

VOICES OF HOPE



DR. LASHARANDA BECKWITH

MISSION

Ignited by faith, we live out God's love by embracing, equipping and empowering vulnerable people in Southern California

VISION

Sharing the love of Christ, we are a community to care and be cared for...

Where the vulnerable are safer and stronger

Where the dependent are self-sustaining

Where the isolated dwell in community

Where the weary will be given hope

VALUES

*Compassion / Advocacy
Collaboration / Respect
Innovation / Stewardship*

Happy Rainy Friday!

I hope this week was productive but fun. It was for me. I had the pleasure of spending some time with our excellent Area Directors. What energy and positivity from that group. There was such passion for our people and programs. I can honestly see why the programs we offer work. It's because of people like you!

Some of our folks are so positive and full of energy. People like Jessica at CCLM, Tawanda at Big Bear, Dischele in Thousand Oaks, or Denise in Riverside, I enjoyed the time spent with them so much. They were full of ideas to better our organization and courageous in telling me what we could do better. They were respectful, yet forthright and they were supportive and not defensive if I asked them questions. It was a pleasure interacting with them. When the meeting was over, I wondered why their personalities appealed to me. What was it about them that made me sit up and notice? After reflection, I concluded, it was their attitudes!

I believe that success at anything in life starts with ATTITUDE. This concept extends to all of us. Attitude will make or break us. Do not ever forget a person may be very skilled and competent, but if they do not have a positive attitude, their efforts can be sidelined by others because of how they will be received by others. Attitude is everything.

An author and Pastor I followed for many years named Charles Swindoll wrote this about Attitude: *"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of Attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company... the church... a home. The remarkable thing is, we have a choice every day regarding the Attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our Attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our Attitude."*

In the context of scripture, the Bible tells us in Philippians 2:3-5,

"Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility, count others more significant than yourselves... indeed, let this Attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus..."

Many things are hard, but they are possible with Christ. I pray every day to push down my ego to do the work I have been called to do with humility and thanksgiving. All things are incredibly possible if we take the Attitude that Cara, our new Long Beach Director, took, when, in that meeting, she said, *"I love Jesus!"* That one comment gave me insight into the kind of Attitude she brings to her work. Anyone bold like that will be daring in doing God's work.

Blessings,

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & Chief Executive Officer