



HOUSEWORK

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

Infant Care Center Threatened by Funding Loss

Transition House has unexpectedly lost a portion of the funding it has relied upon for its Infant Care Center. As a result, they are in danger of being unable to provide licensed day care for some of their youngest clients. While the search for help goes on, the Center remains open—for now.

“Low or no cost infant care is a critical tool needed by families to help them climb out of homelessness. You can’t find work if you have a child but no childcare. And you can’t pay for childcare if you don’t have a job,” says Transition House executive director Kathleen Baushke. “We are frantically searching for alternatives. The current economy makes that difficult, but the prospect of families returning to the streets and raising their babies in cars or campgrounds is not an acceptable alternative.”

The sudden loss of some expected funding for the Infant Care Center comes at a critical time, however, as Transition House is in the midst of constructing a larger center to respond to overwhelming community need. The new infant care center, which will double capacity to 25 babies, will not be completed for six months. To bridge this gap and avoid turning away infants in need, Transition House is working hard to secure other sources of funding for the Center. Transition House hopes that new sources of money from the community will be found to support

current operations as well as expanded operations next year.

The agency recognizes that helping homeless families is a two-way street, says Baushke, but the agency needs to keep the street open. “Once a family can contribute to the cost of care, they do,” she says. “Consider the ‘Johnson’ family that lost work as a result of the recession. Mom and Dad were given free, part-time care for several months while they searched for employment. Both eventually found work and saved every dime they could for housing. They were able to move into an apartment and are now making a financial contribution to the cost of their little girl’s daycare.”

The Center employs skilled and licensed staff trained to address the particular challenges children in poor families face.

“Children in this population often experience poor nutrition, health problems, and developmental delays at a higher level than housed children,” says Baushke. “Our Center offers high quality care, coupled with case management based on a team approach. This combination provides parents the tools and support that are vital to breaking the cycle of family poverty and homelessness.”

The Center offers the same services



Babies in the infant care center enjoy a juice break.

to eligible infants referred to Transition House by other social service agencies and the County. Several months ago, the Center provided care to a disabled foster child whose high needs would be all but impossible to meet in any other environment. When he entered the Center, his circumstances were quite serious. His physical development and his ability to interact socially were greatly delayed. The progress he has made in these areas has been deemed remarkable by his physician, Center staff, and his foster parents.

The sudden loss of income experienced by the Center threatens its ability to serve this vulnerable population, thereby destabilizing families and reducing the chance for some families to find work and secure housing.

“It is a serious situation,” Baushke says. “We hope the community can help—their support is greatly needed.” ↑

Interview: Glen Serbin Reflects on 20 Years of T-House Service

***Y*ou are a volunteer, individual donor and a Transition House corporate partner! How did you first get involved with Transition House?**

My initial involvement was in 1992 with Congregation B'nai Brith, serving dinner to the clients. This was when Transition House was located at the old Quonset hut two blocks up Ortega Street. It was a different situation in 1992. The nights were long—we left somewhere around 11:00 or midnight. I really liked the program and stayed with it. Once a month, I volunteered. At that time, we made the dinners, then made lunches for the next day after dinner. We made sure everyone was in bed and got everybody to sleep. Somebody would also volunteer to spend the night.

Volunteering was more of a challenge then because it required more of a commitment. It was job a then. People were pretty passionate. Transition House staff now takes more responsibility for the day-to-day oversight than they could afford to at that time.

You have broad experience working with Transition House. For example, you were also a board member. What was that experience like?

I volunteered for maybe five years and then Jill Cordover, the former Executive Director, asked if I would join the board. It wasn't something I was thinking about at the time, but I joined. I was on the board maybe five or six years. I ended up becoming president of the board for two years. It was an interesting experience being president of the board. It wasn't something I sought to do, but the board was small and everyone would take turns with some kind of administrative position. There were two things going on.

One was the purchase of the administrative office building at 425 E. Cota. We were short a half a million dollars for that property. We came up with the idea to just put a plea in the newspaper. We did, and a community member stepped up and wrote that check. Shortly after that, Jill made the decision that she was going to retire and we had to find a new Executive Director.

Your business, Serbin Communications, has supported Transition House since at least 1993! Why do you think it is important for businesses to support local non-profits?

We are all part of a community, so there is a responsibility. Everyone can figure out what their own responsibilities are. But I do feel that we all have a responsibility to give back and be part of a community. For me, what Transition House has always done is to ground me and to make me realize just how fortunate I am. We take so much of what we have for granted. Our health we take for granted. It's hard to have perspective. Volunteering at Transition House gives me perspective, so it's always been a healthy relationship for me.

What inspired you to make that first gift?

I always feel like I'm not giving enough! I know that the money we contribute is going to a good place. I have a really special relationship with Transition House because I don't just write a check or volunteer. When you understand what's going on, it becomes more genuine and more meaningful.

What do you think of Transition House's Program?

I think it serves an important need.



Glen Serbin receives service award on behalf of Congregation B'nai Brith from Transition House executive director Kathleen Baushke

And, it does it really efficiently. I know that because I've been there at the ground level for so long.

It's a unique program world-wide because it's not just a shelter. It is really a program that has an IQ to it; that tries to help people effectively make a transition that is sustainable—that's really the difference of the program, and I respect that a lot. As a result, the "handshake" (with the clients) is a long handshake. There is also energy in the program to figure out housing that is affordable. Transition House answered the problem by developing housing it owns and operates. Santa Barbara and all towns need that—there is a spectrum of need.

Tell me about your volunteer experience at Transition House. What exactly do you do as a volunteer?

Well, basically, my title is shelter manager, so I organize—it's usually the second Thursday of every month—dinner at Transition House through Congregation B'nai Brith. I'll bring the volunteers in and we'll make the lunch and get dinner going. If there is a new resident, I find their bedding and take them to their room and get them situated. It's

very dialed down. And, easy compared to how it was before. We serve dinner. WE do tacos, which is real popular! We used to have these casseroles and they were fine, but now when we serve taco night people love the food. We must get thanked by several people a night for dinner, and everyone is really quiet while they are eating! I don't think we were getting the same result from the casseroles! We are usually wrapped up by 7:00 or 7:15.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about donating or volunteering?

That comes up. People will ask me. To anybody reading this, I would say come there for an hour and make lunches! It's not a big commitment of time. It's an easy way get a feel for the program.

Anything you contribute to Transition House—because it's a small program—goes a long way! It makes a big difference. There are a lot of ways to volunteer your time.

As a volunteer and donor, what sorts of trends/changes have you noticed in those you are helping and in the way Transition House operates?

I would say, 20 years ago it was only a shelter. The level of need was the same, but now the level of...success has changed. In other words, the staff feels that with encouragement certain people can really benefit more from the program than others. And they're looking to try to get that profile. The staff has learned methods to really help people get on their feet, rather than just put a roof over somebody's head for 30 days.

Now the program is a full program. It is not just temporary housing, but a process towards gaining permanent housing. Because Transition House owns permanent housing, people can be transitioned to there.

One big change—and I think it was a major change—was adding the daycare center. Because, if you are a single mom and you are looking for work and you have a child—how do you look for work without childcare? It was an expensive change and it probably still is! It was one of the most expensive parts of T-House, to run the daycare center. But we realized it was fundamental, and that it allowed a mother not only to have the time to interview, but the time to work. I don't know if a lot of people realize how important the daycare center is.

What do you think is the role of Transition House in the Santa Barbara Community?

I think the role is to really help people in the community have the ability to help themselves. I have found, in being a volunteer at Transition House and actually speaking to people, that homelessness cuts across everybody. There are people that I'll speak to who a year ago had their own home, had a job, had a family and one thing led to another, and they don't know how it happened, but they are sitting there in desperation. And, you know, they have always followed the rules. They have done whatever they were supposed to do and the floor got moved out from under them. We all live in a very fragile world and anyone of us could be in that situation as well.

That is where Transition House is, I think, really important for all of the community. It throws a lifeline out to people, and those who can and want to, grab it and pull themselves up, because it's a chance. If you sit and you talk to the spectrum of people at Transition House, and hear many of the success stories that have happened, you realize that disaster hits all kinds of people at different times. You know, there is a diversity of people who are living at Transition House, and that's what makes me feel good about being a part of it. ↑

SB Triathlon

Please take 15 seconds to help Transition House win

Transition House has the opportunity to be the beneficiary of funds raised during the 2012 Santa Barbara Triathlon—as much as \$50,000—but we need your vote to make it happen. Vote online by November 30th for Transition House at www.montecito.com; follow the links to vote for us. Thank you for your support!

Back to School Backpacks, Pens, and Notebooks, Oh My!

Thank you to everyone who generously donated backpacks and school supplies for the children at Transition House. Your generosity allowed Transition House to provide **61** youth with backpacks, pens, pencils and much, much more. Transition House children arrived at their first day of school prepared and ready for the new school year to begin.

Christmas Play Secret Santa to a Child or a Family this Holiday Season

Want to make this holiday season truly special? Fulfill a child or family's wish list, display a collection box with ornament wishes in your office, or host a party benefiting Transition House youth. Play Secret Santa to those who greatly need some holiday cheer and make this season truly memorable!

Wish lists, collection boxes, as well as Transition House literature for parties will be available November 23rd, 2011.

To participate, please contact Transition House at 805.966.9668

Individuals & Families please contact: Xochitl Ortiz, xortiz@transitionhouse.com. Businesses and party hosts contact: Carly Bass, cbass@transitionhouse.com.



THE WAY HOME
Transition House

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(805) 966-9668
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**Programs,
Not Parties**

A huge thank you to all Transition House's supporters who participated in our 7th Annual Help-A-Kid No-Ball, held during August and September. Six years ago, the increasing cost of the Casablanca Ball had our board and staff rethinking how we could maximize the amount of money we raise for our Children's Programs. From our discussions, the No-Ball was born. The concept is grounded in the notion that donors would rather pay to "NOT" attend another fundraising party, and instead see every dollar of their donation go to directly support our Children's Programs, such as Infant Care, Homework Help, Evening Enrichment, Technology and Literacy for Children and more!

The No-Ball continues to be a major success. Underwritten by Transition House's board members, the No-Ball has become a Transition House staple Non-Event, raising over \$80,000 this year. Our sincerest gratitude goes to all our donors who made this year a HUGE success! We look forward to not celebrating with you again next year!

Thank you to all the corporations and businesses that helped make our No Ball a success, especially our friends at Underground Hair Artists; they are

the ones who supplied the stylists and venue for this year's invitation artwork.

- Aldo's Italian Restaurant
- Alma Rosa Winery & Vineyards
- Arnoldi's Café
- Bistro 1111
- Bridlewood Estate Winery
- Brophy Brothers
- Best Western Plus Pepper Tree Inn
- Canary Hotel – Coast Restaurant
- Channel Island Ice Center
- Crushcakes & Café
- Cypress Ridge Golf Club
- Daniel Gehrs Wines
- El Pollo Loco
- Habit Burger
- Hadsten House Inn and Spa
- In-N-Out
- Kahuna Grill
- Kenneth Volk Vineyards
- Los Arroyos Restaurant
- Louie's California Bistro
- Metropolitan Theatres
- McDonald's
- The Natural Café
- New Baja Grill
- Noozhawk
- Olio e Limone
- The Palace Grill
- Paradise Café
- Peabody's Restaurant
- Rancho Maria Golf Course
- Rose Café
- Sanford Winery
- Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens
- Sam's to Go
- Santa Barbara Independent
- Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
- Santa Barbara Sea Landing
- Shine
- Sly's
- South Coast Deli
- Underground Hair Artists
- Via Maestra 42
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