



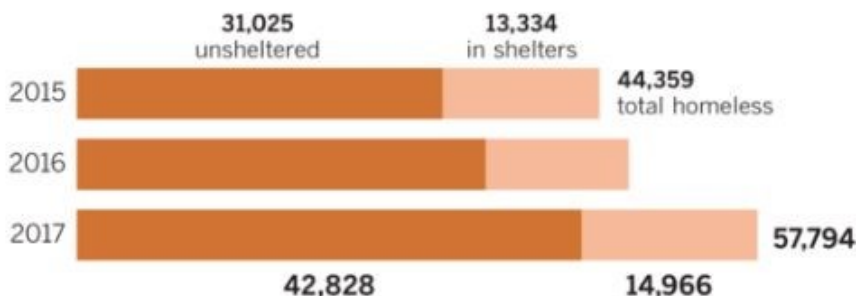
# Harbor Interfaith CONNECTED

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

Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 2017

## LA County Homelessness Jumps 23%

*Only 4% in the South Bay*



According to the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority's (LAHSA) Annual Homeless Count, the number of homeless people in the county rose 23% over 2016. Since 2015, 13,000 more people were without a home.

The jump affected every demographic group, including single individuals, families, youth, and veterans. Why the increase? A rise in housing costs and stagnant incomes were to blame. More than two million households in L.A. and Orange counties have housing costs exceeding 30% of their income, according to Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies.

A bit of brighter news was that homelessness in Service Planning Area (SPA) 8, the South Bay including Long Beach, rose by only 4%, the lowest increase in the county. In contrast, SPAs 1 and 7 (Antelope Valley and Southeast LA County) increased 50%. The 4% rise in SPA 8 shows our effectiveness.

Across the county, youth homelessness (ages 18 to 24) grew

the most, rising 64%. The increase fits a trend. For the first time in 130 years, Americans aged 18-34 were more likely to live with their parents than in any other living situation, according to the Pew Research Center. This trend has an even bigger impact on foster youth, the group accounting for much of the rise in L.A. Foster youth do not have family to rely on after aging-out of the foster care system, leading many of them to homelessness. *(See related article on the back page.)*

How does L.A. County compare to other regions? In the five counties making up New York City, the Coalition for the Homeless (CH) reported 61,277 homeless people for 2017. The city's population is 8.4 million people (LA County's is 10.2 million). In Greater Houston, a region about half the size of L.A., CH reported 3,412 homeless people, a drop from 2016.

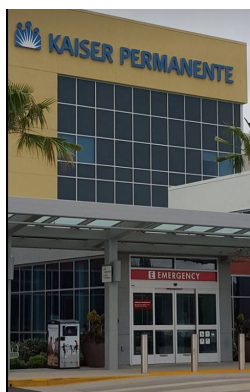
Locally, voters passed two tax increases enabling funding to help more homeless people find housing. We will keep you posted about how the funds will be used.

## Harbor Interfaith Expands Across the South Bay—But...

Harbor Interfaith serves the entire South Bay of Los Angeles County. In 2016, we provided 45,000+ services to 8,100 people across the region.

Many in the South Bay tie Harbor Interfaith to our iconic San Pedro administration building at 670 W. 9th St. The building, now five years old, houses several key programs: Children's Center, Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, Training Room, Computer Lab, and others.

Harbor Interfaith, as a regional nonprofit, offers services from several South Bay locations, including San Pedro, Long Beach, Harbor City, and Inglewood. In San Pedro, our Coordinated Entry System (CES) program operates from rented offices 200 feet down the street. The Family Shelter program uses two buildings on W. 10th. The transitional housing program is in an apartment building on 16th St.



In Long Beach, at the Villages at Cabrillo, a multi-acre housing campus for homeless people, we have two buildings for permanent supportive housing. In the structures we house 28 homeless individuals, dormitory-style. We also offer weekly case management to all of our clients.

In Harbor City, we have an employee in the Emergency Room at Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center. The employee helps homeless patients find housing and recuperative care.

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## CONNECTED

**Harbor Interfaith Services**  
Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 2017

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San Pedro, CA 90731  
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## Executive Director's Message



This fall, Harbor Interfaith Services' (HIS) Accelerated Learning & Living Program "ALL" celebrates a milestone.

In 1997, HIS purchased a 24-unit three-story facility to operate its transitional housing program for homeless families. Twenty years later, despite the shift in funding, HIS continues to operate the ALL transitional housing program, giving parents (90% of whom are single mothers) an opportunity to increase their education that will lead to a career.

Families enrolled in ALL receive help with the cost of textbooks, tuition, transportation, childcare, and food. The head of household, working to reach educational goals, receives an opportunity to do so through stable housing and support for up to 18 months. Families pay 30 percent of their income towards rent, attend educational and life skills classes, and meet with a case manager to monitor their progress on identified goals and objectives. **We look forward to celebrating the ALL program's 20th anniversary later this year!**

Finally, as mentioned in the cover article, the homeless numbers for Los Angeles were recently released. HIS invites the community to come learn more about homelessness throughout the South Bay, the efforts in place to prevent and end homelessness, and how you can get involved as a volunteer.

**Please mark your calendar for Saturday, August 5, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. at HIS' administrative offices—670 W. 9th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731.**

## May Employee Graduations



Two employees at Harbor Interfaith Services earned college degrees in May. Pictured from left to right are Sharon Stewart and Monica Cruz-Hernandez. Both graduated from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Sharon is our Regional Coordinator for the Coordinated Entry System for Families. She earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration with concentrations in Public Administration and Non-Profit Management. Sharon has worked for Harbor Interfaith for 10+ years.

Monica is a Case Manager with our Family Resource Center. (FRC). She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Services.



## — South Bay Auxiliary of Harbor Interfaith Services —

**Comedy & Magic Night Results**

**Hermosa Beach, May 3, 2017**—The South Bay Auxiliary of Harbor Interfaith Services produced its third annual Comedy & Magic Night fundraiser netting over \$80,000 for the agency. The evening included routines by comedians and magicians, food, drink, a silent auction and a raffle. A Harbor Interfaith client also addressed the crowd about how the agency helped

her family. **Pictured clockwise below:** (1) Sheri Nikolakopoulos (Board member), Kathy Siegel (Auxiliary member), Alex Nikolakopoulos; (2) Ann De Briere (Auxiliary member) & Rev. Sunny Kang.; (3) John Hodge & Nanci Browning (Auxiliary President); (4) Claudia Storm Grzywacz, Beth Burns, Teri Hogan, & Margarita Schweisberger (Auxiliary member & Event Chair).




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**Continued from page 1, Expands in South Bay**

In Inglewood, at St. Margaret's Center, Harbor Interfaith has a CES Case Manager for homeless individuals.

"The expansion makes folks think we're flush with government funds," said Mike Radice, Director of Development. "But most of the government funds—for which we are most grateful—are for housing programs, leaving our other programs, like the Children's Center, transitional housing, volunteer pro-

gram, Food Pantry, and Clothing Closet depending on private support. The new government monies will be earmarked by the city and county to house homeless individuals and families and more. That's good, but Harbor Interfaith's mission to empower people to become self-sufficient requires offering non-covered services. To offer the services means relying on the generosity of private sources such as individuals, foundations, the faith community, and corporations."

## United Way Recognizes Nancy Wilcox



Nancy started her volunteer work with HIS in 1995 as one of many volunteers from St. Peters by the Sea Presbyterian church in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Nancy has remained dedicated to the homeless and working poor, helping them find pathways out of poverty.

In 2013, Nancy began her work as the co-chair of the South Bay Coalition to End Homeless (SBCEH). Over the years, SBCEH has organized 450+ volunteers to help end homelessness.

United Way of Greater Los Angeles recently recognized Nancy on its website as a featured volunteer. Kudos to Nancy. We couldn't do our work without her.



Harbor Interfaith Services  
670 West 9th Street  
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## Former Foster Youth Gets New Beginning



In February, Dalia, age 22, entered our offices as a bright but worried college student from Los Angeles Harbor Community College. As a former foster child, she'd "aged out" of the system. "Aging out" meant that the cash payments made to her foster family for her care had ceased, forcing her to live on her own in the world.

Aging-out happens at age 18 across much of the country. In

California, you can stay until 21 under one of these conditions: be enrolled in school, work at least 80 hours per week, or have a medical condition preventing you from doing either.

According to the California Department of Public Social Services, as reported by *Human Rights Watch*, 65 percent of our aged-out youth lack safe and affordable housing when released. Twenty percent become homeless. In California, 20 percent translates into 800 youth on the streets.

Dalia was one of the 20 percent. She'd aged-out as a college student who then tried couch-surfing with friends. But her luck ran out, and she ended up living in her car.

"There was a time where I was just about to give up," Dalia said. "I felt that nothing was going to happen."

Dalia was referred to us by her college counselor. Harbor Interfaith (HIS) is the lead agency for homeless families, adults and youth. HIS staff member Chris Jenne, referred her to Hatha-way-Sycamores Child and Family Services (HSCFS). HSCFS' mission is to cultivate hope and resilience to enrich the well-being of children, adults, families and communities. HSCFS placed Dalia into its Transitional Independent Living Program for former foster youth. She can live there for up to 24 months, long enough to graduate and find self-sustaining employment. The program will also teach her how to live independently.

Today, Dalia is a full-time college student, works part-time, and plans to become a social worker when she graduates. In the photo to the left, she holds the keys to her new home.

"Words cannot describe how thankful I am," Dalia said. "This is such a blessing for me."