



2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Ten words changed Sophia Campos' life. The police had been summoned again to the home she shared with her four young children. Her ex-husband was back, controlling and violent. Too often, the children had served as silent witnesses. But Sophia—a former foster child who had never finished high school—was completely dependent on her abuser.

"Do you want to stay here or come with us?" the responding officer asked.

Sophia's first thought was, "I can't take my kids to a shelter." Then she looked at their faces. "Yes, we'll come," Sophia said.

Sophia and the children were brought to the Shelter. At first, they felt scared and overwhelmed by shelter life.

"I told them we would be all right. They needed to trust me." Sophia says her faith helped her focus her attention on her children and on success. Shelter staff provided structure in the new environment, supporting Sophia as she kept schedules organized. Staff also gave the children age-appropriate tasks and rewards.

Building Futures helped Sophia to get full custody of her children. Sophia earned a certificate in administrative assistance, then tackled her GED. Next, she started college classes toward an associate degree in interior design. Sophia's case manager also worked with her to apply for a Section 8 housing voucher, and provided her with the security deposit. After she was awarded the Section 8 voucher, Sophia combed rental ads for days to find a suitable rental. The big test would be convincing a landlord to accept her and her children—and Section 8. To prepare, Sophia and her case manager role-played the landlord interview.

The very first landlord Sophia spoke with accepted her as a tenant.

Now the family has a place to call home. The modest rental even has a lawn, something Sophia says she prayed for. Recently her oldest son set off the fire alarm. The responding officer was the same one who had brought Sophia and the children to the shelter. She was proud to show him her home. "Look what Building Futures did for me!" she said.

"Every day I look around me in gratitude," Sophia says today. "I'm grateful for all that happened and all we received." Building Futures congratulates Sophia for her determination and hard work!



SAN LEANDRO HOMELESS COMPACT LAUDED

On June 6th, The Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission honored the San Leandro Homeless Compact with a Bay Area Metro Award for easing the Bay Area's housing crisis. Specifically, the city was lauded for the San Leandro Homeless Compact. This historic partnership includes the City of San Leandro, Building Futures, April Showers, the San Leandro Police Department and the Rental Housing Association of Southern Alameda County.

Building Futures provides wrap-around support services, street outreach services, landlord advocacy, and the Shelter Plus Care Vouchers that provide rent and permanent support for San Leandro residents who have lived on the streets for at least a year—or repeatedly—while struggling with a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use, or physical disability.



Photo credit:
Peter Beeler, MTC

To read an article
or watch a short
video, search for
"homeless compact"
on westerncity.com
or YouTube.

Honorees at Award
Ceremony



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Here comes fall! The kids are back in school and cooler temperatures are on the horizon. I hope you've found time to savor the warm summer months. Please enjoy reading about the successes you helped to make possible over the past year. We couldn't do it without you!

At Building Futures, we believe that everyone deserves a safe place to call home. That's why every one of our programs and services aim to connect our clients with housing. In reading this annual report, I hope you share my pride that Building Futures connected 412 people with housing over the past year. Some, like Sophia Campos, were mothers with children. Others lived on the streets for years before our street team connected them with Building Futures' range of services.

Another milestone in 2018-19 was the opening of Building Futures' Alameda Warming Shelter. The shelter provides a warm, safe, and respectful place for people experiencing homelessness to escape the cold and rain. Hosted by Christ Episcopal Church, this special refuge is supported by the City of Alameda, and Alameda's faith communities, individuals and businesses. County Supervisor Wilma Chan advocated for the shelter, garnering additional aid from Alameda County Housing and Community Development. In all, 89 people were served in the Warming Shelter's inaugural season.

As Fall approaches, you may be considering volunteer service to help your community and its members. Building Futures' Dinner Donor Program is seeking groups to prepare and deliver dinners to our Midway and San Leandro Shelters. Building Futures accepts new clients every day of the year. This means we are also always in need of the support of our community—people like you!

Thank you for playing a part in another year of life-changing programs and services.


Liz Varela

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEER DINNER DONORS!

Calling all cooks—can you help?

"It gives me great joy because it combines my passion for cooking with my desire to help homeless youth." —Rena Jackson, monthly dinner donor

On any given night, the San Leandro and Midway Shelters will serve as home to 55 women and children. Our Winter Warming Shelters in San Leandro and Alameda serve many more during rainy or cold nights.

We count on dinners donated by caring community members. Donating meals does not only ease Building Futures' budget, it's also a great way for community members to show shelter residents that they care. Thank you to the 83 dinner donor groups who donated meals last year!

Building Futures needs more Dinner Donors! Your family, club, or church group can donate monthly, quarterly, or from time to time. You'll purchase, prepare, and deliver a meal for 30 people by 5pm on your scheduled day. **To learn more, contact Naima at nezana@bfwc.org or at 510-924-3092.**

15,038 dinners were lovingly prepared by volunteer dinner donors at our four emergency shelters last fiscal year!



Community Impact Lab cooking for the San Leandro Shelter

OUR MISSION

To build communities with underserved individuals and families, where they are safely and supportively housed, free from homelessness and domestic violence.

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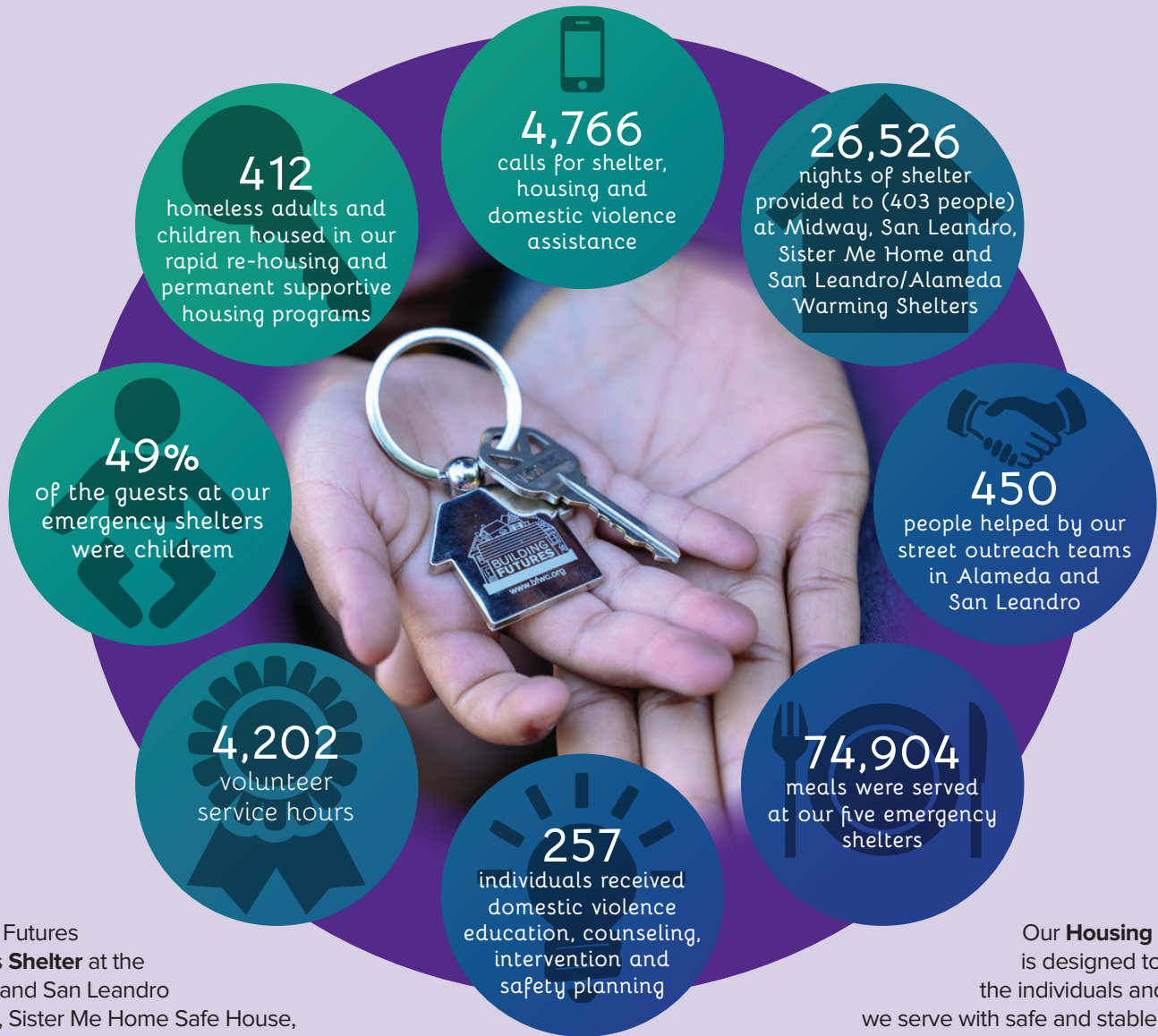
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Building Futures extends special thanks to Moira Fry (April Showers) and Alisa Rasera (Christ Church, Alameda) for managing dinner donations at the San Leandro and Alameda Warming Shelters.

IMPACT by the NUMBERS

Building Futures is proud to share the numbers behind the individuals and families we helped between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. Every person served is a story of resilience and courage.

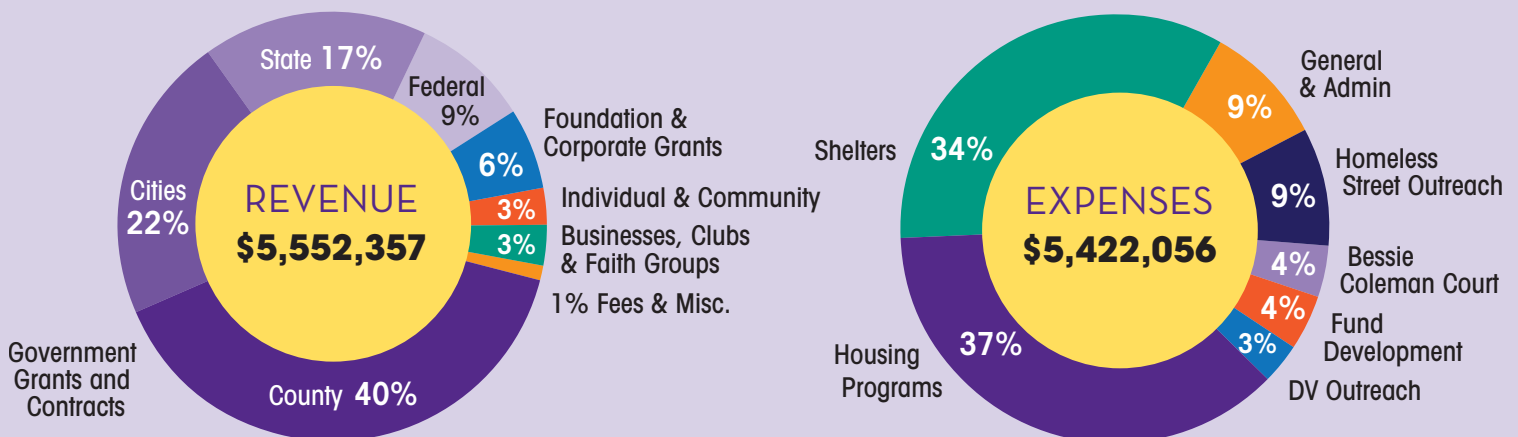


Building Futures provides **Shelter** at the Midway and San Leandro Shelters, Sister Me Home Safe House, and the Alameda and San Leandro Winter Warming Shelters.

Our **Housing Program** is designed to connect the individuals and families we serve with safe and stable housing.

In addition to shelter, our **Domestic Violence Services** include outreach, education, counseling, and support services.

FINANCIALS



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The information provided on this page reflects as-yet unaudited data for 2018-19.

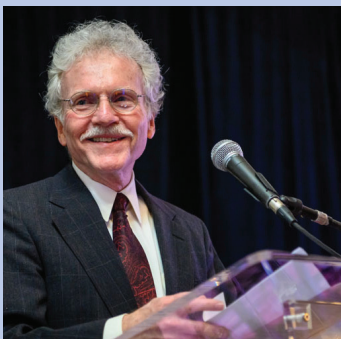
Jazz It Up!

THANK YOU, COMMUNITY!

With your help, our Jazz it Up! event was our most successful yet. We are grateful to all who participated as sponsors, attendees, silent auction bidders, raffle ticket buyers, and donors in the month of May. The event raised over \$100,000 that was put to immediate use helping individuals and families to build better futures after homelessness and family violence. Next year's event will take place in May 2020—we hope to see you there!



San Leandro Mayor Cutter and Honoree Supervisor Wilma Chan with award



Honoree Tom Lauderbach shares a few words



Alameda Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and Honoree Merideth Mehlberg with award



Strike a pose! Sponsors from V-day East Bay and System Innovation

Thank you to our lead sponsors!



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**Would you like to highlight your
support this coming May?**

Contact Ana Mahiri at
amahiri@bfwc.org or at 510-924-3090.

YOUR LEGACY: COMPASSION FOR OTHERS

Good things begin with a place to call home. And true stability is impossible without it. With your gifts to Building Futures, you have begun to build your legacy of compassion. You have touched the lives of your neighbors in need. Building Futures' ability to provide a fresh start is only possible with your support. Please consider including Building Futures in your will or estate plan. There are many ways to give, but the most common is through a simple bequest. The right planned gift for you depends on your circumstances and goals. Consult with your legal and financial advisers to determine the best way to continue your legacy and help sustain Building Futures' work. Thank you for considering this powerful way to help build a community free from homelessness and domestic violence!

