

"Promotes full participation of people with disabilities."



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MONICA BARRAZA



In 2015, Monica Barraza celebrated her 10-year anniversary with Access to Independence. Using our transition program policies and procedures, Monica skillfully coordinates services for consumers making the transition from skilled nursing facilities back into the community. Monica sums up how she feels with a quote by Steve Jobs, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do!" and she says, "I Love what I do!"

Dear Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016!

March 24, 2016 marks our 40th Anniversary of successfully implementing our mission to promote full participation of people with disabilities. We hope you will join us in October 2016 to celebrate the history of our achievements!

One of our yearly successes is our 3rd Annual Employment and Resource Fair recently held at our Imperial Valley location. We are particularly grateful for Molina Healthcare and California Health and Wellness for their support of our employment event! In addition, in an effort to increase our outreach and support of our consumers, we recently held our first Holiday Consumer Luncheon at all of our California locations and it was a great success!

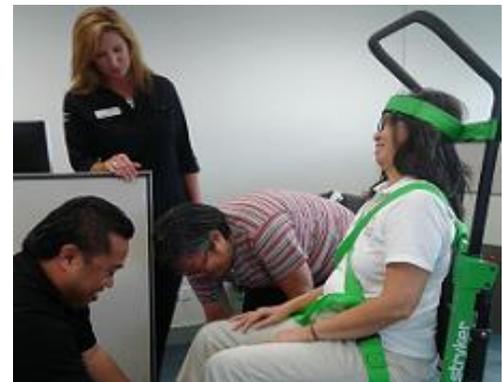
I would like to invite you to take a few minutes to visit our *new* website www.accesstoindependence.org

We want to thank all of our partners and donors for making 2015 a success because each and every one of you plays a part. Please continue to support our mission in 2016. We are succeeding because of your donations and support!

Thank you,



Louis Frick, MS, CRC
Executive Director



Historically, there has been a lack of inclusion of people with disabilities in the discussion related to disaster preparedness and, in Hawaii, including people with disabilities in that conversation is particularly important. One of our goals in Hawaii is to ensure that people with significant disabilities are fully included in all disaster preparedness responses and efforts and, to support that effort our Hawaii office purchased a Stair Chair, which helps with evacuation efforts down a stairwell. Our Hawaii staff is trained in the safe and effective use of the chair and plan to educate others in their multi-story office building and practice safe evacuation techniques on a regular basis.