



# *SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER*

*October 2015*

## **Dialysis Support Group**

High Desert Kidney Hope's dialysis support group has moved locations to the Heritage Building #34 on Hesperia Rd. Right next to The Taco Shop 2. Every month it is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 6 to 7:30pm. This month, the groups will be held: **October 13th and October 27th from 6 to 7:30pm.**

## **Low Income Housing**

If your housing is getting difficult to afford, check out the low income housing opportunities at [www.hacsb.com](http://www.hacsb.com) and click on future residents to see what low income housing is available. They have senior housing, veteran housing, and general low income housing available in locations throughout the county. Unfortunately, the housing voucher (section 8) waiting list is currently closed.

## **Free Exams and Eyeglasses**

As many of you have already discovered, eyeglasses and eye exams are not typically covered by medical insurance. The Lions club offers free eye exams and eyeglasses through their charity foundation. To apply, contact your local lions club. High Desert Lions is online at [www.hdlions.org](http://www.hdlions.org) or call them at 760-243-7474 to reach your local club and apply.

They also hold eyeglass clinics throughout the area in which any person in need can wait in line to receive an exam and free eyeglasses. The next clinic in our area is in Phelan at the New Life Church, 4232 Phelan Rd. Nov. 21 at 8:00 am.

## **Low Vision and Blindness Services**

There are many programs available for persons with limited vision.

1) Blindness Support Services (BSS). This program offers training for 1) orientation and mobility 2) travelling 3) independent living 3) computers 4) employment and job development 5) parenting and 6) peer support. Call them if you or a loved one have limited vision (951) 341-9244.

2) The Braille Institute for blind training, equipment and services including books on tape with equipment and books sent to your home at no charge. (800) 808-2555.

3) Vocational Rehabilitation also offers free blind services, training and equipment for those looking to rejoin the work force but have visual impairments. They also provide training and education for other disabilities to join the work force. Call them at (760) 243-0830.

Vocational Rehabilitation works with all disabled persons looking to rejoin the workforce. If you are interested in going to school or receiving training to enter to workforce please see your social worker. You can receive additional income while on social security!

## **DMV Placards or Plates**

If you are having difficulty walking from the parking lot to the store, talk to your doctor or social worker at the dialysis unit about completing the REG 195 form which is an application signed by your doctor verifying a medical condition that limits your mobility. We have the forms on hand, or you can find them at [dmv.ca.gov](http://dmv.ca.gov)





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### Help for Immigrants

There are two programs that can be of assistance to non-citizen immigrants.

1. CAPI- Cash Aid Program for Immigrants. California funded monthly cash benefit for aged, blind, disabled non-citizens. Must complete CAPI application at Transitional Assistance Department (a.k.a. Medi-Cal or welfare office) you must show proof of denial from the Social Security Office for SSI/SSDI benefits.

2. PRUCOL- (Presently Residing Under Color of Law) is a program for undocumented immigrants to change from “emergency” Medi-Cal to “regular” Medi-Cal. If you have emergency Medi-Cal talk to your social worker about PRUCOL. One requirement is that you must declare your presence in the United States to the immigration office.

### Local Transportation for the Disabled

Direct Access (ADA) transportation is run through your local transportation department. In our area it is managed by Victor Valley Transit Authority. This program provides door to door transit in the Victor Valley area. It accommodates individuals with disabilities only. Full wheelchair accessibility. You must be approved in the system prior to utilizing this service. Talk to your social worker about starting an application at [adaride.com](http://adaride.com) or you can start an application yourself. Once approved you can call to arrange a ride 24 hours in advance. Fees start at \$2.50 each way. They operate 7 days a week. Mon-Sat 7 am to 8pm. Sundays 9am to 2pm. To arrange transport call 760 244-4000.

### Holiday Assistance

If you have children in your life who do not receive Christmas gifts due to limited income the time to apply is now. There are limited applications accepted.

### Christmas Toys

Catholic Charities: (909) 880-3625

Toys for Tots: (703) 910-0259

[www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org) (Appl. Start 10/1)

Salvation Army: (760) 245-2545

Victor Valley Rescue: (760) 955-5958

### Transportation Reimbursement

Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) operates a program called Transportation Reimbursement and Escort Program (TREP). It allows for caregivers or family members outside of the home to be reimbursed \$0.48 per mile transporting senior or disabled individuals. The rides must be authorized in advance by DAAS. Call your local office to find out more information and to apply (760) 843-5100.

### HUMOR

