

New Board Members

Rev. Nicole Reilly is the Interim Director of the UMC House Church Network. She also chairs the Skill Builders Team on the New Ministries Essential Ministry Team for the Annual Conference and is active in the Mission-al Church movement.



Bob Rothman is Chair and founder of the interfaith Dawn Unity Group and moderator of its Interfaith Discovery Series of panel

discussions. He is also a member of the Institutional Review Board of Torrance Memorial Medical Center.



Harbor Interfaith Services, Inc.
670 West 9th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731
310-831-0603

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The South Bay Auxiliary of Harbor Interfaith Services presents

*The Second Annual
Evening of Laughter
& Fun(d)raising*

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Opportunity
Drawing!

The Comedy & Magic Club Hermosa Beach
Doors open 5:30 • Dinner 6:30 • Comedy Show 8:00

TICKETS: \$100 (includes dinner and show)
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HISComedyEvent2016@gmail.com



The mission of Harbor Interfaith Services (HIS) is to empower the homeless and working poor to achieve self-sufficiency by providing services such as emergency family shelter, childcare, food pantry, job placement, transitional housing, advocacy, education and life skills training. HIS is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 charitable organization.



Harbor Interfaith CONNECTED

Assisting the homeless and working poor in the South Bay for over 40 years.

Vol. 18, No. 1, Spring 2016

HIS EXPANDS ACROSS THE STREET

In July 2014, HIS was awarded a grant by the Home for Good Funding Collaborative to create a system of finding housing for chronically homeless individuals. Now known as the Coordinated Entry System (CES), the program is directed by long-time HIS employee Shari Weaver. A CES staff photo is to the right.

The funds were awarded regionally, with HIS as the lead agency. HIS coordinates and distributes resources to a partnership that includes SHARE, U.S. Vets, St. Margaret's Center, Providence Little Company

of Mary, and Mental Health America.

The CES network finds permanent housing for clients through collaborations with regional service providers and landlords. It initiates street outreach; connects clients to community resources such as health care, mental health and recovery services, and employment; and secures and retains employment.

Recently, CES added a "Rapid Rehousing" component. RRH helps place



newly-homeless *individuals* into permanent housing, quickly. In years past, we focused on families; now, we serve a broader range of people.

Continued on page three.

2015 in Review



For the 2015 calendar year, HIS provided 30,193 services to homeless and working poor households in the South Bay and Harbor areas. The

number was on par with 2014's surge.

We helped clients through several programs, each described below. The Coordinated Entry System was explained above.

The Family Resource Center (FRC) is the point of entry for all programs. Most people come in need of food and can receive a three-day supply of groceries and hygiene items. Case Advocates also provide assistance in untangling bureaucratic mistakes, securing appropriate benefits, accessing transportation, and facilitating referrals to other community agencies. In addition, the FRC has telephones for client use and mail pick-up. Services are provided immediately.

The Children's Center is licensed to care for up to 80 infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children. To enroll, the parents must attend school, look for work, or be employed.

The Homeless Family Solutions System (HFSS) is a network of service providers that assists homeless families in securing permanent housing. The goal is to keep them united and within their communities during a traumatic time.

The Family Shelter Program is an emergency residence that provides short-term (up to 90 days) of crisis housing. It accommodates 20 families at a time. Clients attend seminars on budgeting, parenting, and other life skills subjects as they move toward self-sufficiency.

The Accelerated Learning and Living Program (ALL) offers transitional housing and job development for 12-to-18 months in an affordable, independent-living apartment. Adult family members must be in school earning a degree or vocational certificate, or receiving work-

related training. While residing in ALL, residents meet with a case manager, attend life skills seminars, and receive help to locate permanent housing.

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The 80 Percent

HIS gives families a hand up instead of a hand out. A part of what we do is provide shelter. During their stay, residents are required to deposit 80 percent of their income into a HIS-held savings account. When they leave, they get their deposits back.

We follow this procedure to ensure that families have enough funds to make a deposit on an apartment, turn on the utilities, and meet other needs. An 80 percent deposit may seem high, but when you consider that their rent, food, utilities, and hygiene items are free while they're in residence with HIS, it is a reasonable amount.

CONNECTED Harbor Interfaith Services

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Executive Director's Message

Thank you for your continued support of Harbor Interfaith Services.



Homelessness, continues to be a hot topic. HIS has been around for over 40 years leading the efforts to end homelessness in the South Bay/Harbor Area of Los Angeles. The agency owns and runs two housing facilities for families: our 20-unit, 90-day emergency shelter and a 24-unit transitional housing program. We also partner with Villages at Cabrillo in operating a 15-unit shared housing MODEL in Long Beach. The need is still great for individuals. Our current strategic plan reflects the need to acquire additional housing for the homeless.

To bring reader clarity to the **Coordinated Entry System**, the demand is far greater than the resources. During the past two years, HIS and its subcontractors have worked diligently to connect homeless individuals and families to housing. In some cases, it takes two weeks; others, a few months. HIS helps with security deposits, monthly rent and arrears, utility deposit and arrears, housing application fees, storage fees, and other moving costs. Our goal is to prevent homelessness by

covering all expenses that will ultimately lead a homeless person to permanent housing. This process works, but it takes a combined effort from local governments, property owners, the community as a whole, and of course, the clients themselves who must work collectively with our staff to make the situation a success.

Please join the South Bay Auxiliary of HIS' Second Annual Evening of Laughter & Fun(d)raising at the Comedy and Magic Club in Hermosa Beach on Wednesday, May 4. An electronic invitation will follow!

Finally, I welcome Mike Radice as HIS Director of Development. Mike has spent over 20 years fundraising, the last five in positions at Catholic schools, including, Saint Joseph High School in Lakewood. He previously used his development talents to the benefit of arts organizations and wrote a book, *Money Raising for Schools*, 2014. In every position, his motivation has been to lift those in need. Mike joined HIS on March 1, 2016.

We look forward to your continued partnership as we work to end homelessness.

Gratefully yours,


Tahia Hayslet

Board Chair's Message

Hard to believe that spring is already here windy days and nights along with rain and hail have struck us. Thankfully, most of us have shelter from such weather.



The clients of HIS are certainly grateful for the shelter we provide them. These facilities exist due to government grants, family foundations, and personal dona-

tions. The homeless rate continues to grow, and we need to grow as well. Our board and staff are diligently looking for more shelter—and funding. Here are two opportunities to support our efforts:

Join us for Comedy Night on May 4 to laugh and enjoy a meal while raising funds for those in need. To buy tickets, see the back page of this newsletter for a link.

We need board members as well. If you are interested in getting more information about board participation, please

contact Tahia Hayslet, Executive Director, at 310-831-0603 or thayslet@harborinterfaith.org.

Thank you for all your support and generosity. Without you, we wouldn't have the joy of hearing children laugh and play at the Center or the sigh of relief when we transition the homeless into permanent housing.

Sincerely,
Scott Donnelly, CPA
Board Chair

Sponsor a Child

— for a Week, a Month, or a Year —

The Children's Center is open to families who live in our housing programs or access services through FRC. The center provides snacks, meals, care, and education. Without the program, parents would not have the opportunity to enroll in school and/or to secure employment.

None of our families can afford commercial care, which is around \$140 per week, so we step in and give them a hand up by offering care at a modest price. For those families who can't afford it, government subsidies may be available.

What we can collect for the care, as you can imagine, is never enough to cover the cost, and this is where you come in. We

invite you to sponsor a child for a week (\$115), a month (\$500), or for the whole year (\$6,000). In exchange, we will provide the following:

For a gift of one-week: A thank you card from the parent and a thank you letter from the Executive Director.

For a gift of one month: The above plus the child's first name and age and a brief description of the family's circumstances.

For a gift of one year: The above plus a work of art from the child and a thank



you call from a board member.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your gift. Thank you for supporting the families receiving services at HIS.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering enables you to do good for the community while feeling a sense of accomplishment. We need volunteers for a variety of tasks, including help in the food pantry, the clothing closet, and the Children's Center.

Orientations are held every second Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and every fourth Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Morning orientations are April 13, May 11, and June 8. Afternoon orientations are April 27, May 25, and June 22.

To attend an orientation, contact Felice Anaya, Volunteer Coordinator at 310-831-0603 x226 or fanaya@HarborInterfaith.org.

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness

HIS is one of over 100 member organizations of the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness, an educational and advocacy collective. It played a key role in establishing the County's two homeless programs in the South Bay, one focused on families and the other on indi-

viduals. HIS leads a large collaborative established for each program. The Coalition also takes leadership in the annual Homeless Count, ensuring that 100% of the region is counted. Visit its website at sbceh.org for more information.

Give Online

Go to www.HarborInterfaith.org, and click **DONATE NOW**.

Questions about giving?

Mike Radice, Director of Development
310-831-0603 x224
MRadice@HarborInterfaith.org

HIS Expands

Continued from page one

With the expansion, HIS ran out of room at the Family Resource Center. We recently rented office space across the street and moved CES' seven employees to their new home.

CES has been successful. In its first year (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015), it placed 196 people into permanent housing. In

year two, to date, it already placed 189; 25 percent were veterans.

Tom, (not his real name) age 27 provides an example of a client. Homeless for six months, he'd slept and (hung out) in the emergency room of a local hospital "because it was safe." One of our outreach staff found him there and has been working with him to find housing.

"He was abused by his father and his mother was absent," said Danny Langston, HIS Housing Locator/Landlord Ne-

gotiator. "He was placed in foster care for most of his life, discharged, and deemed disabled, making him eligible for social security. During intake, Tom told me, 'I was the first member of my family to graduate from high school, the first to attend college, and the first not to be the member of a gang.'"

In the fall, after having attended Harbor College, Tom will enter CSU Dominguez Hills. He wants to graduate and start a business teaching children about computers.