



# HOUSEWORK

news from transition house • santa barbara, california • spring 2011

## Construction Begins!

THE MOM'S PROJECT BREAKS GROUND AT 421 E. COTA STREET

With a mixture of sadness at bidding farewell to a Santa Barbara institution and excitement for the families and children who will eventually be served by new housing and childcare, Transition House broke ground March 15 on the Mom's Project.

In a ceremony attended by the Mayor and City Council members, our funders and project partners, and many volunteers, clients and staff, Transition House began the year-long construction project that will bring a new affordable housing development and childcare center to fruition.

The project will provide eight new apartment units for Transition House families, along with a new infant care center serving 25 babies.

The project brings \$3 million in federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit dollars to our community, supporting the local businesses and contractors who will help build the facility. The project also benefits from \$1.52 million in funding from the City of Santa Barbara, including Redevelopment Agency funds.

The groundbreaking ceremony was conducted in true Transition House style. Most groundbreakings involve



A view of demolition from the back parking lot next to TH's administrative offices. The shot shows the Housing Authority's newest project across Cota Street, Artisan Court, serving downtown workers, homeless individuals and young adults aging out of foster care.

### VOLUNTEER PROFILE

## Nancy and Jill Make Birthdays Special

Birthdays are one of the most sacred and important events to a child. However, celebrating that one special day of the year is difficult when your family is living in a shelter. How can we make sure each child staying in the shelter feels special on his or her birthday?

Longtime volunteer Nancy Lee and her friend Jill Link knew the answer could be summed up in one word: Cupcakes. For the past three years, Jill and Nancy have been wrapping presents and providing beautifully

decorated cupcakes for each child's birthday. Originally named "Mike's Birthday Project" after Nancy's late father, the goal of their service is simple—to provide each child staying at Transition House with a memorable birthday experience.

"Anybody can send a present, but there is something (special) about everyone singing 'Happy Birthday' to you around your own cake," said Jill. "We really think there is a little piece

Continued on page 3

Continued on page 7

## Dinner Providers Can Keep on Cooking....

For over 25 years various groups from the Santa Barbara community have been providing dinner for the clients of Transition House’s Emergency Shelter. Every night, 365 days a year, a different group arrives at the shelter to prepare and serve dinner to the families living here. Currently, 37 faith and community groups take turns providing meals for up to 70 people a night—not an easy task. It was a job made even more difficult because our previous kitchen stove was not heating properly and was constantly breaking down. Yet our dinner providers never wavered and continued to prepare excellent meals.

An exemplar of our outstanding dinner providers is **All Saints-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church** in Montecito. They cook up a wonderful BBQ dinner for the clients in the shelter the second Sunday of every month. In 2010, All Saints-by-the-Sea went above and beyond by granting the funding for Transition House to purchase a new industrial stove for the shelter kitchen. Annette Perez, Operations Manager said, “Everyone



loves the new stove. It has made a huge difference to the dinner providers in preparing meals each night and providing our clients with great food and the time to sit down and eat as a family.”

A mom who recently graduated from the shelter program told us that, while living in a shelter had not been the easiest time in her life, she sorely missed the luxury of not having to prepare dinner

First Row: (L to R) Pat Murdy (NY Yankees); Alyce Boyd, Cil Herrera, Janet Eaton, Bonnie Carins, Debra Johnson, and David Boyd. Back Row: Charley Carins (Detroit Tigers), Mike Goetsch. Not pictured are dinner organizers, Elena and Manuel Cruz, who have been serving dinner at T-House for over 20 years.

every night! She was truly touched by the help our dinner providers offered.

Transition House estimates that the time, food and service provided to the agency by all of our dinner providers saves Transition House over \$500,000 dollars a year. “We are so lucky to have the dedicated volunteers we have. Their tireless pursuit to serve the residents and staff at Transition House makes a huge difference,” said Jett Black, Transition House Volunteer Coordinator.

To see a full list of our dinner providers please visit [www.transitionhouse.com](http://www.transitionhouse.com) and look under “Our Community,” then “Dinner Providers.” 🏠



# Transition House Interview with the Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Bullock, Rector

ALL SAINTS-BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

***How did you and All-Saints-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church first become involved with Transition House and the issue of family homelessness?***

All Saints-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church has not only been a supporter of Transition House for many years, but was also very involved in the inception of Transition House in the 1980s.

***How do you or All Saints-by-the-Sea currently support Transition House?***

Personally, my wife and I tithe to the church, which in turn supports Transition House. Since 2005, the All-Saints-by-the-Sea Outreach Committee has donated money to buy student bus passes and school shoes for children residing at Transition House's shelter.

In 2010, All Saints granted Transition House the funds to purchase a much needed new gas range for the shelter. Church volunteers faithfully provide dinner on the second Sunday of each month for families residing at the shelter, as they have done for about 25 years.

***What was your first impression of Transition House?***

I have lived in many communities across the nation. What has impressed me about Transition House is the size and scope of activities to help homeless families with children to overcome the trauma they have experienced and successfully return to stable housing.

***What do you wish other people knew about Family Homelessness***

***or Transition House?***

The number one thing I wish other people knew about Transition House is the people they help. People do not want to be homeless. Homelessness is not a permanent state if people receive help. It can happen to anyone of us.

Also, I don't think people in the community know how to help and the volunteer opportunities that are available to them.

***What might someone be surprised to know about you or All Saints Church?***

I think that someone might be surprised to know how generous the All Saints congregation is with their resources. For example, last year, the church, through its grants program, donated \$180,000 to non-profits.

***Why do you think it's important to donate or volunteer?***

It is a part of our spiritual life to help our neighbors.

***Do you feel you have had a positive impact on the children and families residing at Transition House through your volunteer and donor experience?***

Yes, the church has. I think that has helped the families residing at Transition House know that they are not in it by themselves. Just knowing that someone cares makes all the difference!

**THANK YOU ALL SAINTS-BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOR YOUR UNFAILING SUPPORT!**

Continued from page 1

a big tractor, or a group of dignitaries with fancy gold shovels, digging into a ceremonial pile of dirt. We decided that the first shovelful should be dug by those who would benefit the most—T-House kids! With the help of toy shovels and buckets, a group of children cared for in our infant care center “began construction!” Messy—but fun!

The Mom's Project will be completed in March 2012. To follow our progress, check our website or facebook page for photos from the construction site. ↑



Mayor Helene Schneider digs in with the kids.

## Transition House 2011 Board of Directors

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## Transition House Clients Share Stories of Success

Jay and Jessica, representing two different client households served by Transition House, recently shared stories about how Transition House made a life-changing impact on their lives. They spoke on April 7, 2011 at the *Mad Hatter Luncheon*, the Transition House Auxiliary's annual fundraising event benefitting our children's programs.

Jay is an older gentleman who received service through Transition House's Homelessness Prevention Program. Jay lives on a limited income provided by Social Security. He is disabled. He was faced with a crisis when he was forced to move unexpectedly from an unsuitable and poorly maintained apartment he had been renting. He lacked the resources for a security deposit and needed help finding a new home.


Jessica moved into Transition House's shelter program in August 2010. She grew up in Santa Barbara and moved out of state with her husband to raise their family. But years of domestic violence caused Jessica to make a daring escape with her three children and return to Santa Barbara. Without

money or a job, Jessica ended up at Transition House.

Jessica and Jay told emotional stories of survival, and attendees were able to learn firsthand the life-changing impact their financial contributions helped to create.

Transition House's Auxiliary would like to thank the following underwriters, sponsors and donors of the *Mad Hatter Luncheon, Springtime in Provence* for their generosity:

Network Hardware Resale, Kathryn and Jeff Dinkin, Bert Curtin, Wood-Claeyssens Foundation, Becky and Pete Adams, Missy and Chuck Sheldon, Beverly and Jim Zaleski, A.H. Gaspar Jewelers, Rabobank, Chef Michael Hutchings, Cos Bar of Montecito, Baroness Jewelers, Laurie Tumbler, Northern Trust, Elisabeth and Michael Smith, Marilyn Sullivan, Gail Shannon, Fidelity Title, Celia Foss, Raymond Kubisch, Melchiori Construction Co., Whitcraft Winery, First American Title, Françoise Morel, Jim Buckley, Boone Graphics, The Berry Man, Amie Parrish, Rebecca Ingram, Diane White, Four Seasons Biltmore, and with special thanks to John Palminteri.

For more coverage of the event and a complete list of donors please see Transition House's website, [www.transition-house.com](http://www.transition-house.com), under "Our Community/Auxiliary." 



Dotty Livers



Kathleen Baushke, Jay and Jessica



Sam Sosa and Jeannette Sackett

## Sponsor a T-House Child in Summer Camp!

Transition House is providing a free, four-week summer camp experience (*see article, page 5*) for many of our children, but we need help with camp costs for the rest of the summer. Can you help with a \$100 donation? Call 966-9668, mail a donation to 425 E. Cota St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or visit [www.transitionhouse.com](http://www.transitionhouse.com). Thank you!!

**\$100** = **Art Camp**  
= **Zoo Camp**  
= **Surf Camp**  
= **Nature Camp**  
= **Horse Camp**  
= **Sports Camp**



## Summer Fun With a Purpose

This summer, Transition House and the Santa Barbara County Education Office are partnering to create a four-week summer day camp for the children staying at the emergency shelter. Children entering 2<sup>nd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be invited to attend.

The camp will center on literacy, goal setting, and community exploration. Mornings will be spent at the library, where the kids will participate in a summer reading program. During this time, they will be encouraged to explore the library and everything it has to offer. In the afternoon, the kids will break into groups to focus on goal setting and exploring the community.

Children in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will venture to places like the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the Natural History Museum, and the Sea Center. We will talk about the importance of completing junior high and high school and how they can reach these goals.

Children in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will tour several different community colleges and universities. We'll show them that, in spite of their background or family income, they have the ability to attend college and succeed! 🏠

Transition House's children's library provides quiet space for studying. Older kids can use the computers in the library for school projects (left). This T-House dad is helping his son with his homework (right).



## We're Busy Around Here! Here's What T-House Kids are Up To



We're learning to LOVE broccoli...sort of!

T-House outings promote education while providing some fun. Staff and kids visited the Santa Barbara Farmers' Market to learn about local farms and healthy eating. The trip was followed by a cooking project using the foods purchased at the market.



With the help of staff and volunteers, T-House kids learn and create during our Evening Enrichment Program.

# 805 Deli Shares Sandwiches with Families at Transition House

**8** 05 Deli, located at 135 E. Carrillo Street, has been doing business in the community for over four years. When owners Anne and Todd Pazier opened 805 Deli, they wanted a place where the staff remembered your name and your order. They also envisioned a neighborhood storefront where people could come and experience the resources the local community has to offer, plus they wanted their business to invest back into the community.

For the third year in a row, 805 Deli has run its “Buy One, Give One” campaign to raise sandwiches for the families living in Transition House’s Emergency Shelter. During the week of Thanksgiving, 805 Deli challenges customers to give back to the community by donating a sandwich to Transition House simply by buying a sandwich of their own. Anne and Todd came up with the idea for the promotion when they started to see local non-profits struggle during the economic downturn. They wanted a practical way for customers to continue to be able give to a local cause. Anne and Todd hoped that when a customer was eating their own lunch, they could imagine someone living at Transition House eating a lunch they donated. This past year, 256 sandwiches were donated through the “Buy One, Give One” campaign.

Anne says she is excited to continue supporting Transition House and feeding the families staying in our shelter. 805 Deli generously has offered to run another campaign to continue “raising” sandwiches for Transition House. Thank you, Anne and Todd, for continuing to feed our families at T-House! 🏠



## T-House Sandwich Coupon

When you take this coupon to 805 Deli, located at 135 E. Carrillo Street, and purchase a sandwich with combo meal, 805 Deli will donate another sandwich to Transition House. Or, mention this newsletter when you are placing your catering order for 10 or more and 805 Deli will donate five sandwiches to Transition House.

## 2010 STATISTICS

Transition House serves over 600 people each year in our shelter, transitional and permanent housing facilities, and in our Homelessness Prevention Program. The following statistics represent clients served during 2010.

### Transition House’s Shelter

Total people served:	389
Number of children:	234
Number of parents:	155
Single parent families:	63%
Two parent families:	37%
Average age of children:	7 years old

### Ethnicity

Anglo	18%
Latino	63%
African American	11%
Native American	3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Other	4%

### Challenges Facing Adult Shelter Clients

Disability	12%
Mental illness	21%
Drug and Alcohol Disorder	34%

### Education Level of Adults

Graduated from High School	52%
Graduated from College	22%

### Employment/Income

Employed during stay	89%
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### Disposition at End of Shelter Stay

Permanent Housing	56%
TH Housing	20%
Other shelter or motel	4%
Moved in with Relative	9%
Unknown	12%

### Homelessness Prevention Program Participants

Parents and Children:	217
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### Where All Our Clients Came From:

City of Santa Barbara	79%
City of Goleta	13%
City of Carpinteria	4%
Other areas in County	1%
Ventura	2%
Outside of County	1%



Continued from page 1

of magic held in that presentation. It's wrapped with color and uniquely decorated," added Nancy.

They are not only providing cupcakes and a beautifully wrapped gift, they are also providing consistency in an unpredictable and sometimes chaotic lifestyle. "If they (the children) have been at the shelter for a while and have seen other children receive cupcakes and presents then they know they can count on us; they know their birthday is going to happen," said Nancy.

Having been friends for over 30 years, Nancy and Jill have a relationship suited perfectly for this line of service. Volunteering has become a generational tradition within their families. Nancy's father used to take her to Skid Row in Los Angeles to volunteer with the homeless, and, this past Christmas, Jill's granddaughter volunteered to help wrap gifts. It is the bonding through a shared experience among friends and family that make volunteering such a meaningful activity.

When asked about the impact their volunteer experiences have had on their

personal lives, Jill replied that, "It doesn't seem like we do that much, yet we get so much out of it. A lot of the time I am driving away from the shelter and I just imagine the smile on a child's face. If everyone just played a small part, then the world would be a much better place. On the day we are making the cupcakes it is a slowing down of our chaotic lives. It slows me down and makes me reset my gratitude for all I have," continued Nancy.

Volunteering also brings to light another reality of which many are unaware. "I have always been aware of the homeless situation, but volunteering has really made me aware of the needs of families. A lot of us are just a paycheck away from being homeless,"

*"It doesn't seem like we do that much and we get so much out of it. A lot of the time I am driving away from the shelter and I just imagine the smile on the child's face. If everyone just played a small part then the world would be a much better place."*

remarked Jill.

"Because of the unique image of Santa Barbara (as a wealthy enclave in southern California), the stereotypical homeless person or family carries a stigma not based on reality or truth. We continue to see that many families look similar to how we look—you could pass them in the street and you would not imagine that they had fallen on hard times," said Nancy. She continued, "You can't hide from it statistically or internally when you walk inside Transition House and see those families. That's one of the reasons it is important to volunteer—there is no just walking away from




Nancy, left, and Jill serve up birthday cupcakes.

the need when you see it firsthand."

Since they seem to get so much back from volunteering at Transition House, we asked Nancy and Jill what they thought was essential to a good volunteer experience. Nancy replied, "It is essential to follow the lead of the people who are in charge. Jill and I have been very conscious of what staff needs from us."

"You have to be very flexible with whatever is needed," said Jill, "because it is the clients' needs, the families' needs that dictate what we do."

Jill and Nancy have always been willing to accommodate any special requests made by families. "There was one teenage boy who was much older than the kids we usually bring cupcakes for, but his mother really wanted him to have a special birthday. We were delighted to fill her request."

Each month, without fail, Jill and Nancy continue to bring beautifully decorated cupcakes to the children staying at T-House. The cupcakes are of immeasurable value to the kids, Jill and Nancy feel, "It's a very small thing that we do, but it keeps that door open to our awareness and our compassion." 



THE WAY HOME  
Transition House

425 E Cota Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 966-9668  
www.transitionhouse.com

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You Are Invited!

Transition House Annual Volunteer  
and Family Picnic

Sunday, May 22, 2011  
Oak Park • Main Picnic Area, 300 West Alamar Avenue

Join us for Santa Maria style barbecue, music, games, and a chance to relax and be pampered by Transition House staff. Please RSVP by May 18 to Jett Black, 966-9668, ext. 115. We'll see you there!



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and their employees who support  
us by supporting United Way of  
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