



*Stronger
Together
for a More
Inclusive
Tomorrow*

BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

Conference Program

BELONGING



October 1–2, 2026



Fresno Convention Center

People • Possibilities • Stronger Together

*Same
Journey
Brighter
Horizons*



Inclusion • Opportunity • Community

BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

Conference Program

*Stronger
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for a More
Inclusive
Tomorrow*

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

This program is here to help you plan your day.



Look at the schedule

Find out what is
happening and when.



Find your room

Use the breakout pages
to match your room
number.



Choose your sessions

Pick the talks and
activities that matter
to you.



Ask for help

Volunteers and staff
are happy to help.



Take breaks

It is okay to rest,
eat, or have quiet time.



Have fun and connect

Meet people, visit booths,
and enjoy the conference.

*Go at your own pace.
You belong here. ♥*



WELCOME

A Message from the Executive Organizing Committee

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Inclusive
Tomorrow*

This program will help you:



**Find
sessions**



**Know
where to go**



**Learn
about events**



**Get help
if you need it**

*Same Journey
Brighter Horizons*

Welcome to Bridging Horizons 2026!

We are so happy you are here! On behalf of the Executive Organizing Committee, we warmly welcome individuals, families, self-advocates, presenters, providers, sponsors, and volunteers. Each of you helps make this conference possible, and each of **you belongs here.**

This year's theme is **Belonging**. Belonging means being accepted for who you are, having a voice, and being part of a community. Together, we are building a more inclusive California where everyone has opportunities to learn, grow, and reach their goals.

We hope this conference gives you new ideas, helpful tools, and meaningful connections. You will find inspiring speakers, practical workshops, and chances to meet others who share your journey. Whether you are here to learn, to teach, to connect, or to find support, you are an important part of this community.

Please take your time, go at your own pace, and do what feels right for you. If you need help, look for our friendly staff and volunteers — we are here for you. Don't be afraid to ask questions or let us know what you need. **Your comfort, safety, and full participation matter.**

Thank you for being here and for helping to make Bridging Horizons 2026 a welcoming, supportive, and empowering experience for all. **We are stronger together, and a brighter tomorrow is possible.**

Enjoy the conference!

The Bridging Horizons Executive Organizing Committee





WELCOME

A Message from
Central Valley Regional Center

*Stronger
Together
for a More
Inclusive
Tomorrow*

Welcome to Bridging Horizons 2026!

On behalf of Central Valley Regional Center, I am pleased to welcome you to a gathering that celebrates the strengths, experiences, and contributions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the community that stands alongside them.

This year's theme, **Belonging**, speaks to something we all deserve: to be welcomed, valued, and heard. Belonging means having opportunities to build relationships, make choices, pursue our goals, and help shape the communities we call home.

Bridging Horizons brings together individuals, families, advocates, service providers, professionals, and community partners to learn from one another and imagine what more is possible. Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning, your voice and perspective are an important part of this experience.

I encourage you to ask questions, share your story, meet someone new, and explore the resources and opportunities available throughout the conference. The connections we make here can open doors long after these two days have ended.

Thank you to our planning partners, presenters, sponsors, volunteers, and everyone whose dedication makes Bridging Horizons possible. Most of all, thank you for being here and helping build a community where everyone belongs.

Matthew Bahr

Matthew Bahr
Central Valley Regional Center

**MAKE THE MOST
OF YOUR TIME HERE**



Ask questions



Share your story



Meet someone new

*Same Journey
Brighter Horizons*



People • Possibilities • Stronger Together

BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026 VENUE & PARKING MAP

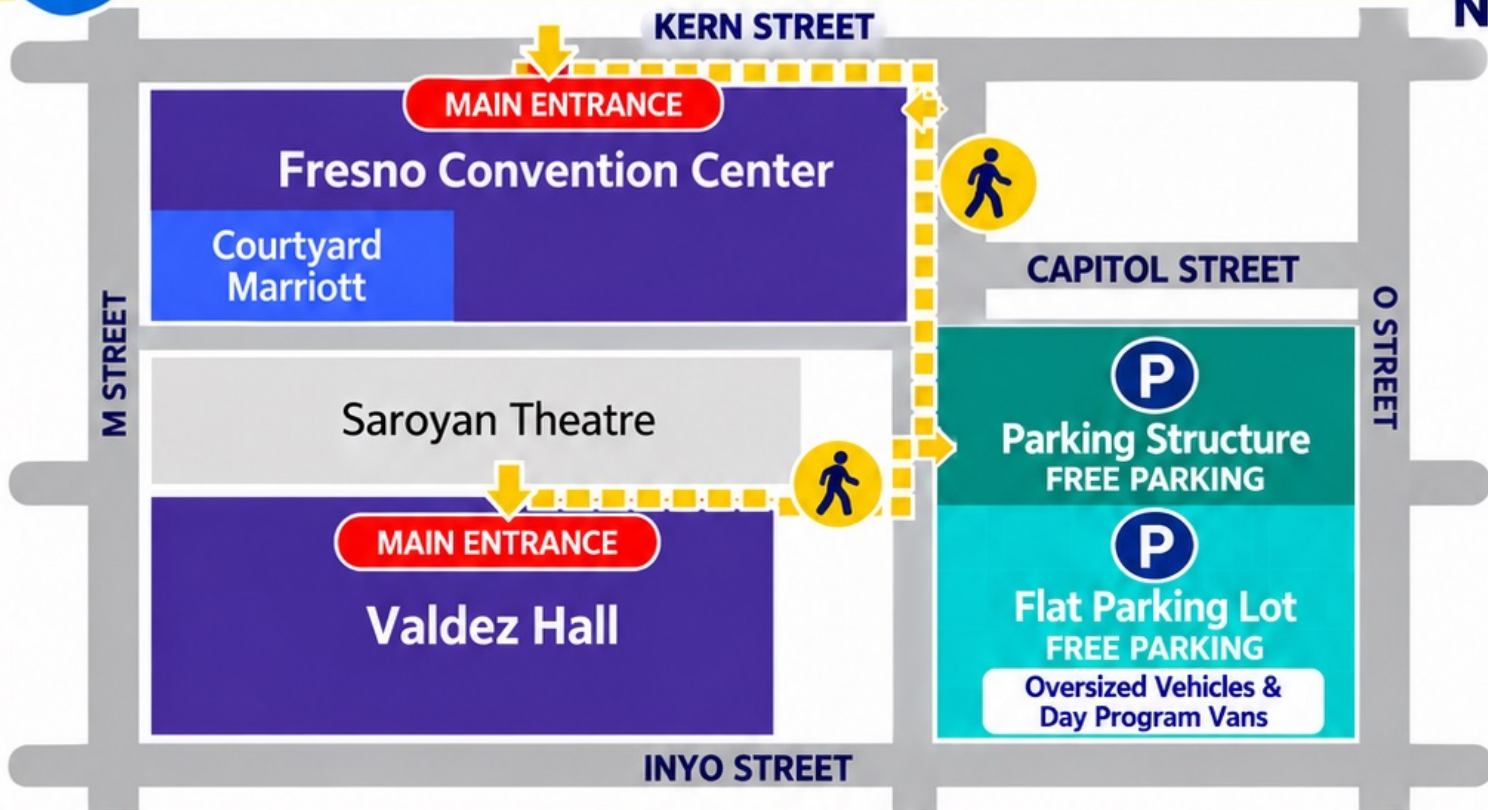
A simple map to help you find your way.

*Stronger
Together
for a More
Inclusive
Tomorrow*



1 Getting Here

Find the venue, parking, and follow the walking path.



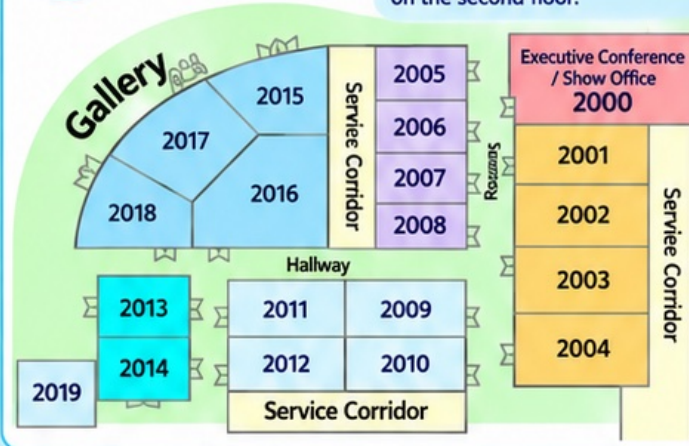
2 Main Level

Find the lobby, halls, and key areas on the main floor.



3 2nd Floor Meeting Rooms

Find your breakout session room on the second floor.



Conference at a Glance



People • Possibilities • Stronger Together

Use this page to orient yourself, then turn to the full schedules for details.



DAY 1 • THURSDAY, OCT. 1

Connection • Learning • Community



9:00 Welcome



9:15 Dani Bowman



10:00 The State of Belonging:
A California Disability Town Hall
and Breakout Session #1



11:15 Breakout Session #2



12:30 Lunch and Dani Bowman
Meet and Greet



1:30 *Hope that Echos Screening*



2:30 Breakout Session #3



3:45 Breakout Session #4



5:00 Breakout Session #5



5:30 Bridge Builder Awards
and Mixer



DAY 2 • FRIDAY, OCT. 2

Inspiration • Action • Celebration



9:00 Welcome



9:15 *I Belong, We Belong*
Screening and Panel



9:15 Voices of Empowerment



10:00 Breakout Session #1



11:00 Your Voice, Your Vote!



11:15 Breakout Session #2



12:00 Lunch and Illuminate:
Everyone Shines Dance!



1:30 Breakout Session #3



2:45 Breakout Session #4



4:00 Closing Remarks



6:00 A Night of Stars Gala



Build Your Experience

Choose the sessions,
events, and activities
that interest you most.
There is something for
everyone!



Where to Look First

- This page for a quick view
- Full session schedules (pages 5–7) for details
- Maps (page 8) to find your way
- Hotel and travel info (page 9)



Need Help?

Look for staff and
volunteers with blue shirts
or visit the Information
Desk.



We are here to help!



People • Possibilities
Stronger Together

2026 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

*Stronger
Together
for a More
Inclusive
Tomorrow*

Meet the featured voices helping shape
this year's conference experience.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dani Bowman

Award-winning animator, entrepreneur, autism advocate, and star of Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum U.S.* Dani shares an inspiring message about self-advocacy, employment, inclusion, and believing in what is possible.



**BELIEVE
IN WHAT IS
POSSIBLE**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Abbey Romeo

Entrepreneur, singer, advocate, and beloved star of Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum U.S.* Abbey brings warmth, honesty, and authenticity while celebrating individuality, meaningful relationships, independence, and using your voice.



**YOUR VOICE
MATTERS**



FEATURED SPEAKER

Assemblymember David Tangipa

Assemblymember David Tangipa represents California's 8th Assembly District. He brings a Central Valley perspective and shares his journey into public service and community leadership.



**PEOPLE
STRONGER
TOGETHER**

*Same Journey
Brighter Horizons*



Inclusion • Opportunity • Community



BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

People • Possibilities • Stronger Together

*Stronger
Together
for an
Inclusive
Tomorrow*

DAY 1 SCHEDULE

LEARN • CONNECT • CREATE CHANGE

 Time	 Room	 Topic
9:00 AM	Hall 3	Welcome
9:15 AM	Hall 3	Dani Bowman
10:00 AM	Hall 3	The State of Belonging: A California Disability Town Hall
10:00 AM	2nd Floor	Breakout Session #1
11:15 AM	2nd Floor	Breakout Session #2
12:30 PM	—	 LUNCH 
12:30 PM	Lobby	Dani Bowman Meet and Greet
1:30 PM	Hall 3	Hope that Echos Screening
2:30 PM	2nd Floor	Breakout Session #3
3:45 PM	2nd Floor	Breakout Session #4
5:00 PM	2nd Floor	Breakout Session #5
5:30 PM	Hall 3	Bridge Builder Awards and Mixer

Inclusion • Opportunity • Community



BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

DAY 1 BREAKOUTS

Convention Center 2nd Floor • Rooms 2001–2016

Learn • Connect • Create Change

PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES
STRONGER
TOGETHER

FRESNO
CALIFORNIA
2026

10:00–11:00 AM

- 2001** - Building Belonging: Affordable & Multifamily Housing in San Diego and Imperial Counties
Saralynn Keenan, SDRC
- 2002** - Understanding HCBS Modifications
CVRC Federal Compliance Department
- 2003** - Taking person-centered thinking & planning to the next level. An introduction to person centered active support
Julie Beadle-Brown, CCLN
- 2004** - Understanding EVO: Simple Steps to Stay on Track
Jennifer Parsons, DDS and Omar Flores, CVRC
- 2005** - Navigating Puberty, Dating, & Sexuality on the Spectrum
BEHAVIUM Health Services
- 2008** - Planning for tomorrow: Succession Strategies for Sustainable Provider Leadership
Aaron Olson, CVRC and James Clark, Jay Homes Inc.
- 2011** - Fiscal Audit 101: How to Prepare and What to Expect
Jimmy Gomez, CVRC
- 2012** - Quality Incentive Program- Measuring Quality
Joshua Sudarma, DDS
- 2016** - Building Inclusive Communities Through a Strong DSP Workforce- Department Strategies: Making a Difference
Department of Developmental Services

11:15 AM–12:15 PM

- 2001** - Do's and Don't of HCBS
CVRC Federal Compliance Department
- 2002** - Improving Organizational Safety Outcomes by Cultivating Positive Workplace Culture
Bryndahl Childers, LCSW, CVRC
- 2003** - A Place to Belong: Community-Based Care for Medically Fragile Adults with Developmental Disabilities
Our House Residential Care, STAR Center Adult Day Program
- 2005** - Advancing the DSP Workforce in California
Teresa Anderson, CPCIDD and Mark Melanson, CCLN
- 2008** - Generations Making a Difference: Foster Grandparents in Action
Jean Matens, CVRC
- 2011** - From Isolation to Belonging: Pathways to Recovery, Reentry & Community
Craig Grant and Jessica Lyan, Westcare Stop Program
- 2012** - By the Numbers: Proactive Strategies from the Field
CVRC Federal Compliance Department
- 2014** - Understanding HCBS Modifications
CVRC Federal Compliance Department
- 2016** - California's Changing Service Landscape: Rate Reform, Technology & Outcomes
Aaron Christian, DDS, Aaron Olson, CVRC, Josh Sudarma, DDS, and Tony Anderson, ARCA

2:30–3:30 PM

- 2001** - Building Recovery Pathways: Understanding SUD & Prevention in the IDD Community
Hilario Vazquez, Sober State
- 2002** - A place for everyone: Real Skills and Real Lives
Amy Kaufman, Mars Group
- 2003** - Beyond Compliance: Building a QA System That Works
CVRC Quality Assurance Department
- 2004** - Improving service delivery for Deaf Plus individuals
Jade Riggins, VPCI
- 2005** - Building Inclusion Through Cultural Diversity: Creating Spaces Where Everyone Belongs
Natasha Ambriz, CVRC
- 2008** - Sexual Harrassment Training (Managers)
Fred Mora, HR CONSORTIUM
- 2009** - Understanding HCBS Modifications
CVRC Federal Compliance Department
- 2016** - Mandated to Protect: Upholding Zero Tolerance Through Effective Reporting
Jordan Renteria, CVRC

3:45–4:45 PM

- 2001** - Reporting Matters: Strengthening Timely and Accurate SIR and Incident Reporting
Glenda Zuniga and Bryan Lott, CVRC
- 2002** - Ready When It Matters: Emergency Preparedness for Providers
Ben Klassen, CVRC
- 2003** - Transporting with Care: Driver Safety for Service Providers
Stacy Francis, CVRC
- 2004** - Partnering for Employment The Role of the Employment Specialist in Supporting Individual Success
Gabriel Ruiz, CVRC
- 2005** - Do's and Don't of HCBS
CVRC Federal Compliance Department
- 2008** - Sexual Harrassment Training (DSP)
Fred Mora, HR CONSORTIUM
- 2010** - Understanding HCBS Modifications
CVRC Federal Compliance Department

Extended Sessions - 3:45-5:45 PM

- 2011** - Before it Gets Worse: Recognizing and Responding to Changes in a Consumer's Condition
Day Spring Health Interactive
- 2012** - Partnering with First Responders for Safer Outcomes
Nicholas Lutton, SCDD

*Stronger People
Brighter Communities*

FRESNO
A STRONGER TOMORROW
TOGETHER

CENTRAL VALLEY
ROOTED IN POSSIBILITY

Same Journey • Brighter Horizons

Inclusion • Opportunity • Community

COMMUNITY
BELONGING
OPPORTUNITY
BRIGHTER HORIZONS

DAY 1 FEATURED MOMENTS

*Stronger
Together
for a More
Inclusive
Tomorrow*

Big moments you may not want to miss.



9:00 AM

Welcome

Start the day
together in Hall 3.



9:15 AM

Dani Bowman

Hear from our
morning keynote
speaker.



10:00 AM

The State of Belonging: A California Disability Town Hall

A conversation about
disability and community
in California.



12:30 PM

Dani Bowman Meet and Greet

Say hello and connect
in the Lobby.



1:30 PM

Hope that Echos Screening

Enjoy a special
screening in Hall 3.



5:30 PM

Bridge Builder Awards and Mixer

Celebrate leaders
and connect with others.

*Same Journey
Brighter Horizons*





BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

People • Possibilities • Stronger Together

*Stronger
Together
for an
Inclusive
Tomorrow*

LEARN • CONNECT • CREATE CHANGE

DAY 2 SCHEDULE

 Time	 Room	 Topic
9:00 AM	Convention Center Hall 3	Welcome
9:15 AM	Convention Center Hall 3	I Belong, We Belong Screening and Panel
9:15 AM	Valdez Hall	Voices of Empowerment
10:00 AM	Convention Center 2nd Floor	Breakout Sessions #1
11:00 AM	Convention Center Hall 3	Your Voice, Your Vote!
11:15 AM	Convention Center 2nd Floor	Breakout Sessions #2
12:00 PM	—	 LUNCH 
12:00 PM	Valdez Hall	Illuminate: Everyone Shines DANCE!
1:30 PM	Convention Center 2nd Floor	Breakout Sessions #3
2:45 PM	Convention Center 2nd Floor	Breakout Sessions #4
4:00 PM	Convention Center Hall 3	Closing Remarks
6:00 PM	Valdez Hall	A Night of Stars Gala

Inclusion • Opportunity • Community



BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026

DAY 2 BREAKOUTS

Convention Center 2nd Floor • Rooms 2001–2016

Learn • Connect • Create Change

PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES
STRONGER
TOGETHER

FRESNO
CALIFORNIA
2026

10:00–11:00 AM

- 2001 – Finding Your Voice: Student a Parent Participation in the IEP and ITP**
Exceptional Parents Unlimited
- 2002 – Staying Calm: Tools to Help you Feel In Control**
Yenifer Gallegos- Mejia, YAI California START
- 2003 – Living your best life! Your goals, Your independence, Your Way!**
Michelle Guzman and Michelle Aldaz, KALOS Specialized Services
- 2004 – Nkag Siab Txog Lub Chaw Pabcuam Hauv Cheeb Tsam (Regional Center)**
Josh Yang, CVRC and True Moua, The Fresno Center
- 2005 – I Belong, We Belong – Train the Trainer Certification Training**
Kourenthia Burton, Kings View
- 2008 – Taking Care of My Body: Sexual Health and Hygiene**
Veronica Magallanes, SCDD
- 2011 – Navigating Self-Determination: Understanding the SDP Journey**
Marlene Morales, DDS and Maria Klassen, CVRC
- 2012 – From Idea to Airwaves: How to Create Your Own Podcast**
Community Vocational Services and CCAT
- 2016 – HCBS desde nuestra perspectiva**
ARC Fresno/Madera Peer to Peer HCBS Trainers

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

- 2002 – Mantener la calma: herramientas para ayudarte a sentir que tienes el control**
Yenifer Gallegos- Mejia, YAI California START
- 2003 – ¡Vive tu mejor vida! ¡Tus metas, tu independencia, a tu manera!**
Susan Lopez, KALOS Specialized Services
- 2004 – Build Your Best Resume: Skills, Tips & Tools for Success**
Gabriel Ruiz Knabb, CVRC
- 2005 – Sexy and Disabled a Discussion Disability and Relationships**
Scott Johnston, Nathan Todd, Dr. Michelle Fynan
- 2008 – From Idea to Airwaves: How to Create Your Own Podcast**
Community Vocational Services and CCAT
- 2009 – I Belong, We Belong Training**
Kourenthia Burton, Kings View
- 2010 – Life Transitions (ATP to beyond)**
Meagan Barrientos & Laura Sancez, Central Unified School District
- 2011 – Navegando la Autodeterminación: Comprendiendo el Camino del Programa de Autodeterminación (SDP)**
Maria Klassen, CVRC
- 2012 – Understanding your benefits while working**
Alicsa Conley, CVTC
- 2016 – HCBS Through Our Eyes**
ARC Fresno/Madera Peer to Peer HCBS Trainers

1:30–2:30 PM

- 2003 – Understanding Section 504: High School and Beyond**
Exceptional Parents Unlimited
- 2004 – ATP y más allá: Preparando a estudiantes con discapacidades para una vida adulta plena y significativa**
Meagan Barrientos & Laura Sancez, Central Unified School District
- 2008 – Executive Functioning in Autism: Strategies that make a difference**
Yenifer Gallegos- Mejia, YAI California START
- 2009 – All About ADPs: What You Need to Know**
CVRC Community Resources
- 2010 – Building Your Path to Employment**
Gabriel Ruiz Knabb, CVRC
- 2011 – Entendiendo los Centros Regionales**
Aaron Olson, CVRC
- 2012 – Planning Ahead: Emergency Readiness for Individuals & Families**
Ben Klassen, CVRC
- 2014 – Creating Space to Belong: How CalABLE Helps People with Disabilities to Save for the Future**
Maria Sandoval, CalABLE
- 2016 – Supporting Growth, Safety, and Healthy Sexual Development**
Veronica Magallanes, SCDD

2:45–3:45 PM

- 2001 – R&R - Recharging with Respite**
Maxim Healthcare
- 2002 – Planning for the Future: Resources and Supports for Adulthood.**
Exceptional Parents Unlimited
- 2003 – Sex, Sexuality, and Intimacy**
Scott Johnston, Nathan Todd, Dr. Michelle Fynan
- 2004 – My Voice: One Page Profile workshop**
Pathways to Change
- 2005 – Person Centered Care, HCBS, and Belonging**
Exceptional Parents Unlimited
- 2008 – Regional Centers 101: Understanding Services, Supports & Your Rights**
Aaron Olson, CVRC
- 2009 – ATP & Tshaj Ntxiv: Npaj Cov Tub Ntxhais Kawm Uas Muaj Kev Xiam Oob Qhab Rau Lub Neej Laus Uas Muaj Ntsiab Lus**
Meagan Barrientos & Laura Sancez, Central Unified School District
- 2010 – Applying for CVRC Services: What You Need to Know**
America Works of California FRYES

*Stronger People
Brighter Communities*

FRESNO
A STRONGER TOMORROW
TOGETHER

CENTRAL VALLEY
ROOTED IN POSSIBILITY

Same Journey • Brighter Horizons
Inclusion • Opportunity • Community

COMMUNITY
BELONGING
OPPORTUNITY
BRIGHTER HORIZONS



DAY 2

FEATURED MOMENTS

*Stronger
Together
for a More
Inclusive
Tomorrow*

Celebrate, learn, and belong.



9:15 AM

/ Belong, We Belong Screening and Panel

Watch and learn together
in Hall 3.



9:15 AM

Voices of Empowerment

Start the day with
inspiration in Valdez Hall.



11:00 AM

Your Voice, Your Vote!

Join the conversation
in Hall 3.



12:00 PM

Illuminate: Everyone Shines Dance!

A joyful dance event
in Valdez Hall.



All Day

Breakout Sessions

Choose topics that fit
your interests and goals.



6:00 PM

A Night of Stars Gala

End the day with
celebration and community.

*Same Journey
Brighter Horizons*



CENTRAL VALLEY
ROOTED IN POSSIBILITY

Inclusion • Opportunity • Community

FRESNO
A STRONGER
TOMORROW



People • Possibilities
Stronger Together

Community Marketplace and Vendor Resource Fair

Connect • Discover • Support • Belong

*Stronger
Together
for an
Inclusive
Tomorrow*



Vendor and Community Fair

Connect with local vendors, service providers, and community organizations offering valuable products, programs, and resources. Explore unique goods, learn about available services, and discover opportunities designed to support individuals and families in our community.

- Knowles Telecom Advisors, LLC
- CalABLE
- Central Valley Training Center
- Connections Care Services
- Kadiant
- Behavrium Health Services
- America Works of CA
- Casa Buena Care Services
- Community Vocational Services, Inc
- Jorgia's Impact Foundation
- California Mentor Network
- Central Valley Regional Center
- Alternative Ways
- Brightside Transportation, LLC
- WestCare STOP Area 3
- Mi Casita Supportive Living
- G-Aims Transportation
- ACCESS ADP
- Blossoming Supported Living Services, LLC
- T&K Innovators
- Arabesque Conservatory of Music
- West Coast Sports and Fitness
- AngelSense
- Rivendell Community, Inc
- Fresno Best Buddies
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- The ARC of Fresno/Madera Counties
- Access Specialized Treatment Program
- JDO ILS Program
- Exceptional Parents Unlimited
- Dobbins Transportation, LLC
- Limitless Abilities
- Way Finders at Fresno State
- GT Independence
- Ives Torres Foundation
- Heart of Gold Medical Transport
- Community Anchor Services
- Fresno EOC Headstart
- Community Integrated Work Program
- Buddies Supported Living Services
- 12welve Creatives
- Ritz FMS
- Madera County Behavioral Health
- Adjoin
- 24-Hour Home Care
- Sharon Homes LLC - SLS
- Able, Inc
- CCAT
- 360 Behavioral Health
- Maxim Health Care
- Fresno EOC Transit System
- WestCare – Opioid Education & Naloxone Distribution
- Robo Enrichment
- Fresno Yosemite Health Care
- One Good Home Health Hospice
- Public Partnerships, LLC
- Family Options
- KALOS Specialized Services
- Vendor Advisory Committee
- Szabad Supportive Services
- Bryant Transit Services

Together, We Build Stronger Communities



Community Marketplace

Discover unique, handcrafted items created by participants from local community programs. Shop for one-of-a-kind artwork, gifts, accessories, and more while supporting creativity and entrepreneurship in our community!

- Access Specialized Treatment:** Jewelry and framed or unframed diamond art
- Central Valley Regional Center:** Paintings, drawings, and stickers
- Central Valley Training Center:** Paintings, artwork, pens, sugar scrubs, keychains, bracelets, candles, jewelry, planter boxes, and succulents
- Clovis SSVS:** Keychains
- Community Integrated Work Program:** Paintings, jewelry, keychains, birdhouses, wall plaques, wind chimes, tie-dye shirts, pet and gift baskets, candy dishes, small figurines, decorated tumblers, diamond art, snacks, and drinks
- Kalos Specialized Services CIP:** Jewelry, diamond art, and crocheted stuffed animals
- Social Vocational Services:** Jewelry, pot holders, drawings, framed artwork, paintings, pottery, and other fragile art pieces
- Social Vocational Services – Tower:** Paintings, jewelry, and small figurines
- Social Vocational Services – Porterville:** Original artwork and sketches, custom and tie-dye shirts, and beaded keychains
- The Arc of Fresno and Madera Counties:** Origami art, jewelry, beaded and braided keychains, diamond art, and small figurines
- The Creative Center:** Paintings, jewelry, pottery, small figurines, and crocheted stuffed animals
- UCP:** Paintings, jewelry, pottery, crocheted stuffed animals, Hot Wheels art, handmade bookmarks, beanies, and keychains
- Vocation Plus Connections, Inc. (VPCI):** Paintings, jewelry, and cups



Art Gallery Participants

Explore an inspiring collection of artwork created by talented participants from local community programs. The gallery will feature a variety of original pieces showcasing creativity, individuality, and self-expression.

Select artwork will be available for purchase, offering guests an opportunity to take home a one-of-a-kind piece while supporting artists in our community.

- Social Vocational Services, Tower
- Enrichment Center
- The Creative Center
- KALOS Specialized Services

*Art Creates
Belonging*

DIFFERENT PATHS
STRONGER FRESNO

Celebrate • Connect • Belong





Bridge Builder Awards & Mixer

An evening of recognition, celebration, and connection.

*Stronger Together
for a More
Inclusive
Tomorrow*



Thursday,
October 1, 2026



5:30 PM



Fresno Convention Center
Fresno, California

2026 HONOREES



Nicole Vazquez
Chief Consultant to the
California State Assembly
Budget Committee



Kopi Sotiropulos
Retired News Anchor



Meagan Barrientos
Special Education
Educator



**CVRC Foster
Grandparents and
Companions Program**

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS



2025 Recipient

Assemblymember
Dr. Joaquin
Arambula



2024 Recipient

Senator
Shannon Grove

MIXER HOSTED BY



Celebrating leadership, advocacy, and belonging.

CENTRAL VALLEY
ROOTED IN POSSIBILITY

Inclusion • Opportunity • Community

FRESNO
A STRONGER
TOMORROW



*Different
Paths
A Stronger
Fresno*



Illuminate

EVERYONE SHINES!

BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026 DANCE

*Music
Inclusion
Friendship
Belonging*



FRIDAY
OCTOBER 2, 2026



12:00 PM – 2:00 PM



FRESNO CONVENTION CENTER
VALDEZ HALL



ALL ARE WELCOME!
Individuals • Families
Providers • Professionals
Community Partners

DANCE • CONNECT • CELEBRATE • BELONG



DIFFERENT PATHS
A STRONGER FRESNO

BELONGING
LIVES HERE

*Different
Paths
A Stronger
Fresno*

A NIGHT OF *Stars*

BRIDGING HORIZONS 2026 GALA

AN EVENING OF INSPIRATION,
CONNECTION, AND POSSIBILITIES.



FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 2, 2026



6:00 PM – 10:00 PM



FRESNO CONVENTION CENTER
VALDEZ HALL



DINNER • AWARDS • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
KEYNOTE • MEET & GREET



FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST

Abbey Romeo

Keynote Speaker & Meet and Greet

Entrepreneur, singer, advocate, and beloved star of Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum U.S.*, Abbey Romeo brings warmth, honesty, and authenticity to the stage. Through her personal journey, Abbey celebrates individuality, meaningful relationships, greater independence, and the courage to share your voice with the world.

Everyone Belongs Here ♥

DIFFERENT PATHS
A STRONGER FRESNO

BELONGING
LIVES HERE



People • Possibilities
Stronger Together

Executive Organizing Committee

Bridging Horizons 2026

*Stronger
Together for
an Inclusive
Tomorrow*

The Bridging Horizons Executive Organizing Committee brings together self-advocate, families, educators, providers, and community leaders who help shape the conference and advance belonging throughout our community.



Jaime Murphy

Self-Advocate,
Community Vocational
Services



Scott Johnston

Community Access
Advocate Intern,
Kings View



Sammy Calderon

Self-Advocate,
Vocation Plus



Troy Campbell

Student Advocate,
Connections Adult
Transition Program



Dr. Anthony Ash, DSW, MSW

Federal Compliance Program
Manager, Central Valley
Regional Center



Pamela Scarano

Owner and Executive
Director, Community
Vocational Services, Inc.



Cameron Grisham

Assistant Director of I/DD
Services, Kings View



Elisabete "Liz" Dobbins

CEO,
Chance Dobbins Sr.
Charity / Club 67



Reva Guimont

Parent Advocate



Vartan Hekimian

Chief Executive
Officer, AMVA Corp



Meagan Barrientos

Educator
Central Unified
School District



Aren Hekimian

Chief Operating
Officer, AMVA Corp



Nick Lutton

Manager, Sequoia Office,
California State Council on
Developmental Disabilities

Thank you to the leaders and partners who help make Bridging Horizons possible.



DIFFERENT PATHS
STRONGER FRESNO

Celebrate • Connect • Belong



*Stronger
Together
for a More
Inclusive
Tomorrow*

SAVE THE Dates

SEPTEMBER 30, 2027

AND

OCTOBER 1, 2027

FRESNO CONVENTION CENTER

STAY CONNECTED FOR UPDATES AT

www.bridginghorizonsca.com

*Same Journey
Brighter Horizons*



CENTRAL VALLEY
ROOTED IN POSSIBILITY

Inclusion • Opportunity • Community

FRESNO
A STRONGER
TOMORROW



Community Organizing Partners

Stronger Together for an Inclusive Tomorrow

Thank you to the organizations helping bring Bridging Horizons 2026 to life.



Central Unified School District



The Arc
Fresno/Madera Counties



Central Valley Regional Center



UCP
Central California



PSW



CVTC Inc.



Kings View



State Council on Developmental Disabilities
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities



Community Vocational Service, Inc.



Club 67



AMVA Corporation



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