

What's Happening with HIP Housing | February 2022

## Cheers to 50 Years!

This year, HIP Housing celebrates its 50th anniversary. Founded in August 1972, we have grown from a small nonprofit of 10 people operating out of an office at a local bank, to a premier San Mateo County affordable housing agency with two offices and more than 40 staff.

"It's wonderful to see how far we've come!" says Lois Almen Everett, HIP Housing's founder. "From a \$20,000 grant to start our Home Sharing Program, to a staff of more than 40, HIP Housing has surpassed my wildest dreams. And there is still a lot left to do!"

Every year, our agency serves more than 1,200 people in need of affordable housing in San Mateo County through our Home Sharing Program, Self Sufficiency Program, and Property Management Division...and we continue to grow! Our property management team recently added Affordable and Inclusionary Housing Compliance Services, to serve property owners and developers required to include below market rate units in their developments. Our new Self Sufficiency Program's Nurturing Fathers Initiative is up and running, and we hope to launch a new Information and Referral Services Program later this year.

"We are so proud to reach our 50th year milestone!" says Kate Comfort Harr, HIP Housing's Executive Director. "Our work has helped tens of thousands of people to live healthier, more independent lives by creating affordable housing opportunities in our County. While we look to the past to celebrate, I am so excited about everything we have coming next!"



Home Sharing Coordinator Rita Albert (right) with the HIP Housing outreach van back in the day.

Want to know more about HIP Housing's history? Check out our blog at [hiphousing.org/hip-blog](http://hiphousing.org/hip-blog) for stories we'll be posting throughout 2022!



## Save the Month of May for a Celebration!

HIP Housing is planning a return to its **annual in-person fundraiser** for May 2022! We'll have a fabulous speaker, amazing auction items, and wonderful client stories...all with a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary focus that honors our founders.

Visit [hiphousing.org/annual-event](http://hiphousing.org/annual-event) today to take our event survey – your feedback will help us plan a party that's fun and safe for everyone!

*(Above) Photo circa 1980. HIP Housing Founder Lois Almen Everett is always fun, then and now!*



## Nurturing Fathers Program Supports Dads on Their Parenting Journey

Self Sufficiency Program Client Services Manager James Simmons has launched the new Nurturing Fathers Initiative, designed for SSP fathers. Not only do dads learn healthy relationship and parenting skills, but they have the opportunity to participate in special father-child outings and a support group just for dads.

Want to read the whole story? Check out our blog at [hiphousing.org/hip-blog](http://hiphousing.org/hip-blog)!

## 2021 Adopt A Family Program a Huge Success

It was as if Santa's workshop made a temporary move from the North Pole down to San Mateo.

On Saturday, December 11th, parents and children arrived at HIP Housing to find piles of neatly stacked presents, each labelled with the name of a family, in our Self Sufficiency Program office. Staff members helped each visitor find their gifts while the sound of laughter and conversation filled the air. Kids had the chance to select a special treat from the enormous box of cookies provided by long-time HIP Housing partner, Cake 4 Kids.

Organized by Regina Greissing, Self Sufficiency Program Administrative Manager, the Adopt A Family Program has been a hallmark of the holiday season at HIP Housing for 20 years. Donors may choose to purchase gifts for a family from a wish list, or simply make a donation to the program.

"Adopt A Family provides families and seniors in HIP Housing programs and properties with extra support during the holiday season," says Ms. Greissing. "Warm coats, shoes, and bedding, as well as other essentials that a family might need, make all the difference during the winter months."

The 2021 Adopt A Family Program served 86 families in December. While many of the families are current Self Sufficiency Program clients, SSP graduates are also eligible to participate, as are families who reside in our agency's affordable housing properties. All 279 residents at HIP Housing's senior properties in San Mateo also participated in the 2021 Adopt A Family Program.

To all of our donors who made the Adopt A Family Program a resounding success and put a happy smile on the faces of so many: **THANK YOU!**



*The Adopt A Family Program is a favorite HIP Housing holiday tradition!*

## Welcome to Our New Board Members!

Last fall, we welcomed three new members to HIP Housing's Board of Directors and one new member to the HIP Housing Development Corporation (HHDC) Board of Directors. We can't wait to see how their talents, skills, knowledge, and experience guide and energize our agency!

Read more about our new Board members at [hiphousing.org/hip-blog](https://hiphousing.org/hip-blog).



Ian Bain

HIP Housing Board  
Member



Sophia Brink

HIP Housing Board  
Member



Craig Simmons

HIP Housing Board  
Member



Janet Borgens

HHDC Board  
Member

## HIP Housing Celebrates the Winners of Its Annual Calendar Contest

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, HIP Housing debuted its 2022 calendar at a celebration honoring the 12 contest winners who contributed their artwork and quotes. The event took place at the Belmont Public Library and was attended by local elected officials, calendar sponsors, and the contest winners and their families.

The event featured opening remarks by LaTisa Brooks, a member of HIP Housing's Board of Directors; Kate Comfort Harr, HIP Housing's Executive Director; and California State Senator Josh Becker. Senator Becker congratulated the winners of the calendar competition and praised their creative talent, as well as HIP Housing's work in expanding affordable housing opportunities in San Mateo County.

Calendar contestants consisted of children in kindergarten through 5th grade from throughout San Mateo County. Each contestant submitted a drawing of "Home", along with a quote of "What my home means to me". From a pool of over 100 entries, 12 winners were selected. During the

celebration, HIP Housing's Director of Programs, Laura Fanucchi, introduced each child and asked them to read their quote aloud. Winners were then presented with certificates of recognition from HIP Housing, Senator Becker, and from the office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier.

HIP Housing's 2022 calendar was made possible by Underwriter-level sponsors Longfellow and Windy Hill Property Ventures, as well as Calendar-level sponsors EPIC Brokers, Heritage Bank, Jay Paul, PG&E, and The Barrel Bisto and Wine Bar. The calendar serves as an outreach tool for HIP Housing, and it can be found in more than 3,000 businesses, homes, and government offices across San Mateo County.



Ten of HIP Housing's twelve 2021 calendar contest winners.



800 S. Claremont Street, #210  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
San Mateo, CA  
94402  
Permit No. 183

## A Note on Legacy Giving from HIP Housing’s Executive Director

If you’re still searching for a great New Year’s resolution, how about “Committing to your community and inspiring others” by arranging for a legacy gift to HIP Housing?

A legacy gift – also known as a planned gift – is a gift that is legally provided for during a donor’s lifetime, but not actually made until after the donor passes away.

Why is a legacy gift something every donor should consider? I recently spoke with Patrick Etchebehere, of Etchebehere Law Group in Burlingame, who explained that: **“Creating a legacy with charitable giving is like dropping a pebble in a pond where the ripple effects of your gift continue for years to come.”**

Ensuring that San Mateo County residents have access to healthy, affordable housing, regardless of their level of income, is a challenge that no one person can solve by themselves. But, together with HIP Housing, you can make a huge difference and be part of the solution.

Consider making a legacy gift to us this year. I made one! Your generosity today will mean that, long after you are here, you will continue to improve the lives of thousands of people across San Mateo County. Now that’s a legacy of which anyone would be proud!

Fondly,

Kate Comfort Harr  
HIP Housing Executive Director



To learn more about making a legacy gift to HIP Housing, contact Katherine Goodman, HIP Housing Development Officer, at (650) 348-6660 ext. 310.