

2015–2016 ANNUAL REPORT

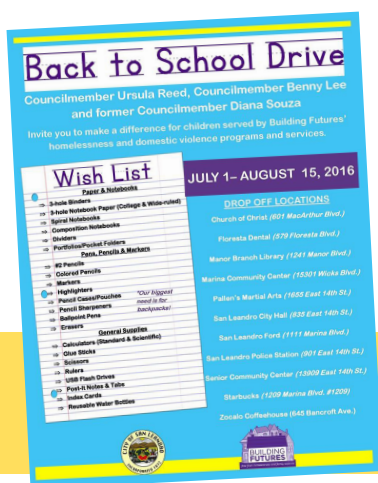


free from homelessness and family violence

Community Rallies for Students' Success

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of community donors, some very special students in our community stepped into the school year in confidence and pride. Our friends at My New Red Shoes provided a pair of shoes and a \$50 Old Navy Gift Card for every single school-age child we serve!

In addition, former Councilmember Diana Souza and San Leandro Councilmembers Ursula Reed and Benny Lee spearheaded a school supply drive for the young people served in our shelters, domestic violence, and housing programs. To the businesses and community agencies that hosted collection bins, and to all of the incredible community members who donated: THANK YOU. Because of your generosity, these very vulnerable students are better able to focus on what truly matters: pursuing a brighter future.



Sites hosting school supply bins this year included Church of Christ, Floresta Dental, Manor Branch Library, Marina Community Center, Pallen's Martial Arts, San Leandro City Hall, San Leandro Ford, San Leandro Police Station, Senior Community Center, Starbucks on Marina Blvd, and Zocalo Coffeehouse.

"The girls loved their backpacks, and they needed shoes! You guys are such a blessing!" – S. BELL (DAUGHTERS AGES 5 & 7)

A GIFT THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Gaurika Duvur loves to read. That's why the sixteen year-old collected donations to build a library for children living at Sister Me Home. Improvements included a new bookshelf, increased reading selections for all ages, and a multimedia library with an interactive display.

Children's Program Coordinator Laura Singley—pictured at left—worked with Gaurika to fine-tune the project for children living at Sister Me Home, our 20-bed shelter for women and children fleeing an abuser.

"Reading expands not only the vocabulary and imagination, but the ability for children to understand and control their own cognitive state," Singley says. "Through reading, we can provide children with a lifelong tool to learn, communicate and manage their emotions."

The disruptive effects of trauma can hinder or inhibit a child's development. That's why our Children's Program was designed to address the needs of children who have experienced homelessness and family violence. Fun and therapeutic activities and support for moms help create an opportunity for children to reach their fullest potential!



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This time last year, Building Futures was preparing to launch two new programs designed to serve community members experiencing homelessness. The first was Welcome Home, San Leandro. The program provides permanent housing and support services for disabled, chronically homeless individuals. Already ten individuals—most of whom had been living in their cars—have been housed.



The second initiative was the Family Front Door. This collaboration serves as a one-stop hub for homeless families. Right now Alameda County is planning a county-wide system of such hubs.

The community has stepped forward with donations to help ensure newly housed people from both of these programs have the household items they need. Our clients are so grateful!

As Nan Roman—who leads the National Alliance to End Homelessness—recently said, “We must ensure that children have the stability they need... This means that if children and their families [are] in a car, on the street, in a campground, we will find a place to house them now.”

Since we opened the doors to the San Leandro Shelter on Christmas Eve, 1986, our community has continually extended its hand in support for individuals and families in crisis. I am grateful to call you members of the Building Futures family. I look forward to keeping you apprised of the many successes you help make possible!

Sincerely,

Liz Varela

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK!

PHOTO DAY AT BESSIE COLEMAN COURT

What's the hallmark of a true blue friend? Showing up to make a difference, time after time. In August, acclaimed artist and photographer Marilyn Hulbert photographed residents of Bessie Coleman Court. “BCC” provides permanent supportive housing to disabled, formerly homeless survivors of domestic violence. This was Marilyn's sixth time donating her services to BCC's residents. Many told us that this was the first time they had the opportunity for professional photos. Thank you, Marilyn!



OUR MISSION

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS

Building Futures seeks volunteers to serve on our board of directors and help lead and advance our mission, core values and sustainability. Ideal candidates have prior board experience and either human resources; “first responder” (i.e., fire, police, or sheriff's department); domestic violence services; nonprofit agency and/or finance backgrounds.

If interested, please contact Liz Varela at lvarela@bfwc.org.



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BY THE NUMBERS

At Building Futures, we believe everyone deserves a place to call home. We are a Housing First agency. This means our top priority across the breadth of all our services is linking our clients with housing. Every person we serve has a story of courage and hardship. We're proud to share the data behind the individuals and families Building Futures served with your help during 2015–16.

HOUSING AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE

At Bessie Coleman Court at Alameda Point, Building Futures provided **52 households** with an apartment, case management services, and community gatherings.

During 2015–16, our Housing Resource Center provided **550 people** with services designed to quickly re-house them after they became homeless. Our Housing staff also served homeless families at the Family Front Door program in Oakland. The Family Front Door—our collaboration with the City of Oakland, East Oakland Community Project, and the Oakland Housing Authority—serves as a one-stop service hub for homeless families.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

During the 12 month period, **84 women and children** found refuge and a wealth of supportive services at Sister Me Home safe house. In addition, **90 individuals** received counseling, intervention, and safety planning through community groups or individual services. In July 2015, Building Futures launched the San Leandro Domestic Violence Task Force. During 2015–16, we also continued leading the City of Alameda Domestic Violence Task Force. In both cities, we mounted campaigns to build awareness during Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (February).

OUR SHELTERS

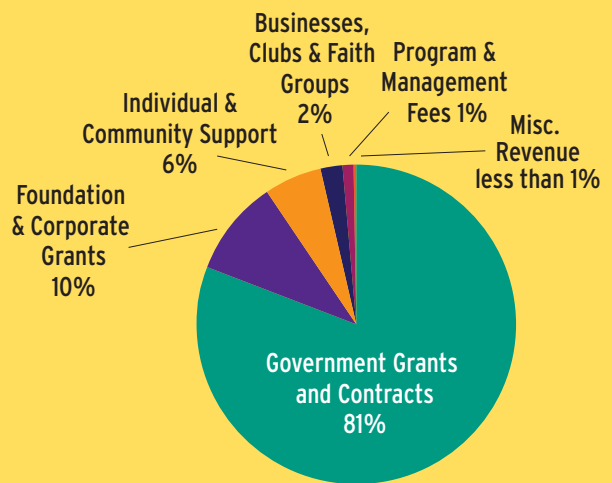
Our Midway and San Leandro shelters hosted **269 women and children** experiencing homelessness. In addition to a safe and welcoming refuge, shelter residents benefited from case management, support groups, mental health services, and school advocacy. Ending shelter residents' homelessness during *this* shelter stay is a priority for us. Our Housing Assistance Program helps us achieve high housing outcomes at our shelters!

The San Leandro Winter Warming Shelter was open for a total of **55 nights**, serving **71 unduplicated San Leandro-based guests** during rainy or very cold nights. The overnight shelter was hosted by our friends at First United Methodist Church. We are grateful to April Showers for serving as our partner in this effort, and to the City of San Leandro for funding. Community members also pitched in to make the Warming Shelter a success.

REVENUE

\$3,610,183

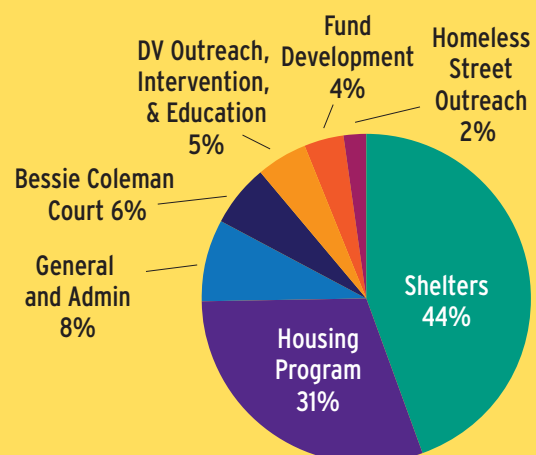
Individual & Community Support	211,324
Foundation & Corporate Grants	343,202
Businesses, Clubs & Faith Groups	87,422
Government Grants & Contracts	2,927,762
Program & Management Fees	35,744
Misc. Revenue	4,729



EXPENSES

\$3,629,146

Housing Program	1,077,217
Shelters	1,609,029
DV Outreach, Intervention, & Education	184,656
Bessie Coleman Court	227,372
Homeless Street Outreach	66,975
General and Admin	305,866
Fund Development	158,031



“AHN” Keeps Midway Strong!

Back in 1988, then-Alameda Mayor Chuck Corica invited community leaders to help establish a homeless shelter in Alameda. The members of the small group established themselves as a nonprofit—the Alameda Homeless Network—to oversee the shelter’s operations. Midway had several operators in its early years. But in 2001, network members needed to find the perfect operator for the shelter. They selected Building Futures.

From the time of its founding, “AHN” members have been a small-but-mighty presence on the Island. The group hosts the Ralph Appezato Charity Event (aka the 4th of July R.A.C.E.), the Midway 5k walk/run (held every first Saturday in December), and the annual Have a Heart Gala each spring. These events help the group raise a generous annual pledge in support of Midway.

Nominated by State Assemblymember Rob Bonta, AHN was recently awarded AT&T’s Investing in California award for their hard work and compassion. Thank you, AHN!



AHN and Building Futures with State Assemblymember Rob Bonta.



When Linda came to live at Bessie Coleman Court, she had been homeless for over a year, having relapsed into drug use to cope with domestic violence and the loss of her daughter to cancer. At “BCC,” Linda received housing, rent assistance, referrals to job training, support for quitting drugs, and a community of friends among her neighbors. Today, Linda is happily employed as a distributor of medical smocks.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @BUILDINGFUTURES

CIRCLE OF STRENGTH

Have you thought of making a recurring donation to Building Futures? Members of our Circle of Strength provide Building Futures with a reliable funding stream to support our life-changing services. As a Circle of Strength member, you can help ensure that every day is an opportunity to end homelessness and domestic violence for an individual or family in crisis.

Charter Circle of Strength member Eva Konigsberg says, “Making a small but steady donation lets me play a role in lifting people in crisis over hard times. In my small way, I’m helping them, and that feels great!”

You’re in control. Joining is easy, and you can change or stop your monthly pledge with a phone call. Contact Patricia Bidar at 510-924-3090 to join or if you have questions. You can also visit <http://www.bfwc.org/donate.php> and click “donate with your credit card now,” then choose the monthly or quarterly gift option.



Eva Konigsberg, Charter member of our Circle of Strength