

ROSTER
Board of Directors
Costanoa Commons, Inc.

Leslie Applegarth Berring left corporate business for a second career in the non-profit world, working at The World Institute on Disability for Ed Roberts. She served as a founding member and Secretary on the board of Quadrille Academy in Southern California. She was the Registrar at the University of California, Berkeley Law School until her retirement in 2000.

Donna Calame is an attorney who became acquainted with advocates for independent living in the late 1980's from some of its founders, including Ed Roberts. Donna has dedicated most of her career to the idea that people with disabilities should not be unnecessarily placed in institutions. She helped establish an IHSS Public Authority in San Francisco starting in 1992 and its first Executive Director in 1996 and remained there until her retirement in May 2014. Donna is a nationally known advocate for people with disabilities and has served on numerous task forces on their behalf.

Larry Contreras has been in business in the East Bay for many years, working as sales manager and general manager for Allied Manufacturing. Larry is currently Vice President of Team Allied Distribution, where he has helped grow the business from two locations to 17 throughout the U.S. He is also the financial chair for St. Anthony Church in Oakley, CA, where he has served since 1992. He is the primary caregiver for his elderly father, with whom he has had a great deal of experience arranging and maintaining home care.

Philippe Habib is a firmware engineer in Silicon Valley and the parent of two sons, one of whom has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair and communication device. He is an advocate for independent living for his son and others. He has been an owner/builder on two single family homes in the San Francisco Bay Area and has learned a lot about universal design and accessible living environments in the course of these projects.

Alison Hicks has a Masters in City Planning, with a focus on project and housing development from UC Berkeley. She has worked for the City of Oakland and City of San Jose as well as for the nonprofit housing developer, the Northern California Land Trust (NCLT) www.nclt.org. With NCLT she developed a wide variety of permanently affordable housing types, including cooperative housing and housing designed to serve people with disabilities, their families and friends.

Janie Whiteford has a BS in Rehabilitation Counseling and has been a very long and ardent advocate for persons with disabilities and seniors. Her advocacy efforts include health care and the integration of long term services and supports into managed care for Medi-cal and Medicare eligibles. She currently sits on the Santa Clara County IHSS Advisory Committee, is the current Co-President of the CA IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA), and represents CICA on the CA Collaborative and the CA Alliance for Retired Americans Board of Directors. Her philosophy is that people with disabilities and seniors have the right to live in the community of their choice, have the right to direct their own care, and have the obligation to educate the greater society to make this happen.