

The James R. Popplewell Fund

The Popplewell Fund was created in 2012 to both honor the much beloved Dr. James R. Popplewell and provide a special fund to pay for emergency expenses our consumers face that the Lanterman Act does not allow regional centers to pay for. Sometimes our consumers are faced with emergency expenses that threaten their ability to maintain community living and a short term no interest loan or a small gift helps them sustain themselves during these hard times.

Who Was Dr. Popplewell?

Dr. James Popplewell was the Valley Mountain Regional Center Medical Director until 2011. During his tenure at VMRC Dr. Popplewell was a tremendous advocate for people with developmental disabilities. He fought for their rights in the healthcare arenas like clinics, homes, and he fought especially hard for our consumers in hospital and in long term care settings, ensuring they had a knowledgeable and compassionate voice. He also provided clinical leadership and training to all VMRC staff and to care home providers on health issues consumers encounter. His advocacy was inspiring.

How Do Consumers Access the Popplewell Fund?

All requests for use of these funds will be reviewed on an individual, case-by-case basis. The requests come from the Service Coordinators as they learn of hardships their consumer may be facing. The Popplewell Committee will review all requests for funds from the Popplewell Fund and vote on them at their monthly committee meetings. The Popplewell Committee is a subcommittee of the Board of Directors, made up of officers who will receive monthly reports from the Directors of Consumer Services. In the event of an emergency or urgent need for funds disbursement, the Directors of Consumer Services, as well as the Chief Financial Officer will make the final decision as to whether the fund is accessed.

The fund donations will be reviewed and accepted monthly by the Popplewell Committee and brought to the Board of Directors for full acceptance.

Depending on the circumstances, some disbursed funds may be considered a loan with repayment expected under terms agreed upon by both parties. No repayment of funds will be deemed necessary if elements surrounding the request are considered appropriate and no fault of the recipient's own making. VMRC will provide an annual accounting of this fund each April to the VMRC Board of Directors.

If funds are available, annually, during the winter season of giving, the fund could be used to pay for holiday dinners for consumers who are in need.