

The Caregiver UDW

**THANK YOU
CAREGIVERS**

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Celebrating

Homecare Provider Appreciation Month



Thanks
for all that you do

Did You Know That November is Homecare Provider Appreciation Month?



Caregivers make a difference in the lives of others. We go above and beyond to provide dignity for our loved ones and clients. Many of us provide compassionate care 24/7. At the same time, we keep Californians out of costly institutions and save taxpayers millions of dollars every year.

That's why UDW is saying **THANK YOU** to caregivers in November.

Come to one of our special luncheons and dinners for Homecare Provider Appreciation Month!

El Dorado County

NOV 22 Saturday, 12:00 – 3:00 pm
Placerville Town Hall
549 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667

Kern County

NOV 25 Friday, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Eagles Hall
1718 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Merced County

NOV 13 Thursday, 4:00 – 10:00 pm
Merced Elk's Lodge #1240
1910 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

Orange County

NOV 14 Friday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Call 1-877-483-9937
to RSVP

Placer County

DEC 09 Tuesday, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Maidu Community Center
1550 Maidu Drive
Roseville, CA 9566

Riverside County – IHSS

NOV/DEC TBD Call 1-866-417-7300
for more information and
to RSVP

Riverside County – Addus

DEC 13 Saturday, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Call 1-866-417-7300
to RSVP

San Diego County

NOV 13 Thursday, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Jacobs Center
404 Euclid Avenue
San Diego, CA 92114



UDW provider Darrol Johnson with his son at our San Luis Obispo event, held in October. Providers received a separate invitation to this event.

Santa Barbara County

NOV 08 Saturday, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
402 South Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Stanislaus County

NOV 21 Friday, 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Modesto Center Plaza
1000 L Street
Modesto, CA 95354

BENEFITS AND RESOURCES FOR CAREGIVERS

Available only to UDW members!

- New!** Prescription and health care discount card
- Free trainings such as CPR/First Aid, nutrition, and family caregiving
- Help with client hours
- Assistance with IHSS payroll issues and social worker issues
- Help with questions about the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI)
- 15% discount on cell phone plan (AT&T)
- College scholarships
- Low-cost dental plan
- Free \$4,000 accidental death and dismemberment policy
- Free and discount legal services
- Low rate credit card
- Financial hardship assistance grants
- Credit counseling and debt help
- Retirement Planning Center
- Travel discounts: rental cars, vacations, and SuperShuttle
- Discount theme park tickets for Disneyland, Legoland, Seaworld, and Six Flags
- Discounts on movie theater tickets, computers, and more!

Join our Telephone Town Hall Meeting

Learn more about benefits and health care for caregivers.

Monday, November 17

4:00 pm (Vietnamese)

5:00 pm (Spanish)

Tuesday, November 18

5:00 pm (English)

To join, simply answer the phone call from us at the start time of the meeting. Make sure our union has your updated phone number and language preference so we can reach you! Please call **1-800-621-5016** at least one week before the meeting to update your information.

Important Deadlines for Health Care Coverage

Sign up for free or low-cost health care coverage through Covered California starting November 15th.

Open enrollment goes until February 15, 2015, but you may be eligible to sign up anytime if you qualify for Medi-Cal or lose your health insurance. If you enrolled last year, you may need to renew your coverage. Be on the lookout for renewal materials from Medi-Cal and Covered California.

Call UDW at 1-800-621-5016 if you need help.

We need YOUR VOICE to help caregivers

Throughout the month of November we're asking UDW members across the state to help us improve IHSS by answering three questions at www.udwa.org/survey.

We want to hear from you—what challenges do you face as a care provider, why did you become a member of our union, and what IHSS issue do you think we should take on in 2015? **Make your voice heard by November 30th for a chance to win a \$200 grocery gift card.**

1 What are some of the challenges you face as a caregiver?



"Managing my time while caring for two people. Both of my clients have completely different needs—when one has an appointment, do I take them both or arrange care for the other? It's a constant challenge."

– Norma Barajas, caregiver,
Riverside County

"The hours I am paid cover less than a third of the 24-hour care my mom needs. I am also her live-in provider, which means I am unable to just leave the house when my five hours per day are done. My mom needs me to be with her at all times and having no real respite from the job takes its toll."

– Michael Moulton, caregiver, El Dorado County



"I would say that one of my biggest challenges would have to be my client's mobility needs. She needs a power wheel chair, but I don't know how to help her find the resources available to see if she qualifies for such services. There is very limited public transportation where I live, and the policy is that we need to book a ride reservation a week in advance, which makes coordinating her doctor's appointments a hassle."

– Lisa Lemons, caregiver, Stanislaus County

2 Why did you become a UDW member?



"I joined because I want quality of life and dignity for my dad. Being a part of our union allows me to learn from others, and gives me the strength to do what I do."

– Julian Havandjian, caregiver,
San Luis Obispo County

"I am the owner of a hair salon and was helping take care of one of my elderly clients for free. When the economy got rough I found out that she qualified for IHSS and that I could become her paid caregiver. I found out about our union when I attended my orientation. Now I'm volunteering with our membership drive! I like visiting members and hearing about some of the challenges providers face because I know I am not alone. I'm a member because I believe that if we don't stand together we will fall."

– Yvonne Griffin, caregiver, San Diego County



"I have been a member of this union for a long time, back when we only paid \$5 for membership dues. I am now paying more in dues, but it's all worth it! The union has guided me through appealing hours that were cut, and any time I need help with my daughter Valerie's IHSS case, they have been there for me. I also like attending union events because I get to meet other providers in my area."

– Jessica Gonzales, caregiver, Santa Barbara County

3 What IHSS issue should we tackle together as a union in 2015?



"We need to demand a new contract with Placer County to give caregivers a raise. We've waited for years and it's time for them to get serious."

– Julie Hansen, caregiver,
Placer County

"We need to get paid sick leave for homecare providers!"

– Blanca Abarca, caregiver, Merced County



"We have to get rid of the 7% cut to IHSS, and I'd love to see us fight for a retirement or pension plan for homecare workers."

– Vanna Nguyen, caregiver,
Orange County

"Increasing wages for all caregivers to \$13-\$15 an hour."

– Lorie Moore, caregiver, Riverside County



The Future of Homecare Starts Today!

Save the Date: March 20-21, 2015



Next year hundreds of IHSS caregivers from across the state will gather in Sacramento for the 2015 UDW Convention! At convention we will hear from homecare leaders and activists from all over the world and discuss what caregivers in California can do to build a better IHSS program. Convention is also where UDW members set the course for our union's future. **For more information about the convention and upcoming delegate elections visit www.udwa.org.**

Answer the three questions at www.udwa.org/survey. UDW members in good standing will be entered to win a \$200 grocery gift card.* Don't forget to submit your answers by November 30, 2014!

*Contest rules: Submit your answers by November 30, 2014 to be entered to win a \$200 grocery gift card. One entry per member, must be a UDW member in good standing to win.



4855 Seminole Drive
San Diego, CA 92115
www.udwa.org
800-621-5016

INSIDE:

Your new prescription
and health care
discount card!

Caregivers deserve thanks—and equal rights

Dear Providers,

It's fitting that Homecare Provider Appreciation Month and Thanksgiving are both in November. **Thank you for being caregivers**, and thank you for standing up to make sure the IHSS program is protected for clients like my daughter Ellis.

Caregivers deserve more than a thank you during one month of the year! We deserve to have our work **recognized** and **respected**.

It's 2014, and caregivers are still not afforded the same rights as other workers. Just a few months ago, state legislators passed a law that would grant three days of paid sick leave to California workers. **But do you know who are the only workers excluded from the new paid sick leave law?** IHSS providers.

"We are fighting for equal rights for caregivers, including paid sick days and an end to the 7% cut to IHSS."

Caregivers are not second class citizens. **That's why in 2015 we are calling for an end to injustice.**

We are fighting for equal rights for caregivers, including paid sick days and an end to the 7% cut to IHSS.

These challenges highlight why we need to continue to stand together.

I invite all of you to attend the next UDW meeting in your county



UDW President Editha Adams (third from left) and caregivers rally for workers' rights in Chicago, IL.

and to volunteer a couple hours of your time to help IHSS providers and clients.

Thank you again for being a caregiver and UDW member!

In unity,

Editha Adams
Caregiver and UDW president

Find out more about local UDW events and read the full President's Report at www.udwa.org.