

The Spotlight

Doubling Down on Housing Solutions in 2020

by Beth Stokes, Executive Director

In November 2019, San Francisco voters sent a clear message from the ballot box - affordable housing is a priority. The passage of Proposition A, authorizing the city to issue up to \$600 million in bonds to fund affordable housing, indicates we, as a city, value creating affordable housing solutions for all San Franciscans, including working families and seniors.



Episcopal Community Services (ECS) is dedicated to developing pathways to affordable and sustainable housing solutions for our most vulnerable neighbors. By tracking data to inform how resources are used, along with the development of best practices, ECS is pursuing a deliberate, systematic, and evidence-based response to the identified needs of people experiencing homelessness in our community. We are implementing a multi-system coordination of interim housing and service interventions, up to and including supportive housing. As the lead agency for Adult Coordinated Entry (ACE), we use coordinated assessment tools to identify those experiencing chronic homelessness who are the most vulnerable.

In November, ECS and our partners commenced a campaign to fill vacancies in supportive housing facilities throughout the city. San Francisco's housing services convened a multi-agency special task force, and in six weeks, our ACE team placed 60 individuals in supportive housing units across the city. As we proceed, ECS will focus on increasing our portfolio of supportive housing units and enhancing our program modality, so that we are able to provide a suite of acute, complex services including behavioral health, recovery, employment, age-related services, and care coordination. These services will be available to both residents of ECS supportive housing and residents in Rapid Rehousing, interim housing, and other programs.

There is still much to be done, and ECS will continue to be at the forefront of securing safe, stable housing for those experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. While there are challenges, particularly with regard to cost and housing availability, we will continue to utilize our expertise to evaluate and adopt best practices, develop new partnerships, and innovate and implement new housing solutions, in order to best serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

To end the challenge of homelessness in San Francisco, we need to leverage the full capacity of the entire San Francisco community. Thank you for partnering with us.

CHEFS Students Find Homes in Rapid Rehousing Program



ECS's CHEFS (Conquering Homelessness through Employment in Food Services) students remain firmly dedicated to their culinary training, even when facing serious challenges, including homelessness. Recently, five CHEFS students successfully secured housing through ECS's Rapid Rehousing program.

Participant referrals are made to the Rapid Rehousing program by Adult Coordinated Entry (ACE) Problem Solvers, as well as ECS workforce development and other job training organizations. ECS Housing Navigators and Employment

Specialists then help these referred individuals secure and maintain housing. Rental assistance is provided and supplemented by the tenants' income. To further ensure housing stability, each participant has a Housing Stability Plan and meets with a staff member at least twice per month to discuss and evaluate their progress on the plan.

"I have learned so many different skills and information about food going through the CHEFS program. I'm employed full time and set up to evolve in my career. Thanks to everyone that contributed and ECS."

Charles, recently housed CHEFS student (pictured above with Chef Corina)

These five CHEFS/Rapid Rehousing participants, each who previously lived in either interim housing (including Sanctuary and Next Door) or treatment programs, successfully followed individual paths out of homelessness and into employment, housing, and financial independence. Each of these five individuals continues to live in stable housing. They have completed their CHEFS culinary training and are employed as chefs at Friendship House, Front Street Café, Project Open Hand, Staffing Solutions, and ECS's CHEFS Catering.

To meet some of ECS's CHEFS students and enjoy their culinary creations, please attend our upcoming **CHEFS Gala** on April 30, 2020.

CHEFS Gala April 30, 2020



SAVE THE DATE



CHEFS Gala

THE ANNUAL BENEFIT FOR
EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

The San Francisco Design Center
101 Henry Adams Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

Tickets go on sale March 15
For details & sponsorship information visit
WWW.CHEFSGALASF.ORG



CHEFS Gala 2020, ECS's 16th annual fundraiser, will take place on **Thursday, April 30th** at the **San Francisco Design Center**. Stay tuned for more information.

Corporate and family sponsorship opportunities are available! Contact Christina Alvarez at CAlvarez@ECS-SF.org or (415) 487-3300 x1243 for more information.

Thank You to Our Foundation and Corporate Partners



ECS is thrilled to announce a new three-year partnership with the **Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation**. ECS salutes all our foundation and corporate partners who, through their financial support, serve people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Since our last update, we have received grants from **Bank of the West**, **The Darby Betts Fund**, **The Dauber Foundation**, **George F. Jewett Foundation**, **The Middle Passage Foundation**, **The Northern Trust Company**, and **The George S. Sandy Foundation**.

The financial support of all our partners helps us serve the community's needs in a variety of ways – whether it's finding and remaining in housing, a hot meal and a safe place to sleep, helping people find employment, or providing services that support people on their path to permanent housing.

This Year, Make a Stronger Impact – Give Monthly



Your donations help people like Tina find a home.*

ECS is grateful for individuals like you whose compassionate financial contributions make a difference in the lives of the thousands of people experiencing homelessness in our community. As we start out a new year and decade, consider making a powerful, lasting impact by signing up as a **monthly donor of \$25, \$50 or \$100 per month**. These gifts are immediately put to use to help seniors, veterans, families, and children find pathways out of homelessness in San Francisco. **Sign up today!**

**Name changed for confidentiality.*

Staff Spotlight: Ted Atwood, Community Music Leader



As a case manager at ECS's Bishop Swing Community House, one of Ted Atwood's favorite duties is leading the residents' rousing community music group.

"I love the community-building aspect, getting together with the same people each week to share what they love about music and what it means to them," he said.

Ted studied expressive art therapy at the California Institute of Integral Studies and is passionate about utilizing music and art to improve people's lives. Since starting as an ECS intern in 2014, he has been helping residents by providing group music therapy and visual art therapy. In addition, he serves as a marriage and family therapist.

Ted's community music group is so popular that residents from other ECS housing sites travel to Bishop Swing Community House to participate. "It's been a unique opportunity to expand beyond just the community within one building."

Directly engage and become a part of the solution.

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Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco
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