

Helen & Linda: Making Life Better Together

From Classmates, to Friends, to Roommates



We often teach our Members that loss, while painful and challenging, also brings new beginnings and opportunities. In 2017, this couldn't have been truer for longtime L.A. GOAL Members Helen and Linda.

"Should we start at the beginning?" Helen asks as we sit down to chat. As it turns out, that beginning is over 45 years ago, when Helen and Linda met in first grade. When Helen moved schools, the two lost touch, but they reconnected 20 years later when taking part in another program. "I instantly remembered her," Linda says. By 1985, both were L.A. GOAL Members. "We've been friends forever!"

In 1991, Helen married Robert, who she met at L.A. GOAL. In 2017, after 26 years of marriage, Robert died suddenly. In the days and weeks after Robert's death, L.A. GOAL helped support Helen and her mother in getting her affairs in order. At Helen's request, L.A. GOAL hosted a "Celebration of Life" in honor of Robert.



When Helen was talking with Executive Director, Petite about what the future would be like without Robert, Helen brought up the idea of getting a roommate. Petite suggested her longtime friend and bridesmaid at her wedding, Linda. Although Linda had recently moved into her own studio, she was unhappy because there were no cooking facilities and it was very small. So Helen approached Linda with a proposal: after over 40 years of friendship, shall we move in together? "I thought about it and said, this is a great idea," said Linda.

So far, roommatehood is going well for both. Linda loves Helen's two cats, and the two animal lovers also share two hamsters. They have a lot in common and enjoy cooking dinner (favorites include chicken, salad, and pizza) and watching TV together after a day at work (favorites include Full House and Hallmark Channel movies).



They attend Saturday Art classes every month at L.A. GOAL. Helen is also involved in our Music and Drama programs, and is the Planning Chair on our Members Board, where she is excited to be working on plans for L.A. GOAL's 50th anniversary next year. "L.A. GOAL gives us something to do, somewhere we can make friends. Without L.A. GOAL, I'd be home all the time doing nothing just watching TV," says Helen. Linda is grateful for the support L.A. GOAL has given her in learning leadership skills and self-advocacy, which has helped her be more assertive and manage family challenges.

A Message from Petite Konstantin, Executive Director

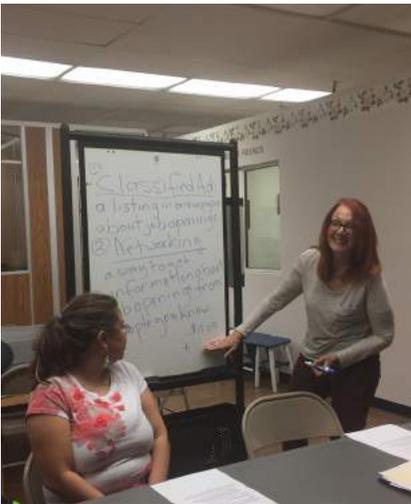
As I reflect on 2017, our motto "Making Life Better Together" rings truer than ever. I am proud to be highlighting some of our passionate volunteers, without whom we could not do our work. In 2017, our 80+ volunteers provided \$295,537 in in-kind services and over 4,356 hours of volunteer time to our agency. This includes volunteers who provide key elements of our services, such as individual and group counseling, Help Line support, medical advocacy, family/caregiver support groups, and Job Readiness training. It also includes our 21 phenomenal teen volunteers, who contributed over 1,000 volunteer hours as part of our Summer Teen Volunteer program, while also developing the knowledge to return to their communities as advocates for people with disabilities.

In addition to the time and energy our volunteers give us, their presence brings about the magical reciprocity between people with and without developmental disabilities that all of us at L.A. GOAL know to be a powerful force. That is why it is our mission to connect with as many members of the public as we can, so we can forge connections that foster more inclusive, patient, and kind communities where all of us can thrive.

Petite Konstantin

Magical Reciprocity in Action

Volunteer Profile: Lily Wolk



Lily began volunteering at L.A. GOAL 5 years ago after retiring from her role as the college and career advisor for students with disabilities within the Los Angeles Unified School District. Lily teaches our weekly Job Readiness class for Members who want to obtain jobs in the community. "I love seeing their

excitement and willingness to learn," says Lily.

Lily has found the most rewarding experiences to be videotaping Members doing mock interviews, which helps them improve their interview skills. "The Members take it very seriously and feel they've accomplished a task that had been challenging for them," she says. In one successful instance, a Member was hired soon after doing a mock interview, and was complimented by the employer for his interview skills. "My ultimate goal is for the Members to be job-ready and be able to hold down a paid job."

Lily also sits on our Board of Directors and is involved with our work to build partnerships between agencies like ours, Culver City, Westside Regional Center, and local businesses to promote more employment opportunities for adults with disabilities. "My goal is to better inform businesses as to the advantage of hiring people with disabilities and what the rewards are, and to let them know there are programs that will pay for them to have interns," says Lily.

Volunteer Profile: Peggy Kharraz



Peggy began volunteering in our Adult School program 6 years ago. Though she had a background in education, she had never worked with individuals with developmental disabilities before. When Margie, our School Instructor, invited Peggy to volunteer, she was a little hesitant. "I had been to an art sale at L.A. GOAL, but I didn't know much about it. I didn't know how it would be working with individuals at different levels. But I said 'Let's try it!'"

After that initial moment of hesitancy, Peggy has never looked back. "I love the whole atmosphere of L.A. GOAL. It's like a family. I always feel really good. It's so warm. People are so friendly." She is amazed by the kindness and respect the Members display for one another, and sees this play out in the classroom through how they communicate, share and work together.

Peggy is currently working with Members who are learning numbers 1-20. She has also worked with Members who are working on writing skills. "There's a range of abilities but everybody is trying and doing their best. There is acceptance of every one," says Peggy.

Peggy loves the gatherings we have that include the wider L.A. GOAL community. "I live close by and feel like it's another home away from home. L.A. GOAL is definitely making life better together for all Members, volunteers, teachers, and other participants."

A Few Major Accomplishments from 2017

Record-Breaking Open House and Art Show!



We hosted our 27th Annual Art Show at L.A. GOAL for the first time in many years. The Open House and Art Show was a rousing success with over 1,000 visitors (our most ever!). In addition to showcasing Members' artwork, the event featured an interactive weaving project that allowed community members and L.A. GOAL Members to create a work of art together.



L.A. GOAL is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Our First Integrated Art Show



In 2017, we hosted our first-ever show that included work by artists with and without disabilities. The show also marked our first event at the Helms Design Center, where we are excited to be hosting another integrated art show on June 16, 2018. These shows are part of our mission to break down barriers between people with and without disabilities.

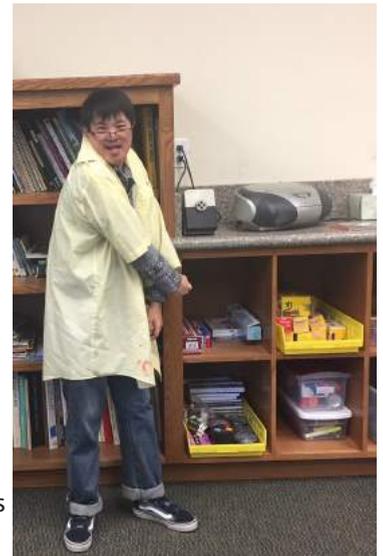
Our Newest Apprentice: Juan

Juan, who joined L.A. GOAL as a Member in 2017, is the newest apprentice in our custodial program. Juan will take part in a 6-month apprenticeship, where he will learn custodial skills. Upon successful completion of his apprenticeship, he can be hired as a paid custodial staff member here at L.A. GOAL. In addition to his apprenticeship, Juan takes part in our Expansion Program, which supports newer L.A. GOAL Members to develop vocational and independent living skills.



Art Studio Gets a Makeover

In December, we completed Phase 1 of our Art Studio renovations, which included the installation of cabinets and shelving around the studio's perimeter. The renovations will allow us to take our art program, Inside Out Productions, to the next level by creating a fully accessible, state-of-the-art studio that better serves our 63 Artists. It will also allow for increased employment opportunities for our Artists and new inclusive art classes for both people in the community and L.A. GOAL Members.



A Message from Terry Masi, PsyD President of the Board

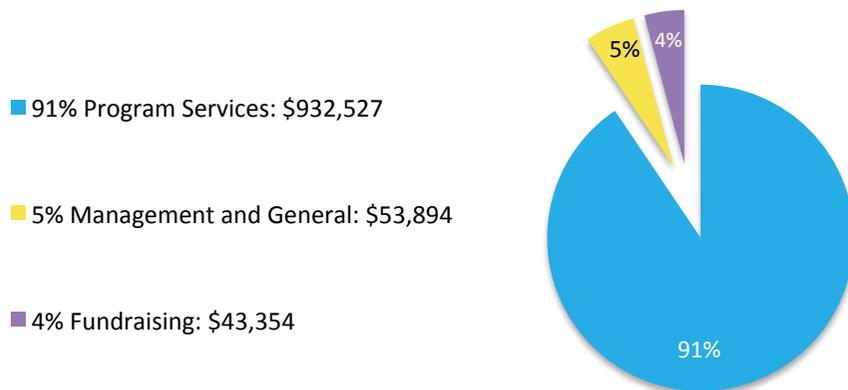
As I celebrate the accomplishments L.A. GOAL made in 2017, I am also looking ahead to how we will build upon them in 2018. This year, we will begin implementing our new strategic plan, which will include expanding our health programming, our inclusive opportunities with the public, and our support for families and caregivers. We will also be increasing our community outreach, building new partnerships, and growing our social enterprise. I am proud of our organizational commitment to growth in the service of our Members, and grateful for the support we receive from our extended community in carrying out our efforts.

Terry Masi

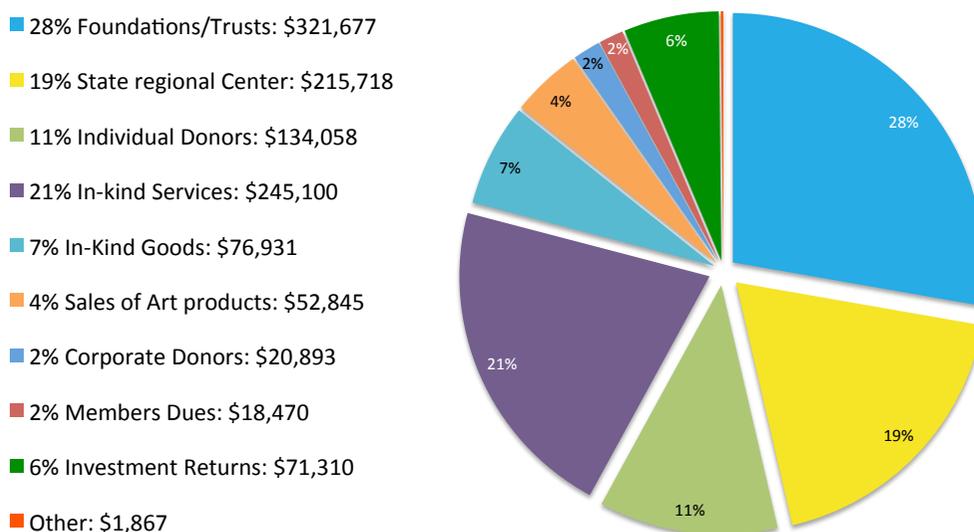


2017 Financial Statement

Expenses: \$1,029,775



Income: \$1,158,869



*Temporarily Restricted Funds are gifts and grants that are restricted for use during a particular time period or for specific projects. Restricted funds are counted as income in the year received. When released from restriction, these funds are counted as a negative number for the year they are released. In 2017, restricted funds were \$71,741 and \$110,787 was released from restriction.



We welcome Claudia Buchinsky and Chris Knight as new staff. Claudia has volunteered as our weaving instructor for over 5 years. We are thrilled she is now a member of our Fiber Arts staff! Chris came to L.A. GOAL as a volunteer last year and we soon realized she had fantastic bookkeeping skills we could put to work!



We are proud to be Platinum Certified through GuideStar, their highest level of transparency.