



Building communities with underserved women and children, free from homelessness and family violence.

2011 Annual Report

NOVEMBER 2011

Midway Shelter Leads Alameda County

In spite of another year of financial uncertainty and growing need in our community, we received news this summer that buoyed our spirits and reinforced our commitment to ending homelessness.

our emergency site in Alameda, achieved the best permanent housing placement rate of all the shelters in Alameda County! **San Leandro Shelter** ranked in the top five. Even better, 75% of those exits to housing occurred within 60 days.

Bessie Coleman Court, Building Futures' supportive housing site at Alameda Point, also achieved high rates for transitionally housed residents leaving us for permanent housing, and permanently housed residents maintaining their housing.



Midway Shelter Program Manager Mahkayla Henry & Case Manager Susan'ong Watson

An county update on homelessness reported that during the last year **Midway Shelter**,

Served in 2010-2011

Homeless Services: Shelter and services to **421** women and children

Housing Services: Homeless prevention & rapid re-housing services to **1,255** individuals

Sister Me Home Safe House: Shelter and services to **131** women and **38** children

Crisis Line: Information and referral services to **8,000+** individuals

“I deserve something better...”

Tia Jennings, Building Futures' outreach coordinator, frequently works with survivors of domestic violence in our community support and education groups.

Once someone leaves a class or group though, she often loses touch with them, never knowing where their lives take them afterwards.

Recently, Tia stopped in at a small diner to pick up lunch on her way back to the office. The woman behind the counter looked familiar. She told Tia she

had taken one of her classes. Tia greeted her, ordered her food, and left while it was prepared.

When she returned, the woman said, “You know, I got a lot out of your class, Tia. I left him.” She proceeded to tell Tia how, like so many other domestic violence survivors, she thought he would change, but he didn't. Thanks to the lessons she learned in our classes, she realized she couldn't remain in that cycle anymore. She said one day she dropped

him off at his home and never went back.

“He still calls,” she said, “but I deserve something better.”



Tia Jennings explains the Cycle of Violence to support group members.

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From the Executive Director



I am pleased to share our 2011 Annual Report and highlight our many achievements last year.

Much of what we've accomplished would be noteworthy even in a year with dependable funding and full staffing. Faced with dwindling resources and increasing need, we looked outside ourselves — to our partners and collaborators, our volunteers and donors, our staff and clients — to pool resources,

work more efficiently and increase our effectiveness in ending homelessness and domestic violence.

Thanks to the dedication and commitment of our staff, who are on the front lines of direct service every day, we made a difference in the lives of thousands of individuals last year.

Is there more to do? YES! *Our biggest fight is ahead of us.*

People in our community continue to experience the worst consequences of this recession — joblessness, homelessness,

violence, economic and mental health crises.

We, too, are bracing for another year of funding cutbacks and the difficult choices we may have to make.

That is why your support is critical to maintaining our momentum. Working together we can end homelessness and domestic violence!

Liz Varela
Executive Director

“Those who have served our nation as Veterans should never find themselves on the streets, living without care and without hope.”

Eric K. Shineseki,
Secretary of
Veteran Affairs

Serving Those Who Have Served

In October, the Department of Veterans Affairs awarded the Alameda County Coalition for Veteran Families a \$1 million grant to help homeless and at-risk Veteran families find and keep housing.

This new program is part of the VA's focus on providing employment, permanent housing, and aid to Veterans and their families at risk of becoming homeless.

Due to the expertise we developed in homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing

as the lead agency for the Mid-County Housing Resource Center, Building Futures was invited to join the coalition.

We will provide housing assistance and case management to Veterans' families.

“Those who have served our nation as Veterans should never find themselves on the

streets, living without care and without hope,” says Secretary of Veteran Affairs Eric K. Shineseki.

Building Futures is proud to be a part of this initiative serving our country's Veterans and their families.



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Circle of Giving Forms a Circle of Strength

At Building Futures, we are grateful for all gifts, but we are especially thankful for a group who supports us every month of the year — our Circle of Strength members.

With the help of friends, charter members Millie Tomatis and Paula Tyler have sent us a monthly donation for over two decades.

They began meeting as part of a weekly Bible study club at Saint Felicitas Catholic Church. Many years have passed and some of

the original members have moved on, but Millie and Paula still attend meetings of “our little group” every month.



Our little group: Jimmelee Frazee, Millie Tomatis, Barbara Ofman, Ruth Brennan, Delores Gandsey, Paula Tyler, Pat Jaskot and Flow Pasterick

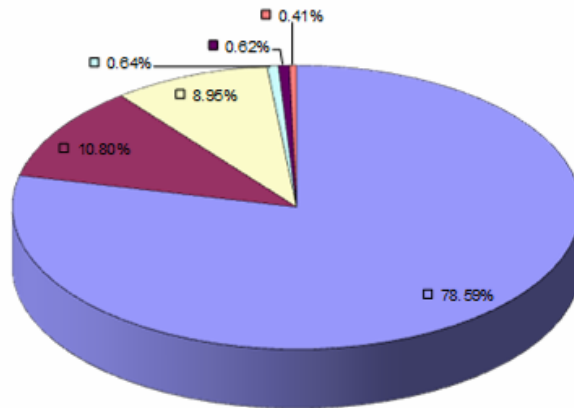
Today, eight women meet at members’ homes each month, to pray together, and share what is happening in their lives.

Millie and Paula always bring Building Futures’ latest updates to share with the group. Members make personal contributions for them to include with their own monthly gifts.

“You’re local, and you help women and children,” says Paula. “We can all relate to women, especially with kids, who need help.”

2010-2011 Revenues

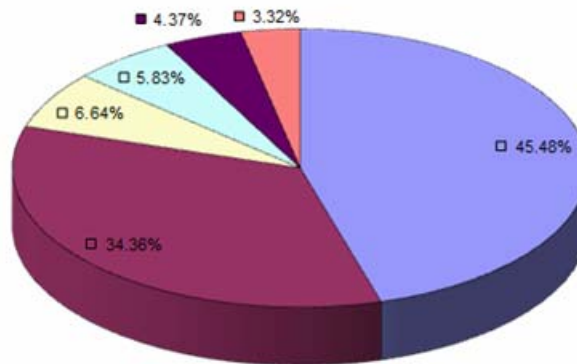
Government Grants & Contracts	\$2,583,113
Individual & Community Support	\$354,824
Foundation Grants	\$294,136
Special & Community Events	\$21,028
Program & Management Fees	\$20,432
Other Income	\$13,392



Only 12% of our total revenue is used for overhead expenses.

2010-2011 Expenses

Housing	\$1,518,366
Shelters	\$1,147,345
General & Administration	\$221,780
Bessie Coleman Court	\$194,682
Development	\$145,810
Children’s & Outreach Programs	\$110,810





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**24-HOUR, TOLL-FREE CRISIS LINE:
1-866-A-WAY-OUT**



Don't forget to "like" us!
Building.Futures.San.Leandro



Founded in 1988, Building Futures is Alameda County's lead agency in providing housing, safety and stability to homeless and domestic violence survivors.

The efficient ratio of services/overhead spending we maintain — only 12% is used for administrative and development costs — reflects our deep commitment to our clients and the communities we serve.

Homeless Services

- San Leandro Shelter
- Midway Shelter

Domestic Violence Services

- Sister Me Home Safe House
- 24-hour, toll-free crisis line (1-866-A-WAY-OUT)
- Community and site-based support and education groups
- Semi-annual 40-hour Domestic Violence Counselor Training
- Presentations to churches, schools and community groups

Housing Services

- Bessie Coleman Court
- Oakland Pathway Home
- Housing/Jobs Linkages
- Mid-County Housing Resource Center



As the Holidays Approach

The holiday season can be trying for any of us in the best of times. For those living in a shelter or transitional housing it can be an especially difficult period.

Every year we turn to our many supporters for help sharing holiday cheer with gift bags for every resident at San Leandro Shelter, Sister Me Home safe house, Midway Shelter, and Bessie Coleman Court. Your group or family can play a part by donating new, unwrapped items and gift cards (\$25 and less) for our residents.

Would your social club, faith community or workplace group enjoy hosting a party for San Leandro or Midway Shelter residents? Contact us!

Do you like to cook? Consider donating a meal to one of the shelters for the holidays — or on a regular basis.

Seeking a great place to make a tax-deductible contribution that will help your neighbors at our shelters and Bessie Coleman Court in the months to come? Look no further than Building Futures!

Visit www.BFWC.org to make an online donation or view our Holiday Wish List. You can also mail or deliver donations to our main office at 1395 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577.

For more information, contact Denise Kaplan at dkaplan@bfwc.org or 510-357-0205 ext. 114.

Building Futures is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Our federal tax id is 94-3100741.