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*Our LBDN team in their awesome dramatic play outfits at our awards ceremony!*

### Years of Service Awards Ceremony

At our recent Years of Service Awards Ceremony, we honored all of our staff, from our newest members to staff who have been with us for more than 30 years!

To celebrate we rolled out the red carpet & our staff brought out their best dramatic play time outfits! We are so thankful for all of our staff & their hard work & dedication to our young children & families



A special thank you to Rancho Los Alamitos for hosting us at their beautiful site. The support & connection between the Rancho & LBDN dates back all the way back to 1912. We are happy to report that this tradition is still alive & well today.

Fun facts, we have LBDN team members who have been with us for:

- Over 10 years - 8 staff
- Over 20 years - 6 staff
- Over 30 years - 2 staff, Linda Blackshire & Dianna McCrary, AMAZING!

*(continued pg 3)*

# Would You Rather...?

 **Have a pet turkey? - OR - Grow a pumpkin?** 

Our preschoolers have weighed in on this divisive fall question.



## Pet Turkey

Because I like turkeys. I would teach my turkey to eat bread.  
- *Tristian*



## Pet Turkey

I would teach him how to play Red Light Green Light & share toys with him, but not my purple diamond because he will scratch it.  
- *Ariah*



## Grow a Pumpkin

I want a pumpkin. I don't know why.  
- *Jeremiah*



## Pet Turkey

I would teach him to listen.  
- *Leilani*



## Grow a Pumpkin

I grew up on a little farm that had turkeys. I was scared of the turkeys because they chased me, so I prefer pumpkins.  
- *Ms. Yanira*



# Years of Service

(continued from pg 1)

LBDN Team Member	Years of Service
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Linda Blackshire	33
Dianna McCrary	30
Carla Chua	24
Larae Metz	22
Xochitl Ramirez	22
Maria Arias	21
Evangelina Jimenez	20
Franchell Lawton	20
Claudia Baide	19
Sara Vicente	19
Colleen Williams	19
Richard Panganiban	16
Isabel Torres	16
Cheryl Partee	15
Jacqueline Vallejo	14
Noelia Zaragoza	14
Margaret Blevins	13
Mercedes Maglonzo	11
Margarita Moya	9
Stacy Bass	8
Mayra Espinoza	8
Sharnell Brown	8
Naomi Villanueva	7
Daniella Hagood	7
Yanira Hernandez-Gomez	7
Anya Mazariegos	7
Atalia Melendez	7
Angie Rodriguez	7
Rebecca Farley	7
Tameca Hodo	7
Ryan Carrell	6
Norma Gonzalez	6
Hibet Lopez Martinez	6
Yonglin Conner	5
Brandon Hardison	5
Diane Rios	5
Juliet Shamoon	4
Neriah Alvarez	4
Fermina Jimenez	4
Adriana Rangel	4
Samantha Shir Khanbaigi	4
Rhea Coon	3
Jennifer Harper	3
Sharai Gonzalez	3
Genevieve Irene Linde	3
Samantha Edralin	2
Cesilia Arambula	1
Jenine Dy	1
Angela Washington	1
Olivia Lough	1
Michelle Lopez	0.63
Jeamille Florentino	0.44
Geraldine Marie Ubalde	0.34
Chelsie Cortes	0.28
Guadalupe Saavedra	0.28
Tiera Willis	0.24
Steven Bradley	0.19
Susana Arredondo	0.10



Geraldine, Angie, & Neriah from our East Branch.



Maria taking dramatic play to another level!



Preschool 4 receiving their classroom award.



Dianna McCrary honored for 30 years of service!

# Long Beach Gives

We did it! We greatly surpassed our goal of \$25,000 & raised \$30,500 for our Stepping Stones to Success Scholarship program!

We are so grateful for the belief and investment from our LBDN community in our Stepping Stones to Success Scholarship Program, families, and young students.

About Stepping Stones: Since 1992, our Stepping Stones has awarded scholarships to families who do not qualify for state assistance. This removes financial barriers and gives families in need crucial access to our high quality care & education.

**WE DID IT TOGETHER**  
**\$30,500**  
**RAISED BY**  
**117**  
**DONATIONS!**

LONG BEACH  
**Gives**



## Thank you to our supporters!

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*\*Please note all donors who have wished to remain publicly anonymous for their donation are excluded from this list.*



### **Into the Spotlight: Linda Blackshire, Center Director**



Linda has been with LBDN for an astounding 33 years, starting on March 29, 1990! Before becoming a Center Director at our West Branch, she was first a LBDN teacher for over 10 years. Linda has an Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from Long Beach City College and is certified as a Site Supervisor by the State of California, Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Her immense knowledge of Early Childhood Education, vast experience in the field, and deep care for the community, children, families, and staff of LBDN has enabled Linda to significantly impact the lives of so many. We are fortunate to have Linda as part of our LBDN family!



### **Into the Spotlight: Dianna McCrary, Head Teacher**



Dianna has been with LBDN since May 12, 1993, marking over 30 years! She has been a Lead Teacher since January 2000, and has extensive educational experience in Child Development. Dianna has an AA Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Site Supervisor Permit. In addition, she has taken classes at CSULB and continues to further her knowledge and education of Child Development and Early Childhood Education by attending conferences and workshops. Dianna is passionate about the growth, development, and education of children, and has touched the lives of countless students and families. It is truly an honor to have her with us at LBDN!



### **Into the Spotlight: Tonia Warrior, Board Member**



Tonia joined our Board in July 2021 and has been making a difference at LBDN ever since! She brings an impressive resume of experience. Tonia has her Doctorate in Public Administration from Cal Baptist University, and is currently serving as the Sr. Director of Ethics and Compliance at Kaiser Permanente. She has been with Kaiser Permanente for 16 years and has 20+ years of professional experience in Healthcare. At LBDN she looks forward to contributing diverse perspectives and viewpoints within the various committees she participates in, and as the Expansion Committee Chair. In her free time Tonia has several hobbies and interests that allow her to connect with friends and family including decorating, cooking, and painting.



## 111th Anniversary

LBDN is turning 111 years old on November 4th! Since 1912, LBDN has passionately served the LB community by providing high quality early education & care for young children of working parents. Last year we celebrated our 110th anniversary, a huge milestone in our organization's history. View messages from our LBDN supporters in honor of this achievement on our website at [lbdn.org/110th-anniversary](https://lbdn.org/110th-anniversary) or by scanning the QR code!



## Have you heard?

### **(562) 732-LBDN (5236) is our new phone number!**

Recently we made a huge, much-needed upgrade to our entire organization's phone system! This upgrade makes our incoming and outgoing communications more efficient, giving us more valuable time to dedicate to the care and education of our young students.

#### *Important notes:*

- (562) 732-LBDN (5236) is our one & only number now for both branches.
- If you call our old phone numbers you will be forwarded to our new number.



## New toddler classroom is making progress!



Pictured: New W.M. Keck Foundation lettering on our modular unit.

## What's the impact?

We hope you have enjoyed seeing the beautiful, long-term dedication of our incredibly important team in this newsletter and were delighted by the creativity and uniqueness of the young children we serve. Investments in early care and education bring moments of true joy and a confidence that we are proactively making long-term, life-changing, world impacting investments in our future. Society is in a problem solving crisis, yet by providing high quality early care and education like that found at Long Beach Day Nursery, we can prevent many of our current crisis before they even begin. We are leading the world in transforming both our current (parents and employees) and our future workforce. Children in high quality ECE Programs are:

- Less likely to repeat a grade
- Less likely to need remedial support services
- More likely to graduate from high school
- More likely to become higher earners in the workforce
- Better able to manage emotions and social interactions.

Attempts to quantify these and many other benefits have found a return on investment of between \$3 and \$13 for every dollar invested in early childhood. Even at the low end of this estimate, this is a significant return! Thank you for being a part of the purposeful work we are doing.

**Jennifer Harper**, Executive Director



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Tonia Warrior

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1548 Chestnut Avenue  
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# NURSERY NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023

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SINCE 1912 - FOR THE FAMILIES, FRIENDS & STAFF OF LBDN

