



Harbor Interfaith CONNECTED

Empowering the homeless and working poor in the South Bay for over 45 years.

Vol. 21 No.3, Winter 2020



Transitional Housing Upgrades

The apartment building housing our Ilse J. Oetiker Accelerated Learning and Living program (ALL) is undergoing an upgrade at a cost close to \$300,000

ALL is a transitional housing program for homeless families offering up to 18 months of housing in an apartment building. During that time,

parents attend school to complete a degree or earn a certificate. We further help them by offering subsidized rent and assistance with tuition, transportation, textbooks, case management, and childcare. The program's purpose is to lift the family income sufficiently to allow them to maintain housing outside of Harbor Interfaith's help.

For the last 22 years, the program has taken hundreds of homeless and working poor families and given them space and

support to become teachers, nurses, social workers, counselors, and skilled technicians, providing examples for their children and contributing to their communities. It's been one of the most successful options we've offered for stabilizing families over the long-term.

The building is on a quiet street in San Pedro, and we've owned it free-and-clear since 1997. It was built in 1978, however, and time has taken its toll. Thanks to The S. Mark Taper Foundation and The Ahmanson Foundation, the repairs have begun.

The S. Mark Taper Foundation provided funds for new windows and balcony doors, trim repairs, lighting, energy-efficient appliances, flooring, and landscaping.

The Ahmanson Foundation provided funds for painting in the public areas and for roof overhang eave replacement.

We are grateful to the foundations for their unwavering support. We will keep you up to date on the building's progress by email and social media.

Thanksgiving, Adopt-a-Family, Christmas

Every year during the holiday season, we distribute food baskets and gifts to our clients thanks to you. We distribute them over three events: the Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution, the Holiday Block Party, and the Christmas Food and Toy Distribution. The foods we give clients are things they need to prepare a full holiday meal—turkeys or hams, desserts, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and other traditional

foods. This year, 1,927 clients of all ages received gifts, food, or both thanks to the help of 200 donors and 318 volunteers. Photos and a donor list are below. Thank you for your help.

Individual Donors

Narineh Abadian
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 Lawrence and Kathleen Adamovic
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 Anonymous (11)
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From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

The holiday season for the Harbor Interfaith Services (HIS) community was special for everyone. I was very pleased to see so much support from you for our clients—the toys, the hams, the turkeys, the gift cards, the food drives—it was all wonderful to see. Thank you for your generosity.

Coming into this year, new things will be happening. We will have a new strategic plan, for example, and will share the details with you in the coming months. The plan addresses things such as South Bay housing for the homeless, improved ways to educate the public, and new ways to connect clients to the kinds of employment that will sustain them for a lifetime. We are excited, and I am looking forward to sharing these things with you and enlisting your support.

We also continue to grow. HIS is Los Angeles County’s Lead Service Provider for homeless services in the South Bay. If you are new to the area, the South Bay includes Long Beach, San Pedro, the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Beach communities, as well as Inglewood and everything between. We now have case managers or contracted service providers covering every inch of the region.

This expansion has been the result of your tax dollars at work. In 2012, we helped 2,200+ homeless and working poor people. In 2018, we helped 8,300+. In 2019, we helped 13,000+. Because of your support, people like Lynn Fudge, a success story highlighted on the last page, found housing and a new life.

Thank you for all that you do.

Tahia Hayslet, Executive Director

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Harbor Interfaith Services
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Harbor Interfaith Services, Inc.

670 W. 9th St.
San Pedro, CA 90731
310-831-0603
HarborInterfaith.org



Evening of Laughter & Fun(d)raising

Where—The Comedy & Magic Club, Hermosa Beach

When—Wednesday, May 6, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Cost—\$125/per

Do—Dinner, Raffle, Auction, Comedy & Magic Show

**Save
the
Date**

Holiday Donors Continued

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Kimberly Goebel
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Danielle Whitney
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Lisa Wong
Maria Zabatta
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American Martyrs Catholic Church
Amplus Group
Assistance League San Pedro-So Bay
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Boy Scout Troop #948
Cabrillo Marina

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CarMax
Church of the Holy Communion
City of Torrance , Geoff Rizzo
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Congregation Ner Tamid of South Bay
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County of Los Angeles
Cub Scout Pack 846
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Dodson Middle School
Doubletree by Hilton San Pedro
Elite Training Center
Faith Presbyterian Church
Fermin Lausen Alumni & Friends
Girl Scout Troop #1234
Girl Scout Troop 12345
Good Provider Food Bank
Grand View Elementary 3rd Grade
Harbor Tower
Healing and Hope
Holy Trinity Preschool
Holy Trinity School
ILWU 13
Improved Order/Red Men Degree of P
Journey of Faith Church
Keller Williams Realty
Lighthead
Manhattan Beach Community Church
Marymount California University
Masongate HOA
MCID, Inc.
Meadows Ave. Elementary School
Continued on page four

Temper Tantrums, No More

For the homeless families living in our housing, the head of the household must participate in free life skills classes and workshops. We offer these opportunities in a designated classroom at our Administrative Headquarters in San Pedro on 9th St. It is Harbor Interfaith's goal to offer a hand up versus a handout, which includes helping parents learn more about things such as childcare, budgeting, and self-care.

Parents can choose workshops on any topic we offer, and there is no limit on how many they can take. Any client can take the workshops, even if they are not living in our housing. Workshops are 60-minutes long and taught by local volunteer professionals.

Recently, we offered a workshop titled Temper Tantrums in Children. It was presented by Dr. Laura Rae Burns, a Licensed Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychologist based in Torrance. She has a Psy. D. degree from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

The workshop focused on how to identify, ignore, prevent, and stop temper tantrums. A tantrum is an unplanned outburst of anger and frustration. They are a normal part of a child's development and usually decrease when the child starts school. The keys to handling a tantrum are to remain calm, ignore it, and teach the child how to handle frustration.

Upcoming workshops include Addiction and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Diabetes and Healthy Eating, Gentle Yoga, How to Play With Your Child, and others.



Mom's Club of San Pedro
 New Neighbors Club of Palos Verdes Peninsula, Inc.
 Nikko's Pizzeria, LLC
 Omelette & Waffle Shop
 Order of Eastern Star
 Pacific Unitarian Church
 Pajama Program Long Beach/Lakewood Branch
 Palos Verdes Chapter of the Links Incorporated
 Palos Verdes Peninsula Council of PTAs
 Palos Verdes Peninsula Lions Club
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 RHF
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 San Pedro Wednesday Club
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A Success Story

Lynn Fudge Finds a Home in San Pedro

Lynn became homeless when her employment situation changed, and she could no longer afford the rent on her San Pedro apartment. As the reader knows, rents have been increasing for years and are outpacing the ability for many

to pay them. San Pedro is no exception. The rise in rents is a primary reason for the surge in homelessness. The rental increase can be attributed to the economic law of "supply and demand." The Los Angeles region is in the midst of a housing shortage. The lower the supply of housing, the higher the demand for it. The imbalance drives up the rent.

Lynn had been working as a caregiver but switched to working as a nursing assistant at an area hospital. After the change, she was no longer able to pay the rent, which forced her to live in her car. After a few months, a friend suggested she get help from Harbor Interfaith. Lynn went to our website, learned what to do, and came to our offices equipped with paperwork and ready for help.

Fortunately, Lynn had a job; unemployment would have complicated the situation. You cannot rent an apartment without income, and it's harder for an unemployed person to find a job than an employed person. Even though she had a job, she didn't earn enough money to put down a security deposit or enough to pay the rent even if she could.

The first thing we did was help her apply for Section 8 funding so that she could afford an apartment. The Section 8 program allows private landlords to rent apartments and homes at fair market rates to qualified low-income tenants, with a rental subsidy administered by Home Forward. "Section 8" is a common name for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Once approved for the program, we provided the security deposit she needed to sign the rental agreement. Today, she is happily living in her new home and enjoying her job. Lynn is pictured above.