



HOUSEWORK

news from transition house • santa barbara, california • fall 2017

After 24 Years, Transition House Loses Annual HUD Grant for Shelter *By Kathleen Baushke*

Since 1993, \$62,939 from HUD has funded operating costs for Transition House's emergency shelter for families. That funding will now go to the County of Santa Barbara to support a database of homeless people needing housing. Two other programs serving families locally also lost funding.

For 24 years, Transition House has received annual renewed funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support its emergency shelter operations, career counseling and case management functions. In the upcoming fiscal year, Transition House's shelter funding will be reallocated to help pay for a new project designed to identify the most vulnerable individuals to prioritize them to receive "Housing First" and services, if housing subsidies are available. Typically, those individuals will be chronically homeless single men and women who are residing on the streets, or in and out of shelters. Shelter for homeless families with children is no longer a priority.

The decision to reallocate money from Transition House's

program and two others that serve homeless families—Good Samaritan's transitional housing program in Lompoc and Domestic Violence Solution's transitional housing program—came about when the County of Santa Barbara submitted a competing grant application in this year's HUD Continuum of Care funding cycle. Projects in the competition were ranked using a new tool introduced and adopted this year by a consultant from the Bay Area, hired by the County to run the annual application process to HUD. The ranking tool put the County's application above all existing renewal projects. This is the first time in the local HUD funding renewal process that any local agencies had money taken away from them to fund a new project.

It is no secret that government funding, especially federal funding, has become more complex and more regulated. While HUD prioritizes single, chronically homeless individuals and programs that seek to move them quickly into housing regardless of income or willingness to participate in social services, local jurisdictions have the opportunity to rank according to local need. The three agencies serving families that lost money provide programmatic services in a shelter or transitional housing environment designed to help these households return to stable housing permanently.

If there was enough cheap housing or long-term housing subsidies available for everyone who needs it, moving people



Kathleen Baushke
Executive Director



Transition House purchased its emergency shelter building in 1992. In 1993, funding from HUD allowed the agency to begin crafting program services for homeless residents. Pictured, past board president Mike Schley and executive director Jill Cordover celebrating the purchase.

Staff Profile:

Cynthia O'Neill, Shelter Case Manager

Cynthia has been a case manager with Transition House for about four years. She has 10-13 clients at any given time, and since starting here she has worked with approximately 200 homeless families. We sat down with her to get a sense of what it's like to work with homeless families.

What is your favorite part about being a case manager?

Working one-on-one with clients. Because I meet with them for an hour every week, I really get to know them. There is something about getting to know someone's history that is very enjoyable—it's like reading an autobiography. Everyone has a different story and no two cases are exactly the same. I walk into work and anything can happen!

What happens in your meetings with clients?

The biggest thing at first is to get to know them and start to build trust and rapport. Without that we won't get very far. Then we work on addressing any current crisis, and make sure they get the supportive services they need. This is just trying to ensure the client's basic human needs are met. Then we move on to life skills. I talk to them about dressing professionally for interviews and when looking for housing. I help them create a monthly budget, and each week they save receipts and document their expenses. When we meet I make sure they are staying on track. If they aren't, we talk about how to reduce expenses. There can be good reasons for going off budget—like their kid gets sick and they have to pay for medicine. But if they spent a bunch of money on clothes we will talk about taking some of the clothes back, and I point them to resources like

Unity Shoppe where they can get free clothing.

We have a mandatory savings program. We take into account their income and necessary expenses, and then they put 80 percent of whatever is left over into a savings account. So some families may have a \$50 monthly goal and some may have a \$1,000 goal. It makes sense because the savings goal is tailored for each family. We have an internal "banking" system here at Transition House, where clients can deposit and withdraw

All the work we do together goes toward their exit plan—their solution to homelessness. Success looks different for every family.

money easily. Clients appreciate our banking system because they like the accountability, but they have complete control over the money.

All the work we do together goes toward their exit plan—their solution to homelessness. Success looks different for every family. Some may rent a room in the community, or share housing with another family. Others may find a market rate apartment, while others may relocate.

What are some issues that homeless families face?

A lot of our families have experienced trauma. For example, domestic violence. We are very conscious of the impact this has on our clients' emotional state and their ability to meet program goals. We are really careful to make sure we provide a safe space. Also, our expectations shift depending on where the client is in life and their moment of crisis. For ex-

ample, one of my clients is a single mom of three kids who is coming out of an abusive situation. She hasn't yet met her program requirements, like savings or budgeting, because we had



Cynthia O'Neill

to start with the basics. We first had to help her secure child care and get her tied into services for her kids. But she is making progress! We always adjust our approach and expectation depending on where the client is. Focusing on understanding and empathy is important.

What is one of your favorite success stories?

I recently ran into a past client, a single mom of two kids. She went through the shelter program, then moved to Firehouse [second stage]. She was ultimately able to find an affordable apartment in Lompoc. But when she first entered the shelter, she was working a minimum wage job. I knew she could get a better paying job, but she didn't have the confidence right away. I encouraged her and she gradually built confidence, and she ended up getting a job at a veterinary hospital as a receptionist. Six months later she got a raise, and came to Transition House with flowers and a card for me. We both burst into tears! She still has the same job and is doing well years later.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I love my job. It's not always easy, and there are sometimes very hard days. But overall, I love it because I believe in the work that we do. If I didn't believe in our mission, I wouldn't continue to do it 🏠.

Coming Back—and Giving Back—to Transition House

By Wyatt Irwin

Being a teenager is tough, but when you're faced with the cruel reality of homelessness, it makes being a teen that much tougher. I have not lived the easiest life by any means, as I am sure most of us have not. Despite all the hardships and obstacles that have crossed my path, I knew it was only temporary. I will not fabricate anything and say that living at Transition House was the best, because we all know that being homeless is no fun. What I can say, however, is that Transition House did change a lot of things (for the better) for my family and myself. We did not go from rags to riches or anything, but it kept my family safe and sound to be able to get up every single morning to a nice warm shower or breakfast so that we could thrive every single day. It may be a good feeling to move out of Transition House, but it sure is hard to say goodbye.

Just a few years after my final stay at Transition House, I was given the extraordinary opportunity to be a part of the team! I now work as an intern at the Transition House office and it has been a truly amazing experience. It almost feels

unreal. I was highly intimidated by this internship simply because I have heard adults all around me talking about how they absolutely detest their jobs. I now feel comfortable and confident at work daily because I am very familiar with the staff and my fellow co-workers. I am greeted everyday with a warm smile and that makes any employee feel better about their workplace. Transition House did so much for my family, and when I left I asked myself, "What could I possibly do to give back for all the blessings this place has brought me?" I now know exactly what I could do. Being able to help and assist any of the staff so that their workload isn't so massive makes it so the staff can continue to work to their best ability. Knowing that I am able to be of service to an organization such as Transition House makes what I do that much more fun and exciting. It has been an honor and my pleasure working for Transition House, and I can't thank them enough for taking a chance on me. ↑

Editors note: Wyatt's internship took place during this past spring school semester.



Wyatt organized the career clothing closet and helped out with administrative tasks during his Transition House internship.

Partners in Education



Wyatt found work with Transition House through Partners in Education, a nonprofit organization connecting businesses and individuals with south Santa Barbara County schools and the programs that serve them. Partners' goal is to help improve public education in ways that support a more vibrant economy, the health of our community and the well-being of local children and their families.

Partners takes on the role of volunteer recruiter and coordinator for local schools, a responsibility schools do not have the resources to create or maintain effectively. Partners' three main programs include the Volunteer Program which recruits and matches community volunteers to assist in area schools and classrooms when requested by educators; the Internship Program which places students in their senior year in local businesses and non-profits, providing 80 hours of paid work and career development opportunities; and Computers for Families, which aims to place a computer in the home of every student who needs one.

If you would like to learn more about Partners in Education or become a volunteer, please contact them at (805) 964-4710, ext. 4413.

Transition House Corporate Sponsor Highlight

Deckers Brands—A Shoe-In to Support Homeless Families

Deckers Brands has been a supporter of Transition House since 2006, and is widely known as a philanthropic leader in the corporate sector.

Michelle Apodaca, Director, Offices of the Chairman, CEO, COO, & CFO, tells us that Deckers prioritizes programs that support at-risk youth, education, and the environment. In addition to Transition House, they fund organizations like the Food Bank, AHA!, Girls, Inc. of Santa Barbara and Carpinteria, Pacific Pride Foundation, Special Olympics, and our partner Storyteller. They like supporting Transition House because, in Michelle’s words, “it’s not a hand out, it’s a hand up.”

Each year, Deckers gives away upwards of \$1 million to hundreds of or-

ganizations, and in the last 11 years they have donated over \$30,000 to Transition House. They not only give directly to organizations who request funding, but they also donate a percentage of sales from their Deckers Brand Showcase (on certain days) and regularly offer special sales events to selected non-profits and schools. They also let non-profits use their beautiful rotunda for fund-raising events.

For Deckers, it’s not just about writing a check. They actively encourage their employees to get involved with causes they believe in. Many of their employ-

ees choose to volunteer or sit on boards of non-profits, including Katie Brown, who is a member of Transition House’s board. Deckers pays their employees 24 hours a year to volunteer, and last year Deckers employees volunteered over 2,000 hours. Deckers supports their employees further by matching their charitable donations up to \$1,000 per year per employee.

Deckers participates in the advisory board of the Business Giving Roundtable, which is coordinated by the Santa Barbara Foundation. The Roundtable promotes corporate social responsibility, giving programs, and employee volunteerism. As a corporation with a robust corporate philanthropy culture, Deckers acts a mentor for other businesses that are just starting out in this area.

Deckers was founded in 1973, and has 3,500 employees worldwide, including 500 locally. The company is made up of five shoe brands: Ugg, Koolhaurra, Teva, Sanuk, and Hoka One One. Transition House is proud to be associated with such a community-minded company as Deckers Brands, and appreciate their involvement in helping us work to end family homelessness in Santa Barbara. For more information about the company, visit their website at www.deckers.com. 



Deckers employees volunteer at Rise Against Hunger. At right, Deckers headquarters located in Goleta.

WE NEED THESE:
twin sheets • blankets
pillows • towels

Gently used items can be donated to our administrative offices at 425 E. Cota Street Monday through Thursday 9AM to 5PM, Friday 9AM to 4PM

THANK YOU!

Foundation Spotlight

James S. Bower Foundation

The James S. Bower Foundation has been a generous friend to Transition House since 2007, when they first supported us with a \$90,000 grant for our shelter remodel. Since that time, they have made 10 grants worth \$250,000 to support our licensed Infant Care Center.

Our Infant Care Center is a good fit with the Bower Foundation's priority area called "The Early Years." They believe that each child is born with enormous potential and that the sooner they can be given healthy environments in which to grow, the better they will be able to progress through the development stages so critical to their later life.

The Foundation understands that Transition House is serving some of the most vulnerable in our community—homeless and low-income infants and toddlers. Homeless children are twice as likely to have learning disabilities and emotional problems as other children, and fewer than one in four homeless children graduates from high school.

In the Infant Care Center, 50-80 percent of the babies are found to

"How can we ensure that all children and youth have the opportunity to succeed based on their unique individual ability and not be limited by preconceptions of who they are based on their culture, class and race?"

— J.S. Bower Foundation

have some developmental delays upon enrollment. Using an evidence-based approach to infant care, our staff are able to help most babies overcome their delays with no outside intervention.

We are very appreciative of the Bower Foundation's focus on these populations, and for their support of our Infant Care Center! 🏠

HUD Funding, continued from page 1

quickly into housing in all cases would be possible. Some people, especially people with significant health issues, do not do well in shelter programs. However, Santa Barbara has very little affordable or subsidized housing vacant and available.

It takes time and resources to return to housing. The families we serve at Transition House are grateful they can turn to our shelter and the safety it provides, while they save money and look for places to rent.

As you can imagine, it is a huge loss for our agency. This grant was the cornerstone of our annual agency budget for the shelter. We have relied on it every year and it has helped us provide successful outcomes for thousands of family members. While we support all programs that help the homeless, we strongly disagree with defunding a successful agency to fund a new initiative.

In the coming months, we will be fundraising more aggressively, looking for a way to find sustainable support to replace what we have lost. We hope you can help. 🏠



How do you feel? Children's Program Director Caley Mark and her young friend express themselves.

Transition House Auxiliary raises over \$75,000 at this year's Mad Hatter Luncheon

On March 31st, the Transition House Auxiliary hosted the 20th Annual Mad Hatter Luncheon, “*The Golden Age of Hollywood*,” at the Fess Parker Doubletree Resort in Santa Barbara. Raising over \$75,000 for Transition House, this successful event was emceed by Andrew Firestone. The 220 guests in attendance were entertained by Greg Schreiner and his troupe as they performed in authentic 1930’s and 1940’s costumes. Guest speaker Donna Ibarra, Wealth Management Advisor at Merrill Lynch, moved the crowd when she shared her personal story about the challenges of being a 13-year-old girl and homeless in Santa Barbara and how Transition House helped her through a very difficult time.

With live entertainment, a silent auction, raffle, delicious food and the annual Mad Hatter hat competition, this event is always a fun and entertaining afternoon that does so much to help so many. Transition House appreciates the Auxiliary members, sponsors, silent auction donors, friends and guests who come together year after year to raise funds for programs that support the families we serve during their stay at Transition House. 🏠



Auxiliary President Diana Kruse welcomes the guests.

Donors and Sponsors

Oscar Winner \$7,500

Curvature, LLC

The Mad Hatter \$5,000

Jeff Dinkin (Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth)

Missy and Chuck Sheldon

Beverly and Jim Zaleski

The King of Hearts \$2,500

Becky and Pete Adams

Susan Rose and Allan Ghitterman

Montecito Bank & Trust

The Queen of Hearts \$1,000

American Riviera Bank

Richard and Patsy Blake

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Casa Dorinda

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Northern Trust

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Riverbench Vineyard & Winery

Rubicon Theatre Co.

San Ysidoro Pharmacy

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Santa Barbara Symphony

Santa Barbara Winery

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Missy Sheldon

Pat St. Clair

Sally Stewart

Tileco

Tre Lune Ristorante

Upham Hotel

Santi Visalli

Zooker's Restaurant

We Dressed Up So You Didn't Have To!

Transition house would like to send a big thank you to all who helped make our 2017 Help-a-Kid No-Ball a wonderful success. This non-event began thirteen years ago when the decision was made to forego our annual gala event as a way to streamline fundraising efforts. With the No-Ball, we don't have to throw an expensive party, so more money goes toward our Children's Programs. Year after year our amazing donors continue to support a party they don't actually have to attend. This year's No-Ball so far has raised approximately \$100,000 for programs that support shelter children.

We would like to sincerely thank our event Patrons and those who purchased raffle tickets. A special thanks to our Corporate Sponsors as well as the local business who contributed to our fantastic raffle packages. We appreciate your partnership in working to end family homelessness in our community! 🏠

Corporate Sponsors

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Roark Wine Co
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Santa Barbara Trolley Company
Sea Smoke Cellars
Summerland Winery
Toma Restaurant
Tre Lune Ristorante
Wildwood Kitchen



Tis' almost The Season!

The season for giving is quickly approaching. There are a number of ways you can help the children and families living at Transition House to have holidays that are filled with joy and gratitude. Consider joining others to provide a delicious Thanksgiving meal, or become a Secret Santa by adopting a wish list for a family or child and purchasing presents.

For more information please contact:

Diana Garcia
Volunteer Coordinator
Tel: (805) 966-9668, ext. 115
Email:
dgarcia@transitionhouse.com



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Community Open House

Please join us for a brief tour of our emergency shelter for families with children. We will also provide coffee and dessert for those with a sweet tooth!

This is your chance to see the shelter and learn about how Transition House's services, along with the support of community volunteers, help homeless families return to housing.

Date: October 26, 2017

Time: 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Location: Transition House Emergency Shelter
434 E. Ortega St.

For more information, or to R.S.V.P., call 966-9668, ext. 120.

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