

1064 Mission Street Reflection

This year, ECS is celebrating our 40th anniversary as an organization, and as I reflect on the growth that has occurred over the decades of dedication both under my tenure as Executive Director and my predecessors, I am overwhelmed with pride for all that has been accomplished with the support of our community who have helped build our success. ECS started from humble beginnings as an overnight shelter for 40 adults in the basement of Grace Cathedral and has since blossomed into one of San Francisco's largest housing and service providers for those experiencing homelessness, centering our work in compassion and dignity for the people we serve. To help celebrate this meaningful milestone for our organization, ECS, with our partners at Mercy Housing California (MHC), hosted the grand opening of San Francisco's largest and most comprehensive supportive housing site, 1064 Mission Street.

As a pioneer in the fight against homelessness, ECS has been at the forefront of implementing strategies that address homelessness at its root, and the development of permanent supportive housing has been the cornerstone of our work. Since the opening of our first supportive housing project in 1994, Canon Kip Community House, ECS has expanded our housing portfolio to create nearly 2,000 supportive units across San Francisco, and I am proud to say that 1064 Mission is the culmination of our collective experience, thoughtful expertise, and unwavering passion for serving our most vulnerable neighbors.

The land for the site, which was appraised at a value of \$54 million, was transferred to the City of San Francisco from the federal government for one dollar for the purpose of creating supportive housing for those experiencing homelessness. We deployed an innovative funding structure to develop the land that was pooled from local, state, and private resources, and our development partners at MHC leveraged modular technology to capitalize on time and savings cost. Now fully leased, 1064 Mission has created 256 homes for formerly homeless adults and seniors, equipped with an in-unit kitchen and bathroom. The building also features exquisite art that brings beauty and comfort throughout the space and shared common areas that foster connections between both residents and staff. Though perhaps most notably, 1064 Mission offers on-site innovative programmatic services that far exceed traditional supportive housing sites, including:

- ECS' Behavioral Health services in both the adult and senior buildings
- A clinician team from the St. Anthony Foundation that will provide residents with a health home and patient-centered nursing care
- An In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Hub operated by Homebridge that will offer an additional level of onsite support for seniors and adults with disabilities.
- The new Maria X Martinez Health Resource Center, operated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, to serve the broader community.



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Beyond the extensive supportive services incorporated into the site, 1064 Mission will be the new flagship location for our CHEFS (Conquering Homelessness through Employment in Food Services) program. The new 6,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art professional kitchen will expand the program to 360 participants annually and help our clients hone new skills and achieve their goals of gaining stable employment in the culinary field. The CHEFS program is central to ECS' workforce development enterprise, but the food that is prepared by both students and staff through the program provides an even greater service to the people we serve; food security. Hundreds of ECS clients receive warm, nutritious meals every day thanks to the talented and hardworking CHEFS team, and the new kitchen will help ECS better address food insecurity for our clients.

1064 Mission is the quintessential example of what we are able to accomplish when partners, both public and private, come together to share resources and best practices, execute innovative strategies, and align on a common vision. As we take time to relish in how far we have come and the achievement that is 1064 Mission, we must acknowledge that the work doesn't stop here. It is critical that we leverage existing funded programs and streamline development processes to build new housing efficiently and effectively. The ability to deliver such an incredible project is, in large part, credited by the stewardship of non-profit ownership. The condition of master leased supportive housing sites across San Francisco serve as a stark contrast to 1064 Mission, both in scale and quality. People experiencing homelessness deserve to be treated with dignity and care, and it is vital that we create housing that reflects those values.

I am very thankful to our partners at MHC, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and so many more who spearheaded the inspiration and drive to make this vision a reality. Most of all, I am thankful to our ECS Board for their leadership and the ECS team, all of whom show up each and every day for those in need of compassion and support. Large complex issues require comprehensive scale, and through our work and the inspiration of 1064 Mission, we are one step closer in our mission to end the cycle of homelessness.