



Harbor Interfaith CONNECTED

Assisting the homeless and working poor in the South Bay for over 42 years.

Vol. 19, No. 3, Fall 2017

Harbor Interfaith Merges CES Offices

Harbor Interfaith consolidated its Coordinated Entry System (CES), which was spread over three locations. We leased space at 599 W. 9th St., San Pedro, one block east of the current administrative headquarters.

CES was created in 2014 and is a system designed to work collaboratively to prevent homelessness and to house homeless families, individuals, and youth. Staff get to know the homeless in the community while connecting them to resources and locating permanent housing for each person and/or family.

With the added funds from recent tax initiatives, CES services have expanded and the program has run out of office space. The new location allows the consolidation of services under one roof that were once spread across three.

Harbor Interfaith began as a service for Greater San Pedro residents, but it now serves the entire South Bay as the official lead agency for homeless services in the region. With the 599 building, we will now serve the homeless and working poor across five locations, four in San Pedro and one in Long Beach.



—How to Help— The Holidays are Coming

Harbor Interfaith works to fill the void for the homeless and working poor during the holidays. We distribute holiday food baskets, toys for the children, and provide social connection. We also invite our supporters to offer direct help to the clients. Here is what you can do.



Donate Thanksgiving Food:

On November 21, we will distribute over 350 Thanksgiving food baskets, each including a frozen turkey, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing, yams, and desserts. We invite you to donate items between now and November 17th. Gift cards are welcome, too.

Donate Christmas Food:

On December 20, we will distribute another 350 Christmas food baskets that will include the same types of food as we gave for Thanksgiving

but with hams instead of turkeys. We invite you to donate food by December 19.

Donate Toys for the Children:

December 20 is the date for the annual toy distribution for children. Over 900 children will be given over 1,600 toys. We invite you to donate new toys for all ages, including gift cards for the older children.

Please bring your donations to the rear loading dock at the Family Resource Center Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 670 W. 9th St., San Pedro. Thank you for supporting your community.



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Harbor Interfaith Services

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Executive Director's Message



Twenty years ago, Harbor Interfaith (HIS) operated out of a donated church basement and with a single residential facility, the Family Shelter, less than ten blocks away. The agency owes much of today's "urban campus" to the largely unfamiliar Base Realignment and Conciliation Act (BRAC). HIS, a then-small nonprofit, made a bold move to "express interest" in the U.S. Navy's downsizing. The ensuing land/financial exchange yielded \$2 million for property acquisition. Today, most of the buildings containing our homeless housing and outreach services resulted from the BRAC initiative. **We own the buildings free and clear.**

One of those buildings is our three-story apartment building that over the past 20 years has been home to our transitional housing program, Accelerated Learning and Living (ALL). Constructed in 1979, the building has always been an apartment building. **The ALL program opened in 1997 and has served almost 1,500 in the 20 years of its existence. Over 80 percent have remained socially and financially independent,** and 83 percent have attained at least two of the individual/family goals developed through the case management process.

Constructed around an enclosed atrium, the building offers families a community "center" and a safe play space for the kids. Its twenty-four one or two bedroom units afford customized sleeping arrangements, depending on whether the household is headed by a single person (of either gender) or a couple; the ages/genders of a child or children; and, occasionally, the presence of an older relative (e.g., a grandparent). A combination of standard beds (singles and doubles), kid-friendly bunks, and sleeper sofas fit every need. ALL apartments are empty when a family arrives and then furnished to suit its needs.

ALL provides three primary self-sufficiency services: permanent housing, marketable degrees or licenses, and sustainable employment. **We are honored to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Accelerated Learning and Living transitional housing program and the history of HIS.**



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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 16. The event will be held at the Family Shelter facility from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

To adopt a family, please contact Mike Radice, Director of Development by December 4 at 310-831-0603 x224 or MRadice@HarborInterfaith.org.

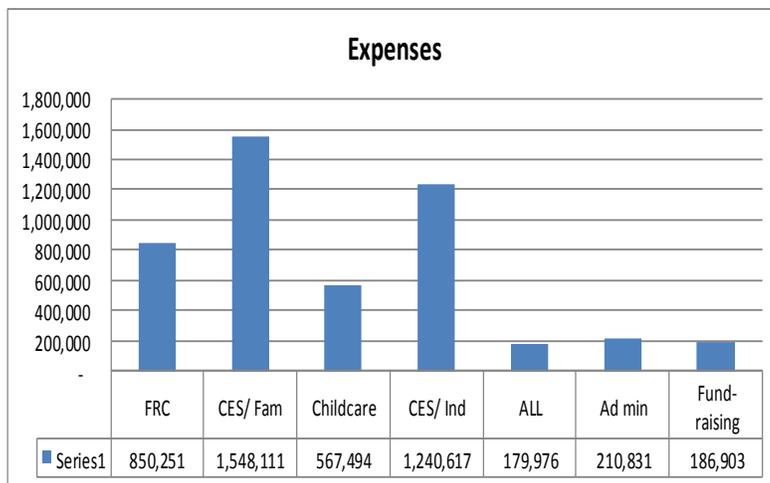
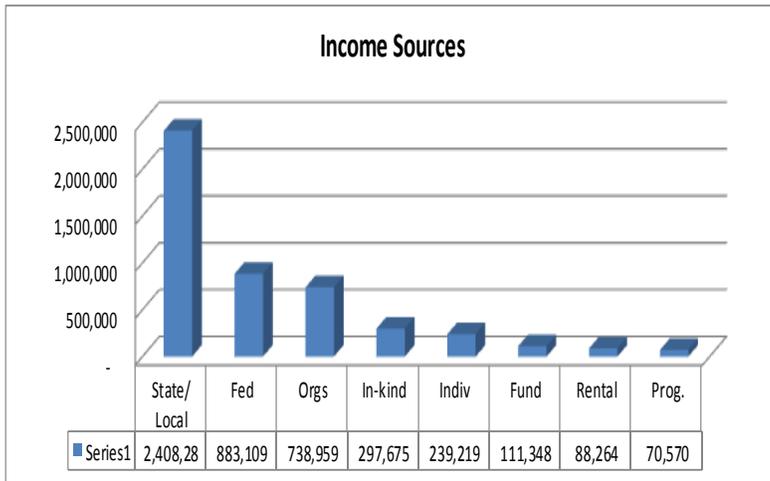
—Audit Results— In the Black, Low Overhead

The agency’s 2016 audit is now publicly available on our website, and the results are impressive. We spent only 5% on administration, (national standard is 15%), 4% on fundraising (standard is 25%), and the balance on programs. We also had a positive year-end balance. Harbor Interfaith Services uses your dollars wisely.

The tables to the right provide details. Please note that recent increases in government spending have increased our percentage of those dollars to 68%; 32% comes from private support, meaning people such as yourself.

The programs that receive the most government support include those that help the homeless find permanent housing. Private support sustains the Family Resource Center, Children’s Center, Accelerated Learning and Living Program, and administration.

Without your help we couldn’t offer childcare, transitional housing for homeless families, food, workshops, clothing, the computer lab, assistance applying for benefits, and administrative support, the types of things clients need to become self-sufficient. **Thank you for your support.**



Harbor Interfaith Co-Hosts Housing/Health Fair

On Thursday, August 24, 2017, the Coordinated Entry System (CES) of Harbor Interfaith Services (HIS) co-hosted the South Bay Housing and Health Resource Fair, a regional effort to house the homeless. The event took place at the Lennox Constituent Service Center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Representatives from forty social service agencies helped the homeless connect to the services they needed to find housing, employment, healthcare, and other forms of assistance.



“The goal was to connect 150 homeless individuals and families to the resources they needed to find housing and become self-sufficient,” said Alex Devon, Regional Coordinator for CES for Individuals and Youth (pictured left.)

CES is a no-wrong-door, multi-agency *system* connecting homeless people to resources. HIS is the lead agency for the South Bay.

The Housing and Resource Fair provided linkages to housing, HIV and STD testing, dental and medical services, educational opportunities, and other services. Several agencies collaborated to produce the event including Hathaway-Sycamores, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, 1736 Family Crisis Center, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, PATH, U.S. Vets, School on Wheels, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, County of Los Angeles Public Health, and others.

“It was an all-encompassing event to connect homeless people in the community to services that can better their lives,” Devin continued. “Transportation and street teams brought the homeless to the Lennox Center for help.”

The event was the idea of employees in the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (District 2) in response to the rise in homelessness in the region. The homelessness rate across the county rose twenty-four percent but by only four percent in the South Bay. The South Bay has concentrated pockets in Lennox and Inglewood.



Harbor Interfaith Services
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San Pedro, CA 90731

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Return Service Requested

—In 48 Hours— Homeless to Housing

This family of four, three with disabilities, had been living in a van when the police found them. The father of the clan, George, was the only able-bodied member, and he had his hands full. The family had been evicted from their apartment after the property owners renovated the building and raised the rent. The family couldn't afford the higher amount.

George cared for the others as best he could. His wife (not pictured) and one son, Brandon, a boy in his 20s, had Friedreich's Ataxia, an autosomal recessive inherited disease that causes progressive damage to the nervous system. Symptoms include poor coordination, gait disturbance, scoliosis, heart disease, and diabetes. Damon, another son in his 20s, had cognitive damage. As a young child, a community member had shot him.

After the eviction, everything fell on George. With four people living in a van, three with special needs, it was tough. Fortunately, the police found them and referred them to Harbor Interfaith. Within 48 hours, we located an apartment they could afford.

"You've got a place," said Chris Jenne to George. Chris is a Harbor Interfaith Services Housing Matcher through the CES Program for Individuals. "You can move in tonight."



From left to right: Brandon, George, and Damen.

When George heard the news, he let out a sigh of relief and a smile of gratitude. He had this to say: "To wake up in your own bed and not have to worry about going from place to place is a blessing. You [Harbor Interfaith] really cared about what we wanted." In the photo above, George holds the keys to the new apartment.

The family will continue to receive services from Harbor Interfaith, ensuring that it remains safe and stable.