



HIPhousing

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A Place to Call Home

HIP Housing Happenings—Fall 2013

The "Other Silicon Valley"



KRON Evening News interviews Kate Comfort Harr and Bob a Home Sharing seeker. View story at www.youtube.com/hiphousing

It's true! We were told it would be long recovery from the recession and it was true.

While the economy recovers for some, for the people working with HIP Housing, the effects of the Great Recession are still very much alive and real. People at the lowest earning levels were the first hit and will be the last to recover from the 2008 recession that devastated the housing market.

People like Bob (left), a 65 - year old health aid for people with disabilities, know this first hand. Bob was forced out of his housing due to skyrocketing rents which have pushed the average one-bedroom apartment in San Mateo County to a staggering \$2,053 a month. Facing homelessness, Bob came to HIP Housing knowing that with very few housing options available, we would be there to help.



San Mateo County continues to face an unprecedented crisis in affordable housing. Fueled by foreclosures, limited rental inventory and job influx, our rental occupancy rate is now 97%. Homelessness is up 12% since 2011 and United Way's 211-hotline takes 26% more calls for housing related service than for any other service.

All county Section 8 waitlists remain closed and investors continue to gobble up apartment complexes, driving up rents and forcing those, like Bob, who have always had stable housing, to face displacement and homelessness.

There really are two Silicon Valleys. There is the Valley where we work hard and get into our Tesla's, Toyota's and Ford's to drive to our warm and welcoming homes and the other Valley, where we work hard and get in to our cars and sleep all night.

Housing is the foundation of community and a key building block for good health, individual achievement and personal security. Please keep an open mind and an open heart by always remember how it might feel to be one of the unseen poor who live in the "Other Silicon Valley."



A Message from the Executive Director

Kate Comfort Harr

Despite claims of a recovering economy, HIP Housing has seen a 19.5% increase in client need in 2013. Our call volume was up 36% over the summer and the vulnerability of our clients is greater than ever.

Our clients are up against the brick walls of continued job loss, limited rental housing inventory and shelters that are full with long waitlist. Additionally, income inequality and stagnant income growth have brutally impacted our clients who need HIP Housing now more than ever.

Even more alarming, dovetailed onto the expanding need for our services comes the dramatic revenue loss to agencies like HIP Housing resulting from the demise of the Redevelopment Agency's, sequestration and Silicon Valley Community Foundation's elimination of Safety Net Services funding.

What is HIP going to do? We are going to fight back to keep our com-

munity strong and help people avoid homelessness! We've launched a new strategic plan to guide us to even more efficiency and productivity. Our plan includes a renewed emphasis on diversified funding and continued property development to strengthen our bottom line.

We are expanding outreach efforts to increase the pool of home providers in our Home Sharing program and beefing up our luncheon and social media presence to increase awareness of the need for decent and affordable housing.

We will partner with business and local governments in new and creative ways to increase workforce-housing options and advocate for restoring affordable housing as a priority countywide.

HIP Housing is on the move. You can be sure that you will be hearing from us soon! 

Mission Statement

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

Human Investment Project

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www.HIPhousing.org

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Thank You from a Client

Adela, pictured right is a resident at HIP Housing's senior apartment complex, Edgewater Isle in San Mateo. She has called Edgewater "home" for 7 years and considers the residents her extended family. Below is a thank you note she wrote to HIP Housing's Senior Services Coordinator, May Nichols.

*Dearest May,
I know by now you are enjoying your vacation and resting after all your great efforts to help the residents with whatever we need. But I also wanted to thank you for your efforts to find entertainment for us, providing us with good times that makes us feel alive, and allow us to forget feeling sick, depressed, and lonely... I feel so blessed to call Edgewater Isle my home. Thank you so very much!*

Adela 



Adela is a resident at HIP Housing's senior apartment complex, Edgewater Isle in San Mateo.

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, volunteers help lay pavers at our Willow Road property in Menlo Park on Rebuilding Together Day.



Celebrating HIP Housing



The Annual Luncheon was held on May 28, 2013 and brought together 400 supporters to celebrate the success of HIP Housing and its clients. Legendary entertainer, Rita Moreno, filled the room with exuberant energy and shared her personal stories about why she believes having a stable home is so important for everyone.

Guests enjoyed laughs from comedian Dan St. Paul, a welcome video from Congresswoman Jackie Speier, a surprise flash mob with many familiar dancers, and were awed by an impromptu duet between Senator Jerry Hill and Rita Moreno. But the highlight was hearing the clients speak about how their lives were changed for the better through HIP Housing's services.

Making a Difference

When Wendy was referred to the Self-Sufficiency Program, she was struggling to escape a life of poverty and create a better future for her son. Today, with a lot of hard work and support from her Case Manager, Wendy received a BA in Environmental Economics from UC Berkeley and has a full time job as an Accountant. She is also a very proud Mom, as her son just graduated UC Davis with a BA in Psychology.



▼ Kate Comfort Harr shares a celebratory moment with Wells Fargo representative, Gregory Young. Wells Fargo donated a \$20,000 grant to provide support for the Home Sharing and Self Sufficiency Program. Their continued support helps more individuals and families find stability through housing.



◀ Laura Moya interned at HIP Housing through Eastside Preparatory School in East Palo Alto. Laura assisted with a variety of projects in the Home Sharing program, She was a great addition to the HIP Housing team and provided much needed resources. Laura has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Hispanic studies.



Celebrating HIP Housing



On May 8, 2013, HIP Housing hosted nearly 100 guests at the Willow Road Open House. Pictured from left to right: Bruce Bean, President, Mayor Peter Ohtaki, Supervisor Warren Slocum, Kate Comfort Harr, Councilwoman Kirsten Keith, and community partners celebrated the opening.

Willow Road marks the first new affordable rental housing for the City of Menlo Park in 25 years. It is a triumph of collaboration that features the City of Menlo Park, County of San Mateo and City of Redwood City. Included in the collaborative family was Rebuilding Together Peninsula, Facebook and Cooley LLP. The building has free tenant WiFi, solar power, community room with courtyard, laundry facilities and a fully accessible ground floor ADA unit.

Making a Difference

Antonia (right) was struggling to pay ▶ her housing costs when she contacted HIP Housing to find a housemate. Pao (left) needed a place after learning that his apartment was going into foreclosure. "Finding this program has helped me stay closer to my daughters as well as keeping it affordable for my budget." says Pao. Home Sharing Program was the right answer for both parties.



▼ Freedom Financial employees selected HIP Housing to receive a \$1,500 gift. The donation came from an employee funded program that helps local nonprofits. Laura Fanucchi, Associate Director (left) is presented the check by Raman Bola, Human Resources Generalist (center) and Jeff Staley, Managing Partner (right).



◀ Eagle Scout Christian Villanueva is honored by the City of South San Francisco for completing a project which included building planter boxes, planting plants and raising funds to purchase bike racks for HIP Housing's South San Francisco property. From left to right: Christian Villanueva, Mayor Pedro Gonzalez, and Scout Leader Tony Villanueva.





Home 2 Homes Auction

Sunday, October 6, 2013 - 10 am
Michaan's Auction, 2751 Todd St., Alameda, CA



Over 70 select items of fine art, furnishings and collectibles will be auctioned to benefit HIP Housing. Bid online, in person, by phone or absentee form. To view collection or learn how to bid visit HIPhousing.org.



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 allows 70 families in HIP Housing's Self-Sufficiency Program to have their holiday wishes come true. Consider getting together with a group of co-workers, family or friends to adopt a family. Or you can contribute by donating retail or grocery gift cards in any amount. By pulling your resources together, you can make a difference in a family's life. Deadline to sign up is **November 4th**.

Please contact Regina at 650.348.6660 or Rmartin@HIPhousing.org.

Sutterfield Consignment

Sutterfield Consignment in Burlingame is partnering with HIP Housing to receive furniture and collectible donations on behalf of the organization. Donations are tax deductible. Consider donating items that are in good condition. Portion of sales will benefit HIP Housing.

For more details, contact Judy at 650.348.6660 or Jfong@HIPhousing.org.

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.
- "Like us" on Facebook or connect with us on LinkedIn. Help spread the word about HIP Housing.
- Make a donation "In Honor" of a loved one's birthday or anniversary.

For more information contact Clarice at 650.348.6660 or Cveloso@HIPhousing.org.



Guiselle Morales and her son Nickolas were participants in Self Sufficiency Program. The Adopt A Family program allowed Nickolas to have a very special holiday.



All funds raised go directly to support programs that help children and families have a happy home.



Board Member Virginia Taylor teams up with luxury jewelry designer, Alana Leigh to host a house party for HIP Housing. Portion of the sales were donated to further the organization's mission.



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Home 2 Homes Auction



Don't Miss!

Sunday,
October 6, 2013
Michaan's Auction
2751 Todd St.
Alameda

Over 70 select furnishings, art and collectibles will be auctioned to benefit HIP Housing. Taken from a Hillsborough estate, the items are exquisite 19th century pieces. Bring Downton Abbey to your home! View the collection at www.HIPhousing.org.