



Life with the Power of Choice and Possibilities

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The James R. Popplewell Fund

The Popplewell Fund was started in 2012 to honor Dr. James R. Popplewell and to help consumers with emergency expenses that regional centers are not allowed to pay for under the Lanterman Act. These short-term, no-interest loans or small gifts help consumers stay safely in their communities during difficult times.

Who Was Dr. Popplewell?

Dr. James Popplewell was the Medical Director at Valley Mountain Regional Center until 2011. He was a strong advocate for people with developmental disabilities, especially in hospitals and long-term care settings. He also trained staff and care providers and was known for his compassion and dedication.

How Do Consumers Access the Popplewell Fund?

Service Coordinators submit requests when they learn a consumer is facing a hardship. Each request is reviewed individually by the Popplewell Committee, a subcommittee of the Board of Directors, during monthly meetings. In urgent situations, the Directors of Consumer Services and the Chief Financial Officer can approve use of the fund.

Some funds may be loans that need to be repaid, depending on the situation. Repayment is not required when the hardship is beyond the consumer's control. VMRC provides an annual report on the fund to the Board each April.

If funds are available, the Popplewell Fund may also be used during the winter season to provide holiday meals for consumers in need.