



Harbor Interfaith CONNECTED

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

Vol. 19, No. 1, Winter 2017

Harbor Interfaith Partners with Kaiser South Bay

In November, Harbor Interfaith placed a hospital navigator (HN) at Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center. The hospital provided a grant for the position. The HN works in the emergency room, connecting homeless people to community services and primary care physicians, and helping them find recuperative care and permanent housing.

"Most of the homeless using the emergency room lack a primary care physician, so they come to the hospital for care," said David Bradford, the Harbor Interfaith employee assigned to Kaiser.

"They don't have an address to receive benefits, and even if they had benefits, they can't access a computer to select a physician, so they come here."



David Bradford

According to research published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, 40 percent of all homeless have one or more hospital emergency department

visits per year. Eight percent of those visit three or more times in a year accounting for 55 percent of all visits.

The use of emergency rooms by the homeless creates a strain on the health care system. Hospitals have social workers, but they aren't always as familiar with the network of agencies that can help.

"We also plug in the agencies of the Coordinated Entry System," David said. "We find housing for most of the clients, and then we work to keep them housed."

Holiday Joy 624 Turkeys and Hams, 921 Children

The holidays were the busiest time of the year for most readers. There was Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, New Years, travel, family visitors, and everything you had to do to keep up. For Harbor Interfaith, it was a time to fill the void for the homeless and working poor, distributing holiday food, toys for the children, and providing social connection.



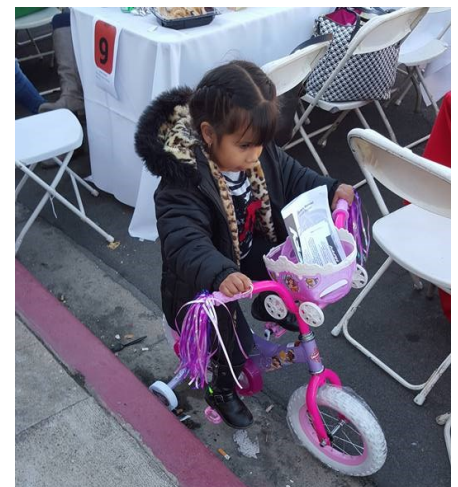
Few of our clients can afford the cost of a holiday meal, and Christmas observers struggle to buy gifts.

On November 22, we distributed 317 Thanksgiving food baskets, which included a frozen turkey, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes, desserts, and other food items.

We did the same for Christmas but substituted hams for turkeys and gave toys to 921 children. On December 17, we held a holiday party at which many donors gave gifts to families they adopted.

"Thank you" to those who donated time, food, toys, gift cards, and money to provide a holiday lift. We wish we could list all of the donors and volunteers, but there were too many to fit on the page. We are grateful and look forward to your help next year.

Pictured left: Client with Thanksgiving food. **Top right:** Holiday Block Party Dec. 17. **Right:** One of the 921 children.



CONNECTED

Harbor Interfaith Services
Vol. 19, No. 1, Winter 2017

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Harbor Interfaith Services

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Executive Director's Message



Happy New Year! On behalf of Harbor Interfaith (HIS) and those we serve, thank you for your support through volunteer work, monetary contributions, and advocacy of the agency and its mission to empower the homeless and working poor. To reach their full potential. As we begin 2017, we look forward to changing lives and providing the foundation that will lead to success.

I recently came across a quote that I felt described Harbor Interfaith and the work we do. Albert Einstein said, "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." Harbor Interfaith

has grown so much in the past few years by responding sensitively and innovatively to the region's rising needs. With that in mind, HIS will strive to eliminate hunger and homelessness.

There are many wonderful programs and activities happening at Harbor Interfaith, I invite you to stay connected. We welcome your ideas and suggestions in our efforts to create new ways to fund our transitional housing and children's programs.

We look forward to a prosperous new year, together providing a hand up not a hand out.

Happy 2017!

Tahia Hayslet

Holiday Party 2016

The Harbor Interfaith Auxiliary, a group raising funds for the organization and providing volunteer support, hosted the Holiday Dinner for Harbor Interfaith's Board, Auxiliary, and agency administrative and program directors. **Pictured:** Auxiliary President-Elect Nanci Browning, Outgoing President Nancy Gragg, Recording Secy. Priss Wilke.



Harbor Interfaith Auxiliary sponsors a family at the Holiday Block Party. Related story page 1.



SAVE THE DATE

May 3, 2017 — The Comedy & Magic Club, Hermosa Beach
5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Dinner, Raffle, Auction, Comedy & Magic Show
Tickets Available in February

Produced by the South Bay Auxiliary of Harbor Interfaith Services

Proceeds Benefit
Harbor Interfaith Services

*Evening of Laughter
& Fundraising*

Ways to Give to Harbor Interfaith

Hundreds of people, foundations, community groups, and companies support Harbor Interfaith Services (HIS) with gifts of all sizes. Giving only takes a moment but a moment can change a life. You can gift anything with a tangible value.

Cash gifts: This is the simplest way to give. Most gifts are made by check or credit card. Some are in honor of a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary. Others are in memory of a loved one are a special tribute as well.

Employer's matching gifts: Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match, or even double or triple match, charitable contributions made by employees.

Stocks, bonds, mutual funds: HIS accepts the donation of appreciated securities, which may offer the donor tax advantages while providing valuable support for our work.

Life insurance policies: If you have a policy that has outlasted its original purpose, or you purchased a policy to provide for minor children and they are

now financially independent adults, make the policy a gift to Harbor Interfaith.

Business or partnership interests: For an individual holding an interest in a business or investment entity taxed as a partnership, a charitable transfer can create a planning opportunity while providing welcome support to Harbor Interfaith. A transfer may be crafted as an outright gift or a sale followed by a donation of the proceeds.

Retirement plan assets, IRAs: Donating part or all of your unused retirement assets, such as a gift from your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension or other

tax-deferred plan, is an excellent way to make a gift.

Wills, trusts, or other planned gifts: You can designate part of your estate as a gift to Harbor Interfaith. When you do, you join The Legacy Society. The Legacy Society provides a way to recognize and thank people during their lifetimes who desire to create a lasting legacy of hope. Legacy gifts include bequests (wills), charitable trusts, life insurance and retirement assets, real estate, etc.

To make a gift, contact Mike Radice, Director of Development, 310-831-0603 x224. Please consult your legal or tax advisor as you plan your gift.

ALL Goes Wireless

Thanks to a grant from Integrity Housing, and private gifts from Carla Tumanjan and Rose Villasenor, we installed wireless at the transitional housing building for our Accelerated Learning & Living Program (ALL).

ALL offers homeless families up to eighteen months of housing in an apartment building. During that time, parents must attend school to complete a degree or earn a certificate, enabling them to enter a career to support the family. The program helps residents become

self-sufficient by lifting the breadwinner's level of education.



These days, wireless is needed to complete a degree or take a class, but our clients can't afford home service. Wireless allows families to complete their education in the home while caring for their children. Now, we provide the service for them.

Connect



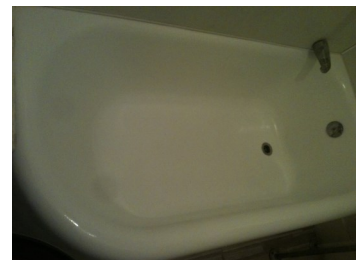
Family Shelter Repairs: Tubs Glazed

Thanks to a gift from the Scriba Family, we've been reglazing the 102 year-old bath tubs in the Family Shelter. All of the tubs have the original, now faded, glaze. The bathtubs are functional, they just look tired and tarnished. Before and after pictures are to the right.

From the same gift, we replaced the roof in September. With government funds, we repaired and replaced ceil-

ings, ceiling fans, the foundation, and a section of sidewalk, all to make the shelter a cheerful and safe place to live.

What a difference a clean, shiny tub can make.

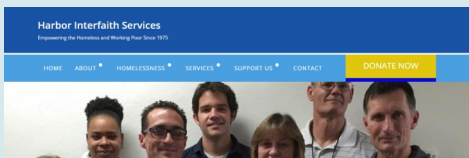


Unit 7 before and after.

Our New Website

In 2012, when the new administrative building opened, we got a new website designed by David Johnson. He was a volunteer and the principal of Johnson ERP LLC Consulting, a Web and computer consulting firm. He designed the site for free.

This fall, the website was redesigned and has a new look, more information, and increased flexibility. It's also a place to learn *about* homelessness. Please visit it at the same address: HarborInterfaith.org.



Harbor Interfaith Services
670 West 9th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

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Nike Chenevert (45) is a single mother of Dodger Chenevert (4) and two adult daughters.

Dodger is enrolled in preschool at Ocean View and loves books. He's a chain-reader.

In 2014, the family became homeless when Nike separated from her husband. She couldn't find work because she was legally blind. She had some sight, but saw everything through a graffitied glass window. She had few job skills.

She moved in with her eldest daughter, but then her daughter sold the home and moved to Georgia. Nike had to find a place to live.

"I had this sinking feeling of 'What's

— Home for the Holidays — *The Cheneverts*

next?" she said, tears streaming down her cheeks. "I looked for work, but I couldn't see well enough to work. I couldn't operate a computer."

Nike and her family lived in her car and stayed in a motel when she could afford a room. At one point, they moved in with Nike's mother in Pasadena, but living there violated her mother's lease. They returned to the car.

"Living in a car is very unsafe," Nike said. "You're so exposed, and I had no bootstrap to pull myself up with. I saw nothing but trouble for the future, and I didn't want that."

Nike found her way to the Department of Rehabilitation, which referred her to Harbor Interfaith. We placed her in our Emergency Shelter. While in the shelter, her case manager helped her enroll in a customer service training program

through Junior Blind. The case manager also helped secure permanent housing in A Community of Friends (ACOF) housing program.

ACOF offers permanent supportive housing for people who have less than 30% of Area Median Income and have a mental, physical, or developmental disability. To ensure that the tenants stay housed and gain self-sufficiency, ACOF provides services through its staff and in collaboration with other agencies.

"Autonomy is what I want," Nike said. "I'm a couple of units away from my Associate's Degree, and then I'll do a bachelor's and a master's. I want to be a case manager who helps the homeless. I understand what it's like. It was horrible living in a car and worrying about the safety of my children. I want to help others avoid the trap I fell into."