



the hummingbird

CDS News

CDS Thoughts on A Windy Day....

"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty." Maya Angelou

In these last several months, circumstances have required us to transform our habits at home, work and in our communities. It has not been easy, it is not done, we are uncertain as to how long this will be required, and we know that on the backend, our lives will be indelibly changed.



Warily, we look out at our institutions for relief where there is little. We perceive deep changes that need to be made to meet the needs of us and our community members. Change to these institutions appear as compartmentalized choices between the left and the right, black and white, all or none.

In our life experience, that is never the reality. We move forward, hit a roadblock, take a detour and figure out another way, eventually arriving in a new, different spot the better for our experience. If you think about it, where we land is where we imagine we will be. These transformative circumstances we are currently subject to give us an opportunity to approach the challenges endemic in our institutions and look at them as a whole structure, without silos. We have the opportunity to imagine a more just, inclusive, equitable world and work towards it together. How do you imagine our community?

Chris Davidson
City Data Services

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United Ways of California



Just when you thought it couldn't get worse, it does, and waddayado? You call 2-1-1! The *hummingbird* staff caught up with Clare Margason, Outreach Program Manager, United Ways of California, (remember when it was only United Way and focused primarily on networking with non-profit service providers?). In 2008, Californians regrouped, and United Ways of California was established with the mission of improving "the health, education and financial results for low-income children and families". UW of CA advocates and coordinates community impact through a network of 30 United Ways located throughout the state.

Voila! 2-1-1 began connecting ***its resources to people*** in meaningful ways.

What is 2-1-1? It's free and live 24-7 accessed through a phone or internet providing information to anyone needing emergency food, housing and health services. During these unpredictable times, 211 works well for pandemics and fires; one of its most vital functions is coordination between police, emergency and fire services.

Although efficiently responding to the emergency du jour is not a new role for UWCA, in this panoply of crisis, United Ways' services have never been more crucial. It has not always been this way; years prior to the pandemic, UWCA had been described as a system of silos. From its re-invention in 2008, it slowly transformed into an ecosystem of assisting families and individuals in crisis.

The pandemic catalyzed the effort. Ms. Margason observed, “Often times within an organization, especially one as large as United Ways, staff is able to identify areas they would love to see develop or change; or partnerships they would like to foster. What we have witnessed is 2020 has afforded many businesses the opportunity to pursue those goals”.

United Ways is working to expand the tent, so-to-speak, doing what they do best, taking existing relationships with service providers, nurturing them, and creating more support for Californian families.

Rising to the occasion, reimagining better solutions; qualities within all of us, within our communities – we just need to embrace these and work toward a re-imagined place where we all can live and thrive.

BTW, 211 is active in many of these united states, not only California. If you are a service provider and not connected with 211 – contact your local United Way. In California, contact United Ways of California.

United Ways of California

Problem Efficiently Solved with CDS

A few years ago, a CDBG Manager, (not yet a client of CDS), gave us a call while their HUD representative was in their office discussing 3 years of non-compliance with their CDBG

grant. The City Staffer wanted us to build a grant/loan management system and provide the ability for their sub-recipients

to upload the previous three years’ documentation, generate reports for HUD, and integrate with IDIS. We did it for them in a matter of weeks and continue



providing efficient, timely information to Staff and HUD.

City Data Services is here to help! We provide remote management of grants and loans for U.S. Cities and Counties. We can provide you what you need to manage your public services (CDBG, General Funds, etc.) and all housing; application to regulatory agreement management. Contact us at citydataservices@yahoo.com 😊



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