



Harbor Interfaith CONNECTED

Assisting the homeless and working poor in the South Bay for over 41 years.

Vol. 18, No. 3, Fall 2016

Harbor Interfaith Expands Housing at Century Villages

Harbor Interfaith's Strategic Plan calls for increasing our supply of client housing. Recently, we added 13 units at Century Villages at Cabrillo (CVC) in Long Beach. CVC is a residential community established to break the cycle of homelessness. The former twenty-six acre U.S. Naval housing site offers a supportive community providing housing for over 1,000 people. Residents include veterans, non-veterans, individuals, families, youth, and children.

CVC partners with fifteen social service agencies—Harbor Interfaith included—to help residents regain their independence. While there, clients receive case management, life skills training, substance abuse treatment, and affordable child care. The site also has an employment center, a career center, a food service program, and a medical clinic.

For the last two years, Harbor Interfaith offered 15 permanent

supportive housing units at CVC in a single building called HIS

House 1. We are adding a second building: HIS House 2. CVC owns the buildings, but we screen and fill the units, provide the case management, and the clients pay a nominal rent to CVC. Each building has a central kitchen, shared bathrooms, and shared outdoor areas; clients have their own bedrooms. There are also two onsite Harbor Interfaith resident managers who maintain community and work with residents to keep the building clean.

While with us at CVC, clients receive help with the issues that put them on the streets. When they are ready, they can choose to transition to independent living.



Suburban Homelessness —Redondo, RPV, Inglewood...

“The homeless population has tripled here in the last three years from 70 to 213,” said Redondo Beach Police Sergeant Jeff Mendence.

Mr. Mendence had reached out to Harbor Interfaith's Shari Weaver, Regional Director of the Coordinated Entry System (CES), to do homeless outreach in the city. CES is a collaboration of over 40 South Bay agencies including veteran, mental health, and other social service providers. Ms. Weaver assembled a team for two days of outreach in Redondo Beach on August 30 and 31. In pairs, agency representatives concentrated on six hotspots including the piers and the 405 overpass.

“One-third of our calls are homeless-related,” said Wayne Windman, Redondo Beach Police Lieutenant. “It takes us away from other things. We needed to do something, so we tried this.”

Over the course of two days, outreach workers spoke to forty-eight homeless individuals, placed two in emergency shelters, placed a veteran in interim housing, connected eight to mental health services, referred two to drug/alcohol recovery services, and provided eight DMV Fee Waivers to obtain state ID cards.

“They can't do anything without an ID card,” said David Bradford, a Harbor Interfaith Outreach Specialist who participated in the outreach. “They can't get a Social Security card, they can't find work, they can't rent an apartment, and they can't apply for benefits. We also provided transportation to the DMV.”

Homelessness has grown beyond LA and Redondo, however. It is everywhere.

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Picture left: Top, Lt. Wayne Windman, Shari Weaver, Sgt. Jeff Mendence. Middle: Homeless man in Redondo Beach. Bottom, David Bradford.

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Harbor Interfaith Services

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Executive Director's Message



As we gear up for the holidays, we are reminded of our blessings! We are thankful for food, shelter, and employment, the things that are often taken for granted. Harbor Interfaith is also thankful to our generous donors, to our dedicated volunteers, and to our faithful supporters for all that you do to ensure that the agency continues providing much-needed services to homeless and low-income residents in the South Bay of Los Angeles.

Harbor Interfaith, as you know, works to eliminate hunger and homelessness and promotes self-sufficiency. Our neighbors at risk receive from us a three day supply of food; up to ninety days of shelter; transitional housing to focus on higher education; permanent supportive housing; help with move-in costs, including the security deposit, first month's rent, and in some cases rent for up to six months; utility

assistance; life skills seminars; and a safe, affordable environment for children ages six weeks and up to develop skills for success in school and in life.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Auxiliary, and Staff, **THANK YOU** for your giving spirit. Please consider lending support over the holidays with extra hands, special food items, and gifts appropriate for our children, infants to teens. This fall, kindly mark your calendars for these holiday distributions and be sure to join us.

November 21 and 22, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Thanksgiving prep and distribution

December 17, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Adopt a Family/Holiday Block Party

December 20 and 21, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., holiday food and toy prep and distribution

Connect



Donate Toys for the Children

Wednesday, December 21, is the date for the annual toy distribution for children. Each year, 800 children participate and are given over 1,600 toys. We invite you to donate new toys for all ages by bringing them to the Family Resource Center, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please note that we are often short of gifts for children ages 11 to 18. Please think of them as you make your purchases. When delivering toys, please take them to the Family Resource Center, 670 W. 9th St., San Pedro, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. HIS Auxiliary members can give them to Mike Radice at their meetings.

Adopt a Family (or Families)

Each year we invite you to adopt one or more families for the holidays. You can adopt as an individual, a family, a church, a group, or a business. Adoption lets you bring joy to families who can't provide it for themselves. If you decide to adopt one or more families, we will give you a holiday wish list from the family. We ask that you wrap the gifts and bring them to the Block Party to present them to the family on Saturday, December 17. The event will be held at the Shelter from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To adopt, contact Diva Ramirez, Executive Assistant, 310-831-0603 x229, DRramirez@HarborInterfaith.org, by December 2.

100-Day Challenge for Homeless Youth



In communities across the U.S., young people are thrown out on the street for a variety of reasons by parents and caregivers: The youth have graduated from the foster care system;

they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender; or the parents/caregivers feel they can't control them. Once out, the youth are often ill-prepared to make a life. Many end up on the streets.

To find homes and solutions for youth ages 18 to 24, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services teamed up with A Way Home America and the Rapid Results Institute to launch the 100-Day Challenge to end youth homelessness. A Way Home is a national initiative to prevent and end homelessness among young people. Rapid Results works with government agencies and communities to tackle tough problems by offering money and models for 100-day challenges.

Family Shelter Repairs

In 1990, the agency purchased a World War I Era Army barracks built when women didn't have the right to vote. Today, it is our emergency shelter for homeless families. They can live in the facility for up to 90 days.

As you know, buildings need care, and the older they get, the more care they need. Our shelter is no exception. This summer we put together a plan to repair the building and its 22 units. The plan included replacing the ceilings, ceiling fans, flooring, and roof. The plan allowed for repairing the foundation, sidewalks, and glazing the tubs. The cost of the project is \$88,000. So far, we have secured funds for all but the flooring, which

The purpose of the Youth Challenge is to help catalyze community action to establish bold, creative, and innovative ways to help homeless youth find housing. The program was launched on September 9 in three cities--Austin, Cleveland, and Los Angeles—all chosen through a competitive process. LA's goal is to house 100 homeless youth in 100 days. Harbor Interfaith will serve as the lead for the South Bay and is working with a team of agencies to house the youth and to

Grow Your Gifts to Us

Here are four ways to expand your giving to Harbor Interfaith Services.

- **United Way:** If your company participates in a campaign, please designate Harbor Interfaith Services as the recipient of your gift. Our Tax ID number is 33-0031099. You will need the number.
- **Matching Gifts:** Many employers match employee gifts. Check with your human resources office.
- **AmazonSmile:** Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charities of your choice when you shop at smile.amazon.com. Please choose us.

will cost \$56,000 to replace. Funding has come from a mix of government and private sources, including a generous gift from the Scriba Charitable Gift Fund. We finished the roof in time for the winter rains, thanks to the Scriba Family. The roof is pictured above.



Suburban, Continued from Page 1

Rancho Palos Verdes: "I spoke to the congregation at Ascension Lutheran Church about what we do," said Mike Radice, Harbor Interfaith Development Director, "and a homeless couple approached me in the parking lot. They'd been in the pews, listening. It was Sunday, and Harbor Interfaith was closed, but I gave them information about a couple of shelters and told them to visit us on Monday morning. I felt terrible for them."

Also in RPV, Congregation Ner Tamid keeps a supply of things on hand for the homeless, such as gift cards. Homeless people often knock on their door for help.

In **Inglewood**, the homeless population soared to 500, so Harbor Interfaith placed a worker there to provide services. In **Redondo Beach**, we trained members of St. Andrew's Church on how to help the homeless. In **Harbor City**, we placed a full-time Outreach Specialist at the Kaiser South Bay Medical Center's Emergency Ward. The hospital had given us a grant. The homeless had been going there for treatment but it didn't want to send them back to the streets for recovery.

Homelessness is a community-wide issue that we can address together. When you give to Harbor Interfaith Services, you don't just help San Pedro. You help the entire South Bay.

New Giving Levels

Harbor Interfaith established a donor level system in time for holiday giving. Donor names and their levels will be published in our new spring *Annual Report*. Benefits for giving will increase as you go up the levels. Offerings will include things such as this newsletter, increasing amounts of public exposure, and dinner with the Executive Director and Board Chair. Here are the levels:

- \$100,000+ — Platinum
- \$50,000 to \$99,999 — Gold
- \$25,000 to \$49,999 — Silver
- \$10,000 to \$24,999 — Bronze
- \$5,000 to \$9,999 — Opal
- \$1,000 to \$4,999 — Emerald
- \$500 to \$999 — Jade
- Up to \$500 — Quartz



Harbor Interfaith Services
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Donate Food for the Holidays

We plan to distribute over 700 complete holiday meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. You can help by donating frozen turkeys, hams, canned vegetables, etc. Please deliver them to the Family Resource Center, 670 W. 9th St., San Pedro, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Joaquin Finds a Home: Homelessness and Disabilities

Previously homeless Joaquin sat in the backyard of his new place writing the story of his life on paper because he was deaf. He'd lost his hearing as a toddler from a high fever. His communication skills were limited from 18 years of parental neglect.

After high school, Joaquin managed his life. His disability benefits helped him maintain a small apartment, and he lived peacefully. But then he helped a friend by letting her move into his apartment with him. Shortly after that, the terror started. The friend physically threatened him, took over his place, and pushed him out. Joaquin wasn't savvy enough to handle it and didn't have the communications skills to defend himself or seek help. He ended up on the streets for the next twelve months with his things in storage and not much than the clothes on his back. The cost of storage consumed half his income. He didn't have enough for a new place.

He went from shelter to shelter, but the facilities limited him to two weeks each, such are the rules at many places. Eventually, he ended up at Beacon Light Mission's emergency shelter for men in Wilmington. The shelter called Harbor Interfaith. We were able to place him in permanent housing at the Century Villages at Cabrillo (see cover story).

Joaquin meets regularly with his Harbor Interfaith case manag-

er to stabilize and move forward. He now has a permanent, safe, clean, home with support services and people who care about him, enabling him to rebuild his life.

