and consumers placed in the community from the State Developmental Centers. Dr. Amuchie has led and participated in many agency and state initiatives and task forces. He plans to retire by the end of December 2013.



Manager and has enjoyed her role as a manager immensely. Sonia's fondest memories were that of the many Christmas parties the agency sponsored for consumers and their



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# SCLARC PERFORMANCE CONTRACT 2013

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Every year, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) contracts with regional centers in California to serve consumers and families. And, every year DDS looks at how well the regional centers are serving their stakeholders. Last year, SCLARC served 12,500 consumers. At South Central Los Angeles Regional Center, we want to improve every year, do better than the state average and meet or exceed the DDS standard. In the last fiscal year, SCLARC did well in the following areas:

- Moving individuals from large state developmental centers to living options located in the community.
- Increasing the number of adults living in home settings.
- Decreasing the number of adults living in facilities designed to support more than 6 consumers.
- Increasing the number of children living with families.



SCLARC still needs to improve on decreasing the number of children who live in large facilities as well as adults who reside in developmental centers. Out of the 12,500 consumers served, only 81 SCLARC

consumers reside in state developmental centers. This is slightly higher than the current state average. Approximately 78.63% of the adults SCLARC assists reside in home settings. The statewide average is 76.08%. We do however have fewer adults residing in large facilities than in 2012. Our overall average is slightly higher than the state average. SCLARC continues to work towards these goals, particularly moving adults from residential facilities with seven or more beds.

SCLARC performed exceedingly well on both its independent and DDS audits. The agency did not overspend its allocated operations budget, and successfully participated in the Federal Medicaid Waiver program. As of June 2013, 9,825 consumers have current CDERs which is 96.98% of the consumers served by SCLARC. The statewide average is 97.15%.

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center continues to measure how well we are doing in other areas. The agency has created a new goal. Goal #21 seeks to increase the number of consumers who have the opportunity to meet with perspective employers. To meet this new initiative, SCLARC will sponsor a job fair for its consumers. Participants will include consumers seeking employment, representatives from the surrounding business community as well as the regional center's supported employment vendors.

## **What about other performance areas?**

SCLARC continues to focus on the issues that are important to our stakeholders and their families like:

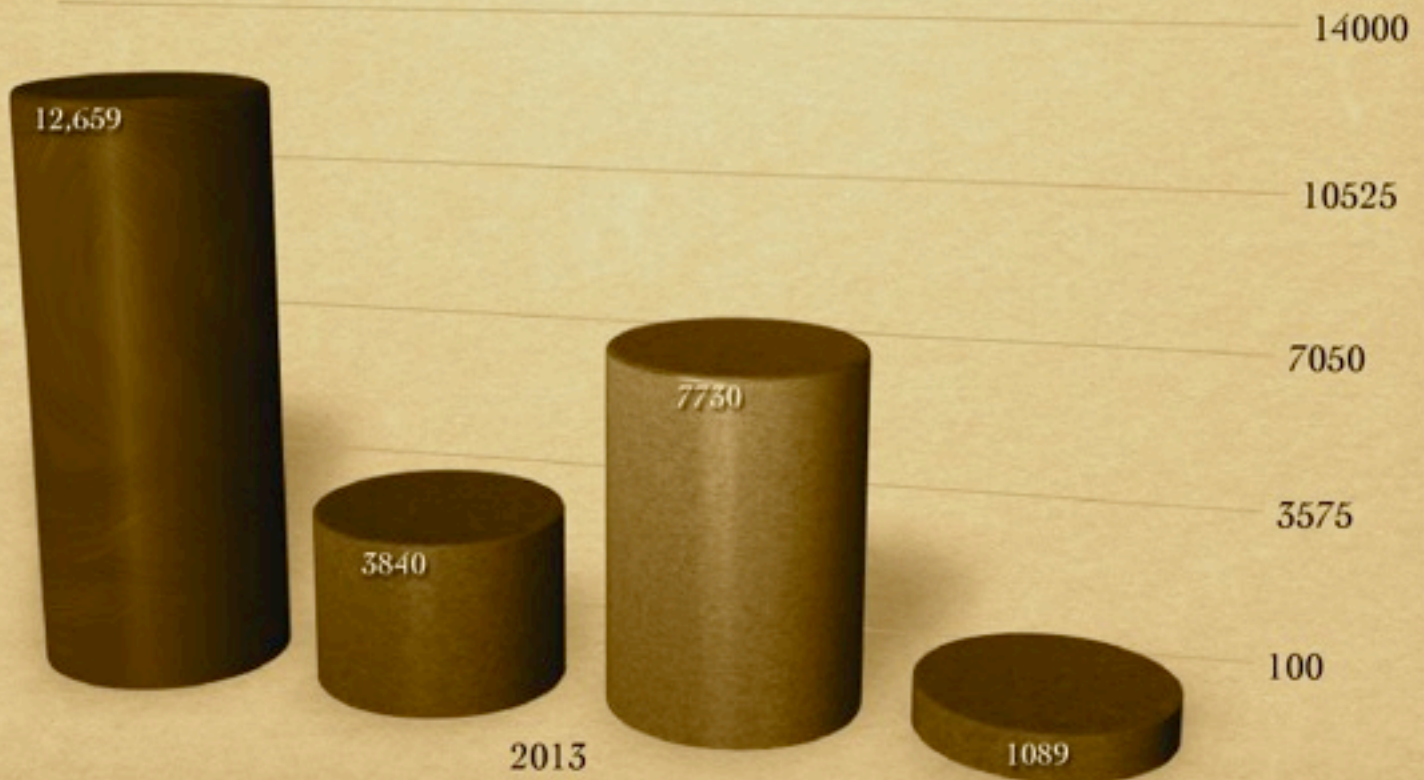
- Getting better pay for consumers who work,
- Making sure consumers get medical and dental services
- Meeting Intake/Assessment and IFSP timelines for children 0-3.

To see the complete report for this year, go to <http://www.sclarc.org/pdf/DRAFT-2013-PERFORMANCE-CONTRACT-English.PDF> or contact Marsha D. Mitchell-Bray, Director, Community Services & Family Supports at 213.743.3061 or [marshamb@sclarc.org](mailto:marshamb@sclarc.org)



# CONSUMER TOTALS BY ETHNICITY

- SCLARC Consumer Total
- African American
- Hispanic
- Other



A developmental disability is a condition that originates before the person reaches age 18, is expected to continue indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial impairment. Under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, the "state of California accepts responsibility for persons with developmental disabilities and an obligation to them which it must discharge." To do so, the state established regional centers in 1966. Today, there are 21 regional centers in California, serving more than 270,000 individuals who have been diagnosed with special needs. Each regional center contracts with the State. There are five categories of disability for which the regional center provides funding and services: intellectual disability, cerebral

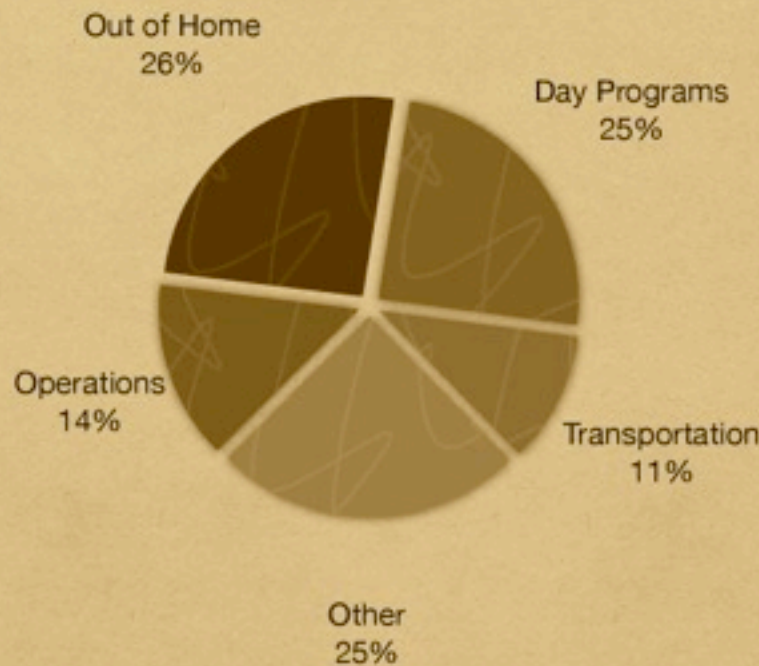
palsy, epilepsy, autism and other disabling conditions closely related to intellectual disability or requiring similar treatments. Currently, SCLARC serves over 12,500 consumers.

SCLARC provides a variety of services including intake and assessment for diagnosis, eligibility determination, individualized planning, coordination of services, advocacy, family support, assurance of service quality through monitoring, auditing, technical assistance, training for its service providers and resource development throughout its service area. All services provided directly by regional centers as well as those purchased by regional centers for consumers and families are provided without regard for family income.



# SCLARC

## Total Expenditures in FY 12-13



Total Expenditures \$147 Million

As an agency, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center is charged with the critical tasks of raising awareness regarding the services SCLARC provides, detailing the challenges that people with developmental disabilities face, and developing innovative programs in order to realize our mission. That mission is to provide the highest quality services to our stakeholders possible which will empower them with the ability to lead fuller, richer lives. SCLARC's primary goal is always to keep our consumers informed as well as to educate the larger community about the issues impacting our system.

During Fiscal Year 2012-13, the California Legislature, through Trailer Bill Language, determined that in order gain better statewide and local oversight as it pertains to access and equity issues within the developmental services system that all regional centers should display existing purchase of service utilization and expenditure data with respect to race and ethnicity, age of consumer, and disability on their websites' Transparency Portals.

SCLARC's Transparency Portal is located at <http://www.sclarc.org/transparency-portal.php>.

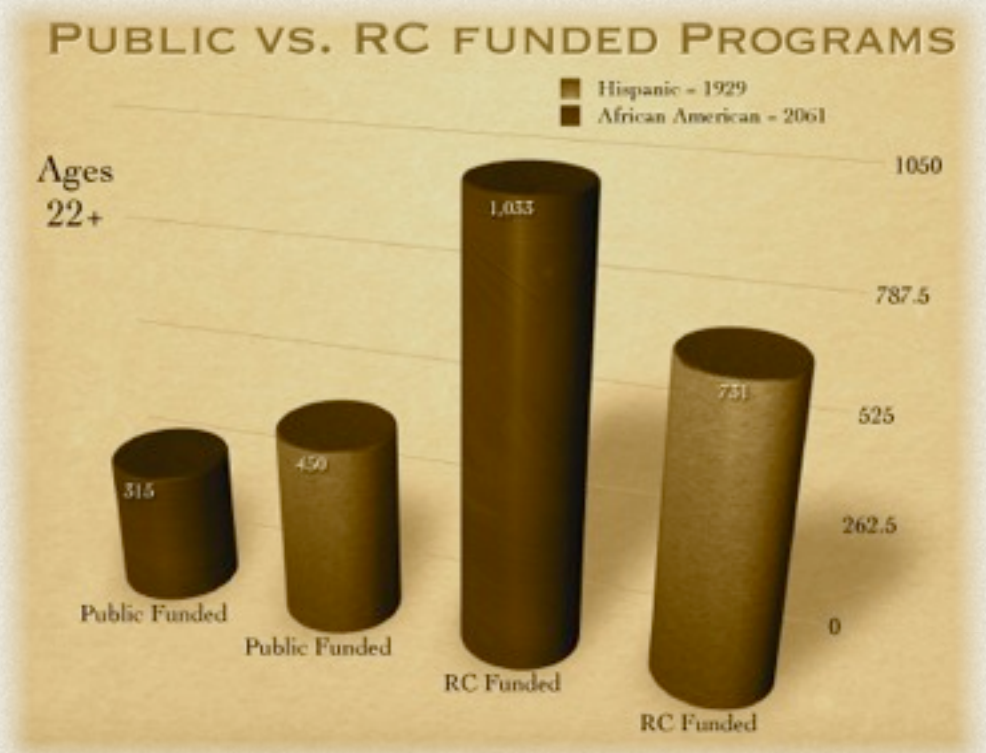
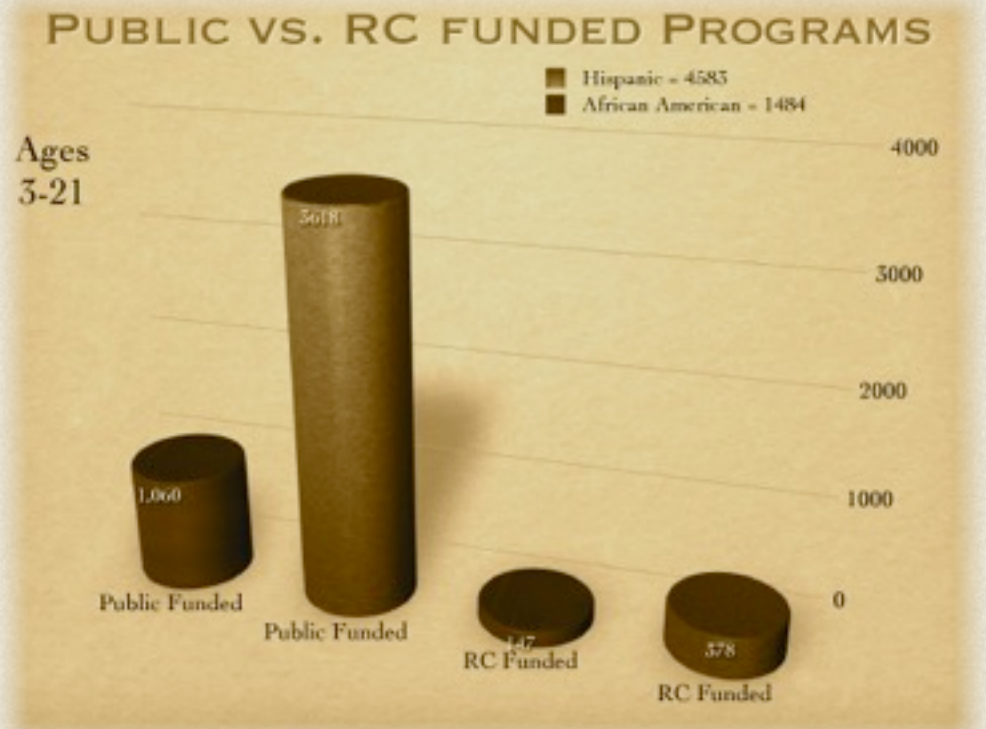


## Regional Centers Are the Payors of Last Resort

By law, SCLARC cannot purchase services from any agency receiving public funds to serve members of the general public. An example of a generic (public) agency or program would be a public school, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Medi-Cal, County Mental Health, etc. If a consumer is denied services from the generic agency, it must provide that consumer with a written denial for services before SCLARC can pay for any service listed.

SCLARC has always done its due diligence in following the directives of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Lanterman Act. Both state to serve **only** after all generic resources have been denied. RCs are the “payor of last resort.” This means families should be served by generic resources (i.e. school districts etc.) first. Children from ages 3-22 should have needs met by the local school district. SCLARC can, and does, supplement those services.

As you can see, the majority of SCLARC’s Hispanic consumers are **between** the ages of 3-21. Therefore, they receive many of their services from public programs. Most of SCLARC’s African American consumers are **over** age 22. The law says SCLARC **must** pay for their services. SCLARC’s consumers are being served as the law mandates: public programs providing funding first and then SCLARC as the “payor of last resort.”





## SB 468--Self-Determination

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SB 468 requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to implement a voluntary statewide Self-Determination Program which would be available to consumers in every regional center's catchment area.

Self-determination lets individuals with developmental disabilities and their families take greater control in determining what services are right for them. Advocates of SB 468 believe this legislation would allow for this to happen statewide. If passed, beginning July 1, 2014, the self-determination program will be phased in over three years. Initially, it would serve 2,500 consumers throughout 21 regional centers. After the 3 years, starting in 2017, the program would be available on a voluntary basis to all eligible regional center consumers.

Supported by Senators Emmerson and Beall, the bill provides an alternative to the traditional method of service provision as it is currently delivered by the regional center system. Consumers and families would be given a pot of money and they decide "how" the budget for the interventions and services will spent. Advocates of SB 468 say there will be a marked benefit in control over what therapies families can select and in having the ability to choose the providers of their choice, without being limited to Regional Center pre-approved interventions and providers.

Those who oppose Self Determination argue that the lack of controls will leave many families victim to poorly managed programs and loosened guidelines without consistent Regional Center oversight to keep service providers within the guidelines of Welfare & Institutions Codes and Title 17.



**DIANA UGALDE--SCLARC FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER VOLUNTEER**



# SCLARC Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Headquarters at the Historic Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building

On August 23, 2013, Community Impact Development II (CID II) and Friends of SCLARC (FoS) hosted more than 175 community partners who witnessed the groundbreaking on Legacy Plaza--the future headquarters for South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC).

"As the Executive Director of South Central Los Angeles Regional Center, I can tell you we are very excited to see this project come to fruition. Legacy Plaza forever joins SCLARC's legacy to that of Golden State Mutual's. Both organizations, past and present, have served this community well," said Dexter A. Henderson, SCLARC Executive Director.



FoS was established in 1984 by a concerned group of volunteers who joined together to promote public awareness about developmental disabilities and raise funds for SCLARC and its consumers. It also solicits charitable organizations and foundations for grants and donations as well as develops housing and housing opportunities on behalf of those whom SCLARC serves. CID II is a partnership working to revitalize the community. The partnership between Friends of SCLARC, Genesis LA Economic Growth Corporation and Morgan Stanley formed in 2009. Together, the organizations acquired property within SCLARC's service area that would allow our agency to create a self-contained campus environment with adequate space for SCLARC's 250 employees, 100 consultants and more than 11,000 consumers and their families.

"Friends of SCLARC's mission is to support South Central Los Angeles Regional Center. I can't think of any better way to do that than through Legacy Plaza, SCLARC's new headquarters. We are proud to be an

integral partner in this project and a supporting partner to everything SCLARC is accomplishing in our community," said Malcolm Bennett, Friends of SCLARC Board President.

As planned, Legacy Plaza will encompass the historic Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building (GSM) that was designed by Paul R. Williams, the first African American Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA). According to the Paul Williams Project, Williams designed the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building, which opened in 1949, around "how it would operate." He included a 400-seat auditorium with state-of-the-art media systems that included special lighting controls, a cafeteria for 150, and a medical department with examination and recuperation rooms. He also designed the space to encompass a library, printing facilities, and training rooms for the agents. The five-story building provided a generous workflow for 300 employees and also allowed for future growth of the company that was, at that time, the seventh largest African American insurance company in the United States.

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center has also designed its plans for Legacy Plaza based on how it will operate. A new office complex will be built on the parking lot north of GSM, which will be called the SCLARC Legacy Building. Together, the dual structures will provide more than 100,000 square feet of office space for SCLARC's present and future staffing and community needs. Legacy Plaza will be utilized by community residents and business people alike and both stakeholder groups will have access to the facility's video conferencing center, meeting rooms and a semi-subterranean parking structure.

"SCLARC is so proud of Legacy Plaza and we are indebted to our development partners who have worked with our agency to build a permanent home so we may continue to deliver the highest quality services to our stakeholders," said Lisa Sanchez, SCLARC Board President. If you like to learn more about the Legacy Plaza project, visit [www.friendsofsclarc.org](http://www.friendsofsclarc.org).





## Consumer Spotlight Val Jones

**BY DESIREE L. BOYKIN**

SCLARC Consumer Advocate

Ms. Val Jones has been a consumer of SCLARC's for a long time. She participates a work program at ARC Mid-Cities which provides gainful employment, work experience and vocational skills for persons with developmental disabilities. Participants are trained to enhance their performance, accountability, and productivity. Jones credits Adrienne Brooks, her service coordinator, for her continuous support.

"She is always there to help me," Ms. Jones says of Ms. Brooks. "She believes in me and helps me to believe in myself."

Ms. Jones has attended ARC Mid-Cities day program for more than 24 years. There, she learned the necessary skills to be employed. She learned well and is an employee of Sears. Her duties include putting

sensors on merchandise, colorizing and hanging up the clothes.

"I get along well with my coworkers," she says.

To ensure Ms. Jones does her work in a timely and correct fashion, she receives assistance from Ms. Jacqueline Meza, her job coach. Meza takes Val to work and picks up her up at the end of the day.

"I really love my job coach," Ms. Jones says. "She is funny, friendly, very nice, and never raises her voice. She keeps it cool."

Ms. Jones likes being around her peers. She is a very active participant in the Foundation for Special People, an organization which has existed for 15 years. The organization provides social and recreational activities for adults who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability. Through their social and recreational trips, Ms. Jones knows everyone in the group. She enjoys going to the state line outlets for the group's shopping trips.

She has also visited Las Vegas and Laughlin with the group.

The Foundation for Special People hosts dances throughout the year. Ms. Jones particularly looks forward to the Sweetheart Dance in February and the Snowflake Dance in December. Both are held at the Proud Bird Restaurant. She even admits that, in the past, she has dreamed she was a dancer, so attending these dances is exciting.

Ms. Jones has a supportive family which includes her mother, Maudie Jones, and brothers Melvin and Tommy. Val takes pride in reminding her brothers of the tasks they need to complete throughout the day.

"I love my mother. She has helped me achieve a lot," Ms. Jones says.

When she's not working, traveling or dancing, Val Jones likes to figure out crossword puzzles. "Doing crosswords puzzles daily keeps my mind sharp," she says.







**S C L A R C**



south central los angeles  
regional center

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**SCLARC Stakeholder**

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