



HIPhousing

# HIPhousing

Home. Heart. Hope.

HIP Housing Happenings—Fall 2014

## Three Cheers for Home Sharing!



*Diane, Frank & Pablo*

Within the past few years, most of us living on the Peninsula have thought about how nice it would be to have some extra income. It's less frequent, however, for people to think about how they might turn extra space in their homes into a money-making opportunity!

Our Home Sharing program, which is celebrating its 35th year, has helped people looking for extra income, those at risk of homelessness, and many in between. It's a simple concept: our counselors match those renting out rooms in their homes ("Providers") with someone looking for a place to live ("Seekers"). While rental units grow scarce and prices climb, more and more people of various backgrounds and needs decide to live with others. Some call it co-living, others hybrid housing, and we call it Home Sharing, but one thing is constant— it's a wonderful way to lower your housing costs. However, there's an added element here at HIP Housing. We don't believe in simple match making. We believe in comprehensive support services, acting as a resource for all of our clients, and making the best possible matches for each individual who wants our help.

Frank, Diane, and Pablo (above), home shared for three years. Frank and Diane were looking to rent out a room in their home after their children went away for college. We matched them with Pablo, who worked in Berkeley and went to school in San Francisco, and was struggling to find affordable housing in the Bay Area. Through Home sharing he was able to find a place close enough to work and school, and he helped Frank and Diane significantly lower their costs of living.

Because of our extensive intake interviews, reference checks, and background checks, we really get to know our clients, and are able to prioritize making matches that meet people's needs. And in a time when budgets are tight, becoming a Home Sharing Provider can be a great way to lower overall costs, pay off debts, or increase savings.

We're proud to say that in 35 years, we've seen the Home Sharing program flourish, and serve more than 55,000 people county-wide. In all, it's an opportunity to help yourself, give someone a hand up, and impact your community as a whole.

HIP Housing creates a place to call home for over 1,000 people in San Mateo County every year



# A Message from the Executive Director

*Kate Comfort Harr*

Margo sat behind her desk and looked at me with huge, beautiful blue eyes, her shiny dark hair flowing over her shoulders. She had been entering my data into her computer and stopped when she got to my employer field. "HIP Housing?" she asked. I smile and said "Yes." "Do you help people find housing?" "Yes," I replied again. Her eyes filled with tears. Immediately, mine did too, (like they always do when I see someone else cry!) "I've been looking for housing for 18 months. I'm working and in school trying to make a better life for my son but there is nothing out there I can afford." She looked down, "But I can't afford to commute either. Bridge tolls, gas, wear and tear on my car and on my son make it not option for me...I'm so afraid of

becoming homeless." With that, I cleared my head, put on my Executive Director hat and began describing our programs. I gave her my card and as I turned to walk away, I was tremendously proud and confident that the work we do at HIP Housing is critical. I felt so lucky to be able to offer Margo a ray of hope. You create this hope too. As part of the HIP Housing family, you are instrumental to our work. Margo wasn't crying as I walked away. Her radiant blue eyes were filled with relief as she turned to tuck my card into a safe place. Thank you for being part of HIP Housing and for caring about the health of our community and the people we share it with. 

## 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

364 South Railroad Avenue  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
p 650 348-6660  
f 650 348-0284  
www.HIPhousing.org

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# Why Home Share?

Opening up your home and becoming a Home Sharing provider has many benefits. A Home Sharing provider in Burlingame had this to say about why she chose to become a provider.

*"I like how HIP Housing performs background checks on applicants and guide parties involved with a written living together agreement. The staff is very caring and persistent in trying to find a suitable roommate for me.*

*The process took into account my specific needs especially in terms of language preference. Having someone to converse with made me feel less lonely. Having someone else in the house at night made me feel more secure. It took adjustments but my roommate is respectful, considerate and very trustworthy. Thank you HIP Housing!"* 



Home Sharing match, Joan & Edwin

## 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.



From left to right: Marc Campell, Kate Comfort Harr, Erich Schmidt, Meta Townsley

# SSP Graduation



Carolyn Moore, Self-Sufficiency Program Director (center), Graduate Ada Chan and her two daughters.

In March 2014, in an event hosted by the Mills Peninsula Health Services, HIP Housing honored 30 of its Self Sufficiency Program graduates. There was a lot to celebrate! 100% of graduates either completed their job training or education program or are continuing to pursue their goals. The average increase in income is 94% among graduates. The average increase in savings is 2,000%!

Overwhelmingly 100% felt there was a brighter future ahead for them. Graduates were presented with gift cards from The Greater San Mateo Kiwanis Club.

## Making a Difference

Rocsana and her children are in the Self Sufficiency Program. Rocsana is a student at the College of San Mateo working on a degree in Administration of Justice, which she will complete by Fall 2015.

"I have a 4.0 GPA. My goal is to graduate, have a degree to find a better job, and find a home for my kids." Rocsana's goal is to be a probation officer to help young girls in the juvenile justice system stay out of trouble, and have a promising future.



Sema Tosun, CEO of Fund a Need, provides seniors at our Edgewater Isle Apartment complex with gifts to help the seniors stay active. Sema's fund has provided the seniors with a golf set, Bingo game, and card tables. At the Edgewater Isle Easter Party, Sema helped pick the winners of their hat contest. Pictured below is Sema, and the winner of the most beautiful hat, Kazuko McIntyre.



After retiring from Stanford University as an Administrative Assistant and then spending several years doing care-giving, Leola connected with Peninsula Family Services' Senior Community Service Employment Program. The program provides Leola with 16 hours a week of subsidized employment at HIP Housing. Welcome Leola!



# Celebrating HIP Housing

On June 11, 2014, Jamie Hyneman, Co-host and Producer of MythBusters joined HIP Housing's Annual Luncheon celebration. Sharing his personal stories about his mythbusting adventures, Jamie entertained the crowd with his stories. Following Jamie, Executive Director, Kate Comfort Harr, busted myths and misconceptions about affordable housing.



Jamie Hyneman



City of San Mateo Council Member David Lim and Vice Mayor Maureen Freschet.

## Making a Difference

"I feel like I have a new family. My son lives far away from me, so having Selena here is like having a daughter." Cornelia has been using the Home Sharing program for over 10 years to find roommates. Through the program, Cornelia benefits from the extra income and an extended family. Pictured right: Cornelia and Selena, Home Sharing participants.



▼ **Make A Birthday Wish (MABW)** is a private non-profit organization that provides birthday parties for children in need in San Mateo/Santa Clara Counties. Presents, food & cake are provided to the families as well as fun games to play. MABW has been celebrating children's birthdays in the Self Sufficiency Program since January 2014.



◀ **#HIPHouseofBacon.** Increasing our efforts to raise awareness in the community, HIP volunteers and staff participated in the San Mateo Chamber's Bacon & Brew Festival in Central Park. What better way to draw in the crowd than with maple bacon rice krispy treats with chocolate and fleur de sel! Pictured left are volunteers Cathy Bottarini and Silvio Lugo.





# Leaving a Lasting Legacy



## Charitable Bequests

Charitable giving is a cornerstone of the American tradition. Including HIP Housing (Human Investment Project) in your will is one of the simplest ways to leave a lasting legacy. With a bequest, you continue to enjoy the use of your assets during your lifetime and there is no immediate cost to you. And planning a will does not have to be difficult or time-consuming. These three easy steps can help you get started.

1. Document your assets and liabilities. This includes your home, investments, savings, and insurance as well as mortgages, loans, and credit card debt.
2. Secure the assistance of advisors. Accountants, financial advisors, and estate planning attorneys can help you create an estate plan that has a positive effect on your family and on the world you leave behind.
3. Plan to leave a legacy. Make a list of beneficiaries and what you want each to receive. A bequest to an organization like HIP Housing (Human Investment Project) doesn't have to be large to have a big impact. If you decide to make us a beneficiary, please let us know so we can show our gratitude and acknowledge your gift.

The most important thing to remember about charitable bequests is that you remain in control throughout your lifetime. We understand that circumstances change and that you may need to adjust your priorities. You may amend your will at any time or prepare an entirely new one if your needs change.

To learn more about bequests and planned giving, call Clarice Veloso at 650-348-6660 or [CVeloso@HIPhousing.org](mailto:CVeloso@HIPhousing.org).

# How You Can Help

HIP Housing needs your participation to continue to further our mission. Below are some simple ways you can help. 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.

Please contact Regina at 650.348.6660 or [Rmartin@HIPhousing.org](mailto:Rmartin@HIPhousing.org).



HIP Housing has joined Amazon's philanthropic initiative. At no cost to you, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price from eligible items. In just one easy step, you can start contributing!

Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). When you log in to your account (or create a new one), pick **Human Investment Project** as your charitable organization and resume shopping. The easiest way to find us is by looking up our EIN # which is: **94-2154614**. Happy shopping!

For more details, contact Clarice at 650.348.6660 or [Cveloso@HIPhousing.org](mailto:Cveloso@HIPhousing.org).

## Other Ways to Help:

- 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 Judy at 650.348.6660 or [Jfong@HIPhousing.org](mailto:Jfong@HIPhousing.org).



Make the holidays extra special for families in our community.



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



Board Member, Virginia Taylor hosts party with Worth Clothing Co. to benefit HIP Housing. From left to right: Worth Regional Director, Marcie Valner, Virginia Taylor, Worth Sales Rep, Lisa Wan.



**HIPhousing**

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**BLACK FRIDAY. CYBER MONDAY.**

**#GIVINGTUESDAY**

**DECEMBER 2, 2014**

[www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org)



**Don't Miss!**

**December 2, 2014**

#GivingTuesday, is a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 2nd, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. Be a part of the global celebration by giving to HIP Housing. Then tell everyone about it...post it, tweet it, share it!