



HIPhousing

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A Place to Call Home

HIP Housing Happenings—Fall 2011

2010–2011 Annual Summary



Self-Sufficiency Program graduates from left to right: Chelsea, Eyrus and Marie spoke at its recent alumni panel workshop. The successful graduates had lots of great news to smile about. Chelsea and Eyrus purchased their first home, and Marie is now a state certified Central Processing Technician.

The 2010–2011 fiscal year proved to be a challenging one as more individuals sought our services, yet we experienced additional cuts in funding. But like any well oiled machine, HIP Housing surged forward and provided housing services to 1,000 persons and gave resource referrals to nearly 3,000 individuals. As the number of clients we assist continues to climb, the number of staff and the quality of our services remained constant. Below is a summary of what HIP Housing and the community accomplished together:

- The Self-Sufficiency Program (SSP) provided 86 families (103 adults and 151 children) with housing, case management, Life Skills Workshops and referrals to other support services.

Twenty families graduated from the Self-Sufficiency Program. Among the graduates, 100% exited the program with additional education and/or job training than when they started. 90% of clients increased their income and felt that they had improved their money management skills through SSP Life Skills workshops. 85% of clients improved their housing situation. Three graduates became first time homeowners, giving their children a permanent place to call home.

- The Home Sharing Program provided services to nearly 1,895 people. In total 332 persons were matched in home sharing. We received 2,789 phone inquiries.

In addition, HIP Housing provided technical assistance to agencies in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Laguna Beach, San Francisco, Arizona, and Folsom to start programs.

- The Property Development program provided housing to nearly 400 persons through its 209 units, 3 shared houses, and 11 properties managed for cities throughout San Mateo County.



A Message from the Executive Director

Kate Comfort Harr

Executive Director of HIP Housing—I'm still getting used to the sound of this, but I don't mind telling you that I will never tire of hearing it!

While I may be new to HIP Housing, I am not new to the nonprofit sector. A Bay Area native with a Masters in Nonprofit Administration, I have spent my life in the local nonprofit sector.

From my earliest days singing in the church choir, to building public playgrounds, to putting music programs in schools, to fundraising for free home repairs for low-income homeowners, I have immersed myself in all things nonprofit. I love this sector and the work done by it.


Nonprofits do what the public sector is too big to accomplish and what the private sector lacks profit incentive to do. They grow out of community need and are supported by those who believe in their purpose. HIP Housing has grown out of the very profound need of low-income people to secure safe, clean, affordable housing.

Stable housing is the foundation for good health, academic success and civic engagement. Sadly, because one in five

households in San Mateo County are unable to earn enough to make ends meet, everyday, hard working residents find themselves without adequate housing -- their families at risk of homelessness and foreclosure with their safety and well being in jeopardy.

In the past year, peninsula rents have risen nearly 8% and foreclosure rates has hovered around 3% meaning nearly three out of every 100 homes--families--are threatened by foreclosure. At HIP Housing, we have had an 18% increase in calls from people in need of our help. Yet, recent decreases in funding from redevelopment agencies have negatively impacted our budget by tens of thousands of dollars.

My promise is to lead HIP Housing through these challenging times and to ensure that our programs continue to be responsive and delivered with the highest standard of excellence emphasizing compassion and accountability.

I am absolutely dedicated to keeping HIP Housing the best it can be and to working with you to ensure that San Mateo County continues to be one of the finest places to live in the world. 

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www.hiphousing.org

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Mission Statement

HIP Housing's mission is to invest in human potential by improving the housing and lives of people in our community.

Thank You from a Client

Regina (pictured right) is a single mother of three children, who is pursuing her degree in Human Services. As a participant in the Self-Sufficiency Program, Regina was able to concentrate on her studies, and receive guidance and resources from her Case Manager. Regina is one of the winners of this year's Soroptimist International awards. This past October, Regina and her family moved into their first home. Below are some of Regina's comments:

When all I thought I could achieve was survival, HIP Housing helped me dream big for my family, and now we own a beautiful house and I am pursuing my dream of becoming a social worker. Thank you!

Regina 



Above Regina and her children, Self-Sufficiency Program graduates, have found a permanent place to call home.

HIP Housing's Affordable Housing Programs

Home Sharing

The Home Sharing Program is a one-on-one service linking people who have a home to share with those seeking a home. Each person has a private room and shares common living areas.

Self-Sufficiency

The Self-Sufficiency Program enables low-income families to transition from government assistance. Participants receive subsidized rents or a housing scholarship while they complete an education or job training program and find employment with an adequate income to support their families.

Property Development

Through Property Development, HIP Housing expands the pool of affordable housing for low-income persons and families in San Mateo County by developing new and acquiring and rehabilitating existing housing.

Below are winners of this year's Mid-Peninsula Soroptimist International award: Madlen (left) and Lilianna (right) were recognized for their accomplishments.



Celebrating HIP Housing



Meet HIP Housing's 2011-12 Board of Directors! These 15 individuals work tirelessly to ensure that HIP Housing is able to serve the community for years to come. From left to right top row: Addie Chan, Virginia Taylor, Kathy Lavezzo, Greg Young, Diana Landi, Bobbi Decker, Ann Olea-Wijkstrom and Melissa Drago. Bottom row: Bob George, John de Russy, Tony Villanueva and Bruce Bean. Absent from photo: David Gonzalez, Susie Huetteman and Sonia Menjivar Rodriguez.

Making a Difference

After 8 years of dedicated service ▶ to HIP Housing and San Mateo County, Executive Director, Bruce Hamilton retired to begin the next chapter in his life. On September 29th, community supporters, including Assemblyman Jerry Hill, gathered at Fox Theater in Redwood City to honor Bruce for his contributions to the community. Pictured from left to right: Patricia Smith, Bruce Hamilton, Barbara Liedtke, and Shirley Suprpto.



AT&T Foundation provides HIP Housing with a grant of \$20,000 to support the Self-Sufficiency Program. Pictured below from left to right: Shiyama Clunie (AT&T), Laura Fanucchi (HIP Housing Associate Director), and Carolyn Moore (Self-Sufficiency Program Director)



◀ Stephanie Lucas (left) and Virginia Taylor (right) treated HIP Housing supporters to epicurean delights at two Cooking Demo events! Guests enjoyed delicious gourmet dishes and learned cooking secrets. These ladies know how to party in style and they love teaching others to do the same! Best of all, it benefits HIP Housing.



Celebrating HIP Housing



Congresswoman Jacke Speier kicked off HIP Housing's Annual Luncheon with a bang! Congresswoman Speier gave a candid interview with Bruce Hamilton, and had the crowd at the edge of their seats. The program was followed by comedian, Dan St. Paul, who had the audience laughing in the aisles. As our clients spoke with pride and heartfelt gratitude, the Luncheon guests were overwhelmed by their success. Assemblyman Jerry Hill got the crowd on their feet with the exciting Live Auction items. Nearly 300 guests attended the Luncheon and celebrated the success of HIP Housing's programs. *Photograph by Soleil Portraits.*

Making a Difference

Longtime supporters Wells Fargo ▶ presents HIP Housing with a grant of \$20,000 to support the Home Sharing and Self-Sufficiency programs. Pictured from left to right: Lois Marshall-Ward (Development Director), Greg Young (Wells Fargo) Bruce Hamilton (Former Executive Director).



Congratulations Nancy! Nancy received her license as a Registered Nurse. Her many hours of hard work and determination paid off. Her 6 year old daughter Sandy is quite the talented young lady as well. Look for her winning Holiday card drawing in your mail.



◀ Welcome the Self-Sufficiency Program's new Case Manager, Nayanka Etienne. Nayanka is very familiar with the program because her family is a recent graduate of the Self-Sufficiency Program. In fact, Nayanka is the one that encouraged her mother to enroll in college together. Today, Nayanka has applied to Medical Schools and is awaiting their responses. And her mother is a certified Central Proessing Technician.



Self-Sufficiency Program

"A place to call home of their own..."

Three clients become first time homebuyers



Unable to keep up with the housing costs in San Mateo County, Eryus and her family became homeless. After entering a family shelter in August 2006, they were accepted to the Self-Sufficiency Program. During her time in the Self-Sufficiency Program, Eryus completed the Computer Applications & Office Skills at JobTrain and went on to pursue Medical Administrative Assistant training. She then obtained a job as a Medical Administrative Assistant at Stanford University and became a full-time permanent employee in January 2008.

In 2009 Eryus applied & was accepted to Habitat for Humanity to be a potential homeowner. She put in 500 "sweat equity" hours with the help of family, friends, and HIP Housing Staff as one of the qualifications for the purchase of the home. In May, 2010, she became the owner of her very first 3 Bedroom home located in East Palo Alto.



When Chelsea was accepted to HIP Housing's Self-Sufficiency Program in 2008, she was working as a waitress part-time. She started community college to complete her AA in Interdisciplinary Studies, with a long term goal of becoming a Nurse. With the help of HIP Housing, she opened an Individual Development Account (IDA) to save money towards Nursing school. In November 2010, she applied to purchase a one bedroom condo in San Mateo and was able to use the money she saved in the IDA program towards the down payment on the condo!

In December 2010, after excelling in all her classes, she completed her AA degree. Then in March 2011, she closed the deal on the condo and was accepted to the BA Nursing program at SF State to start in fall 2011! Chelsea and her 5 year old daughter are now happy homeowners and Chelsea has a wonderful career in nursing ahead of her.



Regina came to the US at the age of 13 to live with her mother. Regina "rebelled" in the US because she felt she didn't have a childhood, as she was the caretaker of her younger siblings, and worked and cleaned for her extended family. At the age of 15, she ran away, became pregnant and got married. Regina eventually divorced in 2008.

Regina was determined to get back on her feet and obtain affordable housing for herself and her children, so she applied, and was accepted, into the Self-Sufficiency Program in August 2008. Regina had been working as an interior landscaper for 5 years, and started pursuing a degree in Human Services. Regina worked hard in school and her job, and paid down her debt with consistency. In 2011, she applied for a 3 bedroom condo in Redwood City through Habitat for Humanity and was approved! Regina and her family received the keys to their home this Fall.

How You Can Help

HIP Housing needs your help more than ever. Below are ways you can continue to help further our mission. For more information call 650 348-6660. 🍷

Adopt-a-Family

The Adopt a Family program enables the families in HIP Housing's Self-Sufficiency Program to have their holiday wishes come true. There are 70 families participating in the program. Consider getting together with a group of co-workers, family or friends to adopt a family. By pulling your resources together, you can make a difference in a family's life. Or you can contribute by donating retail or grocery gift cards in any amount. Please contact Regina at 650.348.6660 or Rmartin@hiphousing.org.

"The Big Event" Thursday, March 15, 2012 Sparky's Hot Rod Garage

Mark your calendars for "The Big Event" at Sparky's Hot Rod Garage in San Carlos! Sparky's is the place to be! Put on your dancing shoes and grab your friends for an evening of hot rods, music, black jack table and fabulous food! Look for more information in January.

For more details, contact Judy at 650.348.6660.

Ways You Can Help through simple gestures:

- Host an event and ask guests to bring a donation to HIP Housing in lieu of a gift.
- Shop for holiday gifts through iGive.com and select HIP Housing as your organization of choice.
- "Like us" on facebook. Its a simple way to spread the word about HIP Housing.
- Make a donation "In Honor" of a loved one's birthday or anniversary.

For more information contact Lois at 650.348.6660.



The English Family are participants in Self-Sufficiency Program working towards a brighter future.



From left to right: Louise Della Maggiora, Diana Landi, Veronica Faussner party it up at the Donor Thank You Party.



Mills Peninsula's Executive Chef, Ashni Chand (left), welcomes Kate Comfort Harr (center) with a gourmet feast donated by Susie Huettelman. Right: President, Tony Villanueva.



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Donating Portraits to Make an Impact on the Community



Local business owners Ann and Bob Doerr of Doerr Studios have spent many years giving back to the community through their photography business. HIP Housing has been a fortunate recipient of their generosity. In the past three years, Doerr Studios has generously provided photography services at HIP Housing events, like the Annual Luncheon and Self-Sufficiency Graduation.

Doerr Studios has also given our clients everlasting memories by providing participants in the Self-Sufficiency Program with family portraits. The portraits are a special gift that otherwise would not be possible for families on limited budgets.

Thank you Doerr Studios to your commitment to helping those in need through your support of HIP Housing.



New Donations Matched!

Keep a look out for HIP Housing's Holiday Appeal.

All new or increased donations made this holiday season will be matched by the Sobrato Family Foundation (up to \$20,000).

This means you can double the impact of your gift.!

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Your generous support helps...



Parents who are committed to reaching their educational/job training goals to provide for their families.



Individuals who use home sharing to increase their income or create a sense of security for themselves in their home. Above is Julie a Home Sharing provider for 15 years.

Thank you...

...for Investing in HIP Housing's Programs (Includes Luncheon Sponsors)

April 16, 2011 to Oct 26, 2011

Over \$50,000

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\$25,000 - \$50,000

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- continued on back page, including
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Hitachi Foundation provides \$1,500 grant to support the Home Sharing Program. Special thanks to the above Hitachi Community Action Committee members.