Executive Director's Message

This month's message reflects on a season of transition, the growing wellness needs in our community, and the importance of civic participation.

It is hard to believe that we have already completed the first six months of the year. Looking back, our agency has experienced many significant changes. We relocated to a temporary site during the MLK Park renovation and have successfully transitioned to the Learning Center at Second Baptist Church, just around the corner from the park. While adapting to our new location, we continue to see an increasing demand for services throughout our community, reminding us of the importance of remaining accessible and responsive to the needs of local families.

Program Highlights

Our Wellness Center continues to expand services for community members seeking support for self-care and overall wellness. We recently introduced Parent's Café, a new program designed to provide parents with a welcoming and supportive environment focused on wellness. Led by our Licensed Clinical Social Worker, the program creates a safe space where parents can share their experiences, build connections, and receive encouragement from one another.

Our first Creative Kids Summer Program, led by Lily Felix and Likhi Rivas, was a wonderful success, serving 14 children through engaging arts and crafts activities. The program continues every Wednesday from July 15 through August 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at our temporary location: 529 California Avenue, Modesto. For more information or to register, please call (209) 522-6902.

Tickets are still available for our Sip N Paint Night on July 17, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are $60 per person and may be purchased through our website at www.westmodestocollaborative.com or at our front office. Event Location:
1210 J Street, Modesto

Civic Participation Matters

On the Fourth of July, we celebrated 250 years as a democratic nation, founded on the principles of equality, freedom, and civic participation. Our democracy has helped make this country strong, but it also depends on each of us remaining engaged.

Given the challenges facing our nation today, we must remember that our rights and privileges should never be taken for granted. If you care about the future of our country, I encourage you

to vote, become involved in your community, and participate in the civic process. Rather than simply expressing concerns, share your ideas, offer solutions, and help make our communities, and our nation, even stronger.

Together, our commitment to wellness, community service, and civic engagement strengthens not only our organization but also the families and neighborhoods we proudly serve.

Sabbatical Leave

I am honored to have been awarded a Porges Family Foundation/Stanislaus Community Foundation Sabbatical Scholarship, which will allow me to take a two-month sabbatical.

This opportunity provides time to recharge, reflect, and gain new perspectives for both my personal growth and the future of the organization I am privileged to represent. It will also allow me to spend meaningful time with my family and continue writing the books that I have long wanted to complete.

My sabbatical will begin August 1 and conclude September 30, 2026. I will return to the office on October 1, 2026.

During my absence, Reyna Perales, Blanca Marin, and Board Chair Jocelyn Cooper will work together to support our staff and ensure the continued operation of the organization.

I look forward to returning with renewed energy, fresh ideas, and new insights that will strengthen our programs and expand opportunities for the children and families we serve.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Porges Family Foundation and the Stanislaus Community Foundation for making this sabbatical possible. Their investment in nonprofit leadership recognizes the importance of renewal and lifelong learning.

Most importantly, I want to thank the dedicated staff of the West Modesto Community Collaborative for their encouragement and support. Your belief that self-care and wellness are essential to effective leadership has made this opportunity even more meaningful. I look forward to returning refreshed and ready to continue serving our community together.