



## Spring Newsletter

### A New Era at GO!

Greater Opportunities has had several changes in the past year. In July 2024 Danielle Sanchez joined our team as our new Director of Operations, coming to GO with 30 years of childcare experience and 18 years in the social services field working with the Intellectually Disabled Community as Case Manager, Program Manager, and Director of Operations. Since joining the GO team, Danielle encountered many changes to the agency but she took them on with no hesitation! In October 2024 Danielle became the Interim Executive Director.

Here's to bright beginnings with new leadership!



**WE ARE MOVING!!**  
**OUR NEW MAIN OFFICE LOCATION**  
**WILL BE:**

**2635 N. First Street Suite 201**  
**San Jose CA, 95134**

**BRIGHT**  
**BEGINNINGS**

### Meet our Management Team

Interim Executive Director: Danielle Sanchez  
Senior Program Manager: Mina Karim  
Mina started with GO 2020  
Office Admin Manager: Alex Barbour  
Alex started with GO 2025  
Day Program Assistant Manager: Akhom Kham  
Akhom started with GO 2014  
Day Program Assistant Manager: Evan Fernandez  
Evan started with GO 2022  
SLS Manager: Juana Pacheco  
Juana started with GO 2023  
SLS Assistant Manager: Paola Delgado  
Paola started with GO 2020  
ILS Manager: Louise Sanchez  
Louise started with GO 2021  
ILS Assistant Manager: Marley Bishop  
Marley started with GO 2010  
Tech Support: Brandon Alvarez  
Brandon started with GO July 2023  
Accounting Team: Lindsay Takamoto + Kerry Stanton  
Our Accounting Team started with GO July 2007

We have a management team who is dedicated to enriching and empowering the life of people with disabilities! They come to work everyday to make a difference in our clients life's with love, empathy, compassion, and dedication!!!



# GREATER OPPORTUNITIES

## Spring Newsletter

What's happening at  
Day Program?

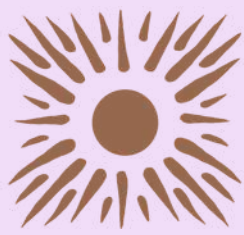


**Baking with our Interim Executive Director!**  
For the holiday season, Danielle stopped by  
to

- \*Make Pizza Tortillas - Valentine's Day**
  - \*Bake Cupcakes - Valentine's Day**
  - \*Bake Homemade Pies - Thanksgiving!**
  - \*Bake Holiday Cookies - Holidays/Christmas**
- Clients had an amazing time baking for themselves and their families!**







# GREATER OPPORTUNITIES

## Spring Newsletter

### Cortez Classes + Upgrades!



Residents have been keeping busy with their evening classes at Cortez! Keep it up!! They've been cooking healthy meals, going on evening walks, getting out and about in the community to enjoy adventures such as Tippy Putt, where they were invited in to play some free indoor golf!!



#### Cortez Apartments Upgrades

Our Cortez Apartments have been going through some upgrades.

We have 3 phases we will be going through!  
Phase 1 = completed!

All apartments have all had a fresh paint job and new waterproof laminated floor put down.

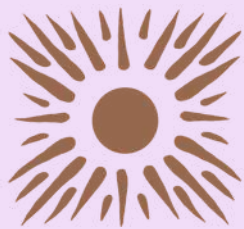
Phase 2 = all new updated bathrooms with new tile showers, new tubs, new toilets and sinks.

Phase 3 = updated kitchens  
We are hoping all remodels will be done by  
January 2026



Cortez Crew having fun during cooking class + weekly socials!





# GREATER OPPORTUNITIES

## Spring Newsletter

### DAY PROGRAM Staff Shout Outs!!



**Thank you, Sonia!!**

Day Program Management would like to take a moment to recognize Sonia Bobby for her outstanding dedication and contributions to the Greater Opportunities Day Program over the past six years. Sonia has gone above and beyond in her role, making a significant impact on both her colleagues and the participants.

Sonia wears many hats at the program. As a Direct Support Staff, she ensures her group is actively engaged and participating in scheduled activities. She also assists with morning and afternoon transportation when needed, always arriving on time and keeping transportation folders well-organized each month.

Her positive attitude shines through every day, creating a welcoming and supportive environment. Whether at the Berryessa Flea Market, where she ensures her group is actively folding clothes and maintaining cleanliness, or in the cooking class, where she teaches participants how to prepare simple meals, Sonia's commitment to their growth and independence is truly inspiring.

In addition to her role at the day program, Sonia also provides ILS support, ensuring that individuals stay on track with their personal goals. Her nurturing nature has earned her deep respect from her peers and love from the participants.

Sonia, we appreciate all that you do and the positive impact you continue to make. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and unwavering support!



Day Program management wants to give a shoutout to Reggie Latiph. Reggie is always encouraging our clients to do the best that they can. Reggie is very versatile in the activities that she leads. These include money management, exercise and volunteering. She also assists other staff members with their classes to ensure that all of the clients are participating. We are very grateful to have Reggie as a part of our team.



DP management wants to recognize Josue Hernandez. From the first day he started, he has been a great addition to the Day Program team. His popular music class engages all of the clients to show off their creative skills every Tuesday morning. Josue continues to be one of the most reliable staff members and is always willing to help out with Transportation. We value everything that Josue does for the Day Program.



# GREATER OPPORTUNITIES

## Spring Newsletter

### SLS Staff Shout Outs!!



Thank you, Lilian!! Lilian's last day is March 31st

SLS management wants to take a moment to acknowledge and share our appreciation for Lilian's remarkable contributions as a Direct Support Professional (DSP).

Lilian has been a wonderful asset to our team and has significantly impacted the clients she supports and the management with whom she works closely. Despite coming from a different background, she exemplifies that great DSPs can emerge from any experience. Her passion for helping others, empathy, and willingness to learn and grow truly make her stand out.

From her first day, Lilian showed eagerness to learn how to better support her clients and advocate on their behalf. Her adaptability to change and readiness to assist with last-minute emergencies demonstrate her commitment to going above and beyond in her role. Lilian takes the initiative to ensure that her clients' needs are met, proving that dedication can create real positive change in their lives.

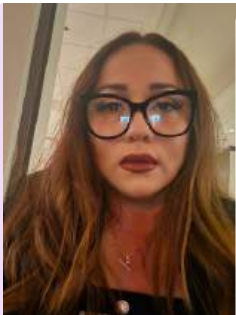
Thank you Lilian for the fantastic work. You will be missed and Greater Opportunities wishes you the best on your new journey!



Filomena and Teresa, SLS management wants to take a moment to express our gratitude for the incredible ownership you both demonstrate in everything you do. Your love and support for our clients, as well as the strong relationships you have built over time, truly stand out. I genuinely value and admire your dedication, loyalty, and commitment to our mission.

You make a significant difference in our clients' lives, and your influence is felt throughout the team. I appreciate how you are always willing and open to help our new crew members as they join us.

Thank you once again for being such fantastic team players as we continue to welcome new faces to our team!



Thank you, Sara!!

SLS Management appreciates you for being such a consistent and supportive roommate. Your efforts planning fun outings with Beth have brightened her days and created wonderful memories together. We also appreciate how diligently you keep track of our doctor visits and communicate with Beth's circle of support. Your organization and thoughtfulness make a significant difference.

Thank you, Alexandra!!

Thank you for the incredible support and companionship you have provided as Melissa's roommate over the years. Your natural leadership and facilitation skills have not only made an environment that runs smoothly and harmonious, but they have also played a crucial role in ensuring that Melissa's health is consistently monitored and prioritized. Your attentiveness and care have made a significant difference in Melissa's life, and SLS management truly appreciates the way you take the time to check in and ensure everything is on track.







# GREATER OPPORTUNITIES

## Spring Newsletter

### ILS Staff Shout Outs!!



**Greg Beda**

**ILS management wants to celebrate Greg! Greg has a caring and gentle personality. He is able to find mutual interests and use them to form strong relationships with the people he supports. Greg is always encouraging his clients to pursue their hobbies and he finds many creative ways to support them in the pursuit of their dreams.**



**Jessica Jamil**

**ILS management wants to celebrate Jessica! Jessica has been working at our Cortez transitional housing program for 4 years teaching classes on anger management, budgeting, career development, cooking/nutrition, fitness and more. She is always patient but firm and effortlessly capable of resolving any conflict. This week Jessica led the group in Cortez cleanup, where she worked with tenants to clean the grounds of their apartment complex and learn the importance of maintaining their living environment while working together toward a common goal. Jessica goes above and beyond to make every outing, social gathering and therapeutic art class feel special to help foster healthy relationships and ensure that everyone supports one another.**



**Maria Rayos**

**ILS management wants to celebrate Maria! She has a firm yet gentle way of getting our clients to perform their daily tasks. Whether it be housekeeping, laundry, cleanup around Cortez... They do what she asks. She has been a tremendous help in assisting with the Cortez classes. She keeps class fun and informative. Even the grumpiest of clients have warmed up to her.**



## March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month!

**Please join Greater Opportunities in celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.**

**This is the month to remind us all what an extraordinary community of people they truly are. The theme this year is “We’re Here All Year” emphasizing that community accessibility and opportunities for Developmentally Disabled people should be acknowledged and recognized everyday, not just the month of March.**

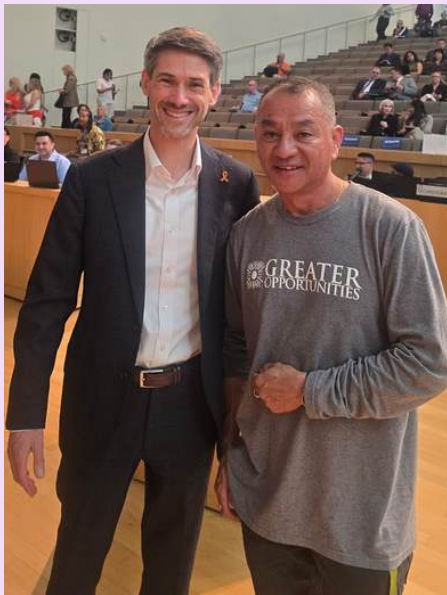
**People with Developmental Disabilities bring so much love, laughter and acceptance to our community they should be valued as everyday people, with full inclusion in all areas such as Education, Employment, Recreation and Community!!**





## Spring Newsletter

**In honor of Developmental Disability Awareness Month, Greater Opportunities was invited to meet Mayor Matt Mahan and witness the proclamation presented to the City of San Jose from San Andreas Regional Center in honor of their support to our community!**



**THANK YOU!**





**Spring Newsletter**

# **GREATER OPPORTUNITIES + SARC COLLABORATION!**

**We are soo happy to announce that this month we had guest speakers from San Andreas Regional Center come to Greater Opportunities to do a 2 day person centered thinking/people planning together training for our clients!**

**It was interactive, informative, and left the clients feeling empowered in their support teams!**

**Thank you John Robinson + San Andreas Regional Center for collaborating with us on this training event! We look forward to more collaborations!**





**GREATER  
OPPORTUNITIES**

Spring Newsletter

# *UPCOMING* **EVENTS**

**July 26, 2025 - Summer BBQ**

**September 2025 - All Staff Team  
Building Day (date + details coming  
soon)**

**December 12, 2025 - Holiday Party**

**\*More details coming soon\***