



NEWS & UPDATES | MARCH 2016



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## **SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM NOMINEE**

### **MICHELE MCGILL**

The Illumination Foundation has nominated Michele McGill for the Spirit of Volunteerism Award for her tireless effort to bring desperately

needed dental care to the medically fragile individuals experiencing homelessness. She renewed her defunct dental license, and also researched homeless dental care needs/current offerings and procured all the equipment and dental supplies necessary. What started as a dream is now a reality; on Dec 1 2015, Michele opened the Dental program at IF's Recuperative Care Center with little fanfare but with great joy. Since then, Michele has quietly provided weekly dental care ranging from general exams/cleaning, gross scalings and radiographs to more than 50 individuals who would not have had any access to such services. Michele is now working toward expanding the scope of services, by providing dentures and fittings. Not only an exceptional dentist, Michele is such a warm and caring presence that her dental chair is rarely empty. [Read more](#)



## **CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: INLAND EMPIRE FROM RECUP TO HOUSING**

Congratulations to our clients who work hard to create a better life for themselves with the help of our Recup Staff! We couldn't be more proud and would like to thank the hospitals for giving them a better chance by referring them to Recuperative Care. Here are their stories:

### **"Everybody's Street Mama"**

Andra, aka "Everybody's street mama," experienced over 4 years



of homelessness in Riverside County. Even though she was in a tough situation, she was still an active community advocate to those sharing the streets with her.

Prior to her entering Recuperative Care, Andra was discharged from Riverside Community Hospital after being pepper sprayed in the face during an altercation, which resulted in issues of shortness of breath and near blindness. With a safe place to stay in the program, she was able to recover from the shortness of breath and was connected to all the specialists needed to secure a date for eye surgery. Ms. Williams had also been approved for Permanent Supportive Housing through the Path of Life Ministries several months prior to her entering into Recuperative Care, but was experiencing all the discouragement from landlords that came with securing a unit with limited income and credit.

[Read more.](#)

## Paul Gets Hired!

Paul faced many challenges that led to his homelessness. After losing his job, he was unable to afford his mortgage, and his home was foreclosed. With no shelter and being homeless for a year, Paul was unable to maintain his health and developed cellulitis to both his lower extremities as well as deep vein thrombosis (DVT).



Even with these poor health conditions and no home, Paul was determined to remain productive and continued his job search. His deteriorating health eventually landed him in the emergency room at Riverside County Regional Medical Center. From there, Paul was referred to Illumination Foundation's Recuperative Care.

Paul came to Recuperative Care with all vital documents, county benefits, and an impressive resume; but, there was no employment in sight. He did not let this deter him as he stayed active in working closely with his Recup case manager to figure out his next steps for housing and employment.

[Read more.](#)



## Cali Reunites With Family

Cathanic, aka Cali, originated from Mississippi and experienced a great loss after the passing of a close family member. This tragic event caused him to develop a deep depression and he began to lose his way.

Cali had lost three jobs in a row due to constant over exhaustion, shortness of breath, and episodes of passing out. He was then diagnosed with hypertension, diabetes, and inflammation of his pancreas. He was in and out of hospitals, but without a stable home, Cali was unable to improve his health and manage it. Eventually, his medical condition would put him back in the emergency room; but this time with St. Bernardine Medical Center, who referred him to Illumination Foundation (IF).

While in the IF Recuperative Care program, Cali had a chance to learn how to improve and maintain his health with education from the medical coordinators.

[Read more.](#)

## Richard Finds a Home!

One unfortunate event turned into a series of events that would turn Richard's life upside down. Several years ago, Richard was involved in a car accident, while riding his bicycle, resulting in permanent damage to his right arm. This injury proved to be detrimental as it prevented him from working. He had been working in industrial construction, and without good use of his arm he could no longer stay at his job. This led to his unemployment, and he eventually lost his home due to lack of income.



Richard came to Recuperative Care after having hernia surgery at Ranch Springs Medical Center. During his stay at Recup, he not only recovered medically, but excelled socially.

[Read more.](#)

## **NEW YEAR, NEW STRATEGIES: RECUP HUDDLES IMPROVING PATIENT CARE**

Improving our program is very important to us, and that means involving all our affiliates. We believe to improve patient care, open communication is crucial between our program and the hospital or healthcare group the patient was referred from. A new strategy we would like to start implementing this year is scheduling weekly or monthly huddles with our Recuperative Care team and your team to thoroughly discuss current patient cases. With this huddle, case management and medical progress of each patient can be discussed. Please contact us to schedule your huddle!

For Inland Empire hospitals and healthcare groups:  
Please email Jackie Soriano at [jsoriano@ifhomeless.org](mailto:jsoriano@ifhomeless.org)

For LA and Orange County hospitals and healthcare groups:  
Please email Julia Cross at [jcross@ifhomeless.org](mailto:jcross@ifhomeless.org)

## **ORANGE COUNTY: CAL OPTIMA UPDATE RECUPERATIVE CARE REIMBURSEMENT EXPANDS**

Don't forget about CalOptima's Recuperative Care Reimbursement! This innovative program improves outcomes and reduces costs as participating hospitals will no longer have to keep homeless patients in the inpatient setting for unnecessary extended periods.

**Effective November 1, 2015**, the amended contract includes these new updates:

1. Reimbursement rate of **\$150/day for up to a maximum of fifteen (15) days per member per invoice.**
2. Patient must still be Medi-Cal Cal Optima or Medi-Medi Cal Optima status.
3. **Emergency Department referrals are now eligible** for reimbursement in addition to hospital admits.

Funding for the program began with \$500,000 and now has an additional \$500,000. Once funds have been exhausted no further reimbursements will be made.

For more information, please download the form below.

Click to download:

[Cal Optima Reimbursement Form](#)

### **CalOptima Contract inquiries?**

Ryan Aleshire, Contracts Manager at Cal Optima  
(714) 246-8714 or [raleshire@caloptima.org](mailto:raleshire@caloptima.org).

## **SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT IN-SERVICE TODAY!**

For Inland Empire, please contact Jackie Soriano, Associate Manager of Healthcare Services, for more information. (949) 273-0555 x 402 or email [jsoriano@ifhomeless.org](mailto:jsoriano@ifhomeless.org).

For Los Angeles and Orange County, please contact Sapphira Ha, IF Healthcare Program Coordinator, for more information. (949) 273-0555 x 421 or email [sha@ifhomeless.org](mailto:sha@ifhomeless.org).

ILLUMINATION FOUNDATION RECUPERATIVE CARE  
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