

Supportive Housing: a Lifeline for Many

"ECS is a national leader in the supportive housing field. Thanks to ECS, hundreds of people with the very lowest incomes and greatest challenges now have the most basic of supports: a place to call home."

CARLA JAVITS, PRESIDENT
CORPORATION FOR
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Ondrey's Story

ALMOST EVERY DAY, WE ENCOUNTER a homeless person living on city streets.

Sidestepping feelings ranging from compassion to hopelessness and guilt, we put on a stern face and tell ourselves, "My spare change is not the answer."



Ondrey Barrett, Canon Kip Community House tenant, standing on the terrace at Canon Kip

But what, then, is the solution to homelessness? ECS and local officials believe the answer is a home. In exchange for a third to half of tenants' income, ECS provides formerly homeless people with permanent housing and on-site services for improving their physical and mental well-being.

Take Ondrey Barrett for example. She first came to Canon Kip Community

House as a 47-year-old, homeless substance user diagnosed with HIV. "My parents were both drug addicts," Ondrey recalls in a quiet voice. "My mother first stuck the needle in my arm... When I came to Canon Kip, the case manager helped me. Got me into Walden House (a residential drug treatment program), and I've been clean and sober for almost two years." *{continued inside}*

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES TO END HOMELESSNESS

ECS mobilizes very low-income individuals and families to overcome homelessness within a safe, supportive environment. Our comprehensive programs — from shelters, supportive housing, and employment training, to counseling, educational services, senior services and childcare — are all highly leveraged strategies to help people find permanent housing and develop the skills to maintain it.

Dear Friends,

As with most things worth doing, ending chronic homelessness is not easily accomplished. It takes a community collaboration of the public sector, non-profits, corporations and foundations, and the courage and generosity of individuals. In this issue, we are saluting the roles that corporations and foundations play in developing and implementing solutions to homelessness. While I don't have enough space to enumerate each one of them, I do want to highlight a few key partnerships:

- Carol Lamont, from the San Francisco Foundation, and Cassandra Benjamin, Schwab Foundation, have been instrumental in crystallizing for the philanthropic community many of the solutions to homelessness and the positive role that foundations can play. To learn more, go to Schwabfoundation.com to download a copy of a report written by The Bay Area Foundation Advisory Group to End Homelessness, "Ending Bay Area Homelessness: The Philanthropic Role."
- Earlier this fiscal year, it became apparent that ECS did not have a technological structure to support all of our work. I am pleased that both the Bothin Foundation and Five Bridges Foundation made substantial grants to enable ECS to purchase an efficient phone system that will enable us to save over \$70,000 each year. A special thank you also to Hewlett Packard, which responded to our request with a much-needed equipment grant worth over \$40,000 to enhance our computer networking capability.
- ECS's vocational training program, CHEFS, as well as the Skills Center, has long been the recipient of major corporate support, from Tilia, Sodexo, Altria, UPS, Wells Fargo and Union Bank. This has not been an area that is easily funded through public sector dollars, so philanthropic support is vital to the continued success of these programs.

I am pleased to report that in this first quarter of 2004 we have received over \$150,000 in corporate support, which brings our fiscal year total to over \$400,000 from foundations and corporations.

Thank you for being a caring part of the ECS community,

Sincerely,



Ken Reggio



ECS Board President, Walt Conway and Ken Reggio accept a check from Wells Fargo Foundation representatives, Tarita Whittingham and Griselda Ceja at a recent board meeting

Supportive Housing: a Lifeline

{ CONTINUED FROM COVER }

When asked to name the most important service she'd received, Ondrey responded, "Love. Learning how to love myself, how to give love away."



"Permanent supportive housing provides chronically homeless people with a stable environment and support for making positive life decisions."

KEVIN SHARPS
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING
(Pictured at right)

Ondrey now works three days a week as a desk clerk. She sends money to her grandchildren and has encouraged others (including her son) to enter treatment. "It saved my life," she says. With dark, expressive eyes and a timid smile, she adds, "I'm giving back now, and it feels good."

Supportive Housing, Canon Kip Style

Ondrey's home, Canon Kip Community

House, is one of six permanent supportive housing sites owned or operated by ECS. All of the 100+ Canon Kip tenants are formerly homeless adults struggling with mental or physical disabilities and/or substance use and recovery. In exchange for a third to half of their income, individuals receive a nice sized room and bathroom and on-site support from case managers and health professionals. Tenants can participate in community activities like peer support groups, AA and NA meetings,

and special issue groups. They can receive job counseling and use community facilities like the common area kitchen, community lounge room, and on-site computers.

But what about the costs that exceed what the tenants can pay? Believe it or not, permanent supportive housing actually costs less than the array of expensive public services (emergency room visits, psychiatric mobile crisis units, incarceration, etc.) currently used to address homeless individuals. And with permanent supportive housing, people have a chance at a better quality of life.

Permanently housed, Canon Kip residents have demonstrated increased stability and tenant responsibility. Seventy percent have lived at Canon Kip for over two years. In the last fiscal year, 46% of residents secured temporary or permanent employment, although most were unable to stay employed. In 2003, all of the seven residents who left Canon Kip moved into alternative housing rather than returning to homelessness. One even purchased her own home closer to her family in another state.

Positively 6th Street

The Rose Hotel Supportive

Housing is home to 75 single adults on 6th Street in an area of San Francisco that many refer to as "skid row." Ten years ago, The Rose was anything but, with rats, peeling paint, and inadequate plumbing and sewage. Mercy Housing, which sponsors and manages The Rose, and ECS, which provides social services for the residents there, have transformed the

for Many

single room occupancy hotel into an attractive small community that has also become a force in the larger 6th Street neighborhood.

Denise Jackson, ECS's Support Services Manager for The Rose, arrived five years ago and has made the quality of life on 6th Street her number one mission. "The neighborhood may look like a traffic corridor filled only with derelicts and adult bookstores, but there are hundreds of men, women, and children in the immediate area who desperately need a sense of community."



Children enjoying the 6th Street Fair

Denise is a community leader, three years ago founding Positively 6th Street, to be held this year on June 12th. While similar to other street fairs, with music, food, and fun for kids, Positively 6th Street also reflects the particular needs of the neighborhood with distributions of free bags of groceries, many social services represented, and this year, a job and resume center.

ECS *by the Numbers*

49

Percent of ECS staff are themselves formerly homeless

365

Days a year, Canon Kip Senior Day Center is open

30

Percent of Canon Kip Supportive Housing residents have stayed 5 years or longer — tremendously increasing their overall stability

102

Out of 103 residents at Canon Kip Supportive Housing utilized voluntary social services in 2003

116

Children live in Canon Barcus Supportive Housing

\$871

The average monthly income for a family in Canon Barcus

415-487-3706

The number to call to learn more about ECS

A Community Enterprise

THANK YOU to the many corporations and foundations that have supported ECS's work during this fiscal year to provide compassionate, individualized services to homeless and low-income men, women and children. Their financial support is a vital link in our collaboration to end chronic homelessness.

ALTRIA • BI-RITE • BOTHIN FOUNDATION • THE BROTHERTON FUND OF ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL • CALFOX, INC. • CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE WEST • CHARIS FUND • CHARLES AND HELEN SCHWAB FOUNDATION • EDWARD R. HILLS, III FUND • EPISCOPAL CHARITIES • EVELYN AND WALTER HAAS, JR. FOUNDATION • FIVE BRIDGES FOUNDATION • FOLSOM STREET FOUNDATION • GEORGE F. JEWETT FOUNDATION • GEORGE H. SANDY FOUNDATION • THE HERBST FOUNDATION • HEWLETT PACKARD • HRH FOUNDATION • JP MORGAN CHASE FUND • LISA AND DOUGLAS GOLDMAN FOUNDATION • McBEAN FAMILY FOUNDATION • McROSKEY AIRFLEX MATTRESS COMPANY • MIDDLE PASSAGE FOUNDATION • OCEANIC BANK • RICHARD & RHODA GOLDMAN FUND • SAINT FRANCIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL • THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION • SODEXHO • TILIA CORPORATION • TRUCKER-HUSS • UMBRELLA FOOD SYSTEMS • UNION BANK • UPS FOUNDATION • WALTER & ELISE HAAS FUND • WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION • WILLIAM G. GILMORE FOUNDATION • WOOD-KAUFMAN FUND

Please accept our apology for any omissions of corporate or foundation funders. Please advise Regan Murphy at 415-487-3706 or rmurphy@ecs-sf.org to correct our records.

A Passion *for* Food

HELPING PEOPLE IN HER OWN BACKYARD is important to ECS Board Member Soo-Ah Landa. Born in Korea, brought up in California's Central Valley, and schooled at MIT, she has witnessed homelessness as a worldwide phenomenon but feels it most important to approach the issue head-on, in-person, at home.

Inspired by the talent of her mother, a Korean chef, Soo-Ah has always had a passion for cooking. This and the desire to find community-based solutions to homelessness and hunger, led her to combine both interests in a way that makes a positive impact. After researching volunteer opportunities in 2001, Soo-Ah made her first stop at ECS's CHEFS program where she met Manager Vinita Jacinto, and has been involved ever since.

CHEFS participants are currently homeless men and women with an interest in developing a career in food service. Students attend three months of in-class and kitchen training, which includes lessons from visiting professional chefs and former graduates who wish to give back to the program. The next three months students work out in the community with a cooperating internship site, often resulting in permanent job placement. Six months of follow-up support further assists students in finding employment and developing job retention skills.

Soo-Ah has seen dramatic personality changes in participants as they journey through the program. She continually finds herself amazed by the power of the human spirit, "Often homeless people enroll in the program simply because they need a job or because their social worker suggests it to them. But once they become engaged in the program, they reveal the most incredible strengths and talents that you wouldn't believe."

Now traveling often to Asia as Sourcing Manager for Williams-Sonoma, Inc., Soo-Ah is unable to attend as many CHEFS functions as she used to, but this is where her passion lies. She views CHEFS as a forever evolving program that has the power to translate anyone's passion for food into another's life source, and with all the ingredients for ongoing success.



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From the Desk of the
Executive Director

Episcopal Community Services

Who we are

ECS is a non-profit organization with a family of programs that provide creative responses and offer solutions to the challenge of homelessness:

The Sanctuary

Next Door Transitional Shelter

Interfaith Winter Shelter

Canon Kip Supportive Housing

Pacific Bay Inn Supportive Housing

The Elm Supportive Housing

The Rose Hotel Supportive Housing

The LeNain Supportive Housing for Seniors

Canon Barcus Supportive Housing for Families

Canon Kip Senior Center

The Skills Center

The CHEFS Program

*Canon Kip Community House,
permanent, supportive housing
for single men and women*

