



Building Futures with Women and Children

2013 Spring Newsletter

May 2013

Building communities with underserved women and children where they are safely and supportively housed, free from homelessness and family violence.

Coming this Summer!

June

Sister Me Home Safe House Re-stock Drive. For information on how you can help, visit www.bfwc.org.

July

4th of July Alameda Mayor's Parade and R.A.C.E.
www.AlamedaRace.com
or call Mark Hovermale at 510 523-2647

August

Back to School Drive
For more info, call Kim at 510 357-0205 ext. 206

September

40-hour Domestic Violence Counselor Training
To register, contact Annie at 510 357-0205 ext. 209

Krista's Story



Our San Leandro and Midway Shelters continue to lead Alameda County in linking shelter residents like Krista to permanent housing.

Krista Parker was a student in the medical field when she lost her part-time job and was evicted from her apartment. Without a plan, she lived at first out of her car, still attending classes. When her studies declined, a caring teacher noticed and shared some resources with her. One of the resources was Building Futures' crisis line. There was space for her, Krista learned, at the San Leandro Shelter.

Krista was "a nervous wreck" about going to a homeless shelter. But her fears melted when she was greeted by resident advocate Teresa Wesley, who provided a tour

while explaining the shelter's services. After a meal and receiving a basket of toiletries for her stay, Krista also met case manager Felecia Robinson, with whom she'd meet each week during her stay. With a safe place to call "home base," Krista could complete her certificate in medical billing. She quickly secured a full-time job, and Building Futures linked her with a security deposit and her first month's rent. Krista says, "I got an amazing opportunity. If you're willing to do the work, they'll help you get your life back."

Introducing... 35 New Domestic Violence Counselors!

Twice yearly, Building Futures delivers a 40-hour Domestic Violence Counselor Certification Training. Our March session trained 35 individuals on the dynamics of domestic violence and how to help survivors heal. *For information on our next 40-hour training, contact Annie at 510 357-0205, ext. 209.* Congratulations, graduates!





CELEBRATING 25 REMARKABLE YEARS!

On May second, Building Futures marked a quarter century of service with a special celebration and benefit at San Leandro's Senior Community Center. Over 220 guests included community leaders, public officials, business owners, clergy, staff members, volunteers, and friends enjoyed an evening of fine wine, tasty tapas, and live jazz. One highlight of the celebration was a special awards presentation to six honorees: the City of San Leandro, St. Leander Catholic Church, local restaurateur Jot Mangat, our longtime San Leandro Community Church guardian angel Gene Bass, out-going Board President Sandra Schnieder, and our Executive Director Liz Varela on the occasion of her 20 years of service to Building Futures. The event raised over \$40,000 for Building Futures' programs and services to women and children rebuilding their lives after homelessness and family violence. Many thanks to our lead sponsors Kaiser Permanente and Wells Fargo Bank, and all who joined us!

Pictured at left from top to bottom: 1) Kari Thompson, Alameda Chamber of Commerce President, with Sandra and Willard Schneider; 2) Alameda Council Member Lena Tam and Alameda Police Officer Emilia Mrak; 3) Theresa Sharp, raffle grand prize winner of week's stay in Oahu.

"Deacon Dennis" Reflects on Building Futures' Start

In the mid-1980s, a young deacon at St. Leander Catholic Church learned of some public funding that could be used for a much-needed shelter for homeless women and children. For the San Leandro Shelter to become a reality, Deacon Dennis Davis reached out to the community for help. The response was a tidal wave of compassion and energy. Davis credits Father Richard Mangini for offering the church as a site, and Pastor Kay Wellington and Rabbi Ira Book as essential leaders in the endeavor. He smiles, remembering a neighbor named Florence Bartolini whom he first met protesting the

shelter at a city council meeting; Bartolini later joined the board of directors. Volunteers like "Brownie" Carrion, Susan Rampa, and Bev Helliwell would do anything from pounding nails to pounding the pavement seeking support. Dennis remembers City of San Leandro representative John Klein as "a font of knowledge," and Elaine de Coligny, the shelter's first full time director, "a saint." The San Leandro Shelter opened its doors on Christmas Eve, 1986 and was incorporated as a nonprofit two years later. Here's to another 25 great years!



Our San Leandro Shelter, still sited on the grounds of St. Leander Church, provides about 200 women and children with shelter a supportive services each year.

Linen Drive for our Shelters and Housing: Can You Help?

We've just launched a drive to supply all three of Building Futures' emergency shelters with new or gently used towels, twin sized sheets, blankets and bedspreads, and new pillows. Please Contact Kim at 510-357-0205 ext. 206 or kstange-herlihy@bfwc.org. *Thank you!*

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510 357-0205 www.bfwc.org Crisis Line: 1-866-A-WAY-OUT

Building Futures is a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. Our federal tax ID number is 94-3100741.