

TRANSITION HOUSE • 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



**HONORING OUR HELPERS**

# Thanks for Being a Helper

## Dear Friend,

You may be familiar with Mister Rogers' story about some advice his mother gave him when he was young:

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping. If you look for the helpers, you'll know that there's hope.'"

You are the helper who gives our families hope.

Whether you volunteer, make a monthly donation, or give presents to children living at Transition House during the holidays, you are critical to our work. It takes our donors to make sure there are lights on in the shelter and beds for families to sleep in. It takes the compassion of our volunteers to demonstrate to families that they are not judged for their circumstances, but rather supported while they get back on their feet. All of you give families hope that they can rise out of poverty and back to housing. That's why we are dedicating this year's annual report to you, our volunteers and donors.

2017 and early 2018 was a challenging time for Transition House. Many families were affected by the Thomas Fire and the ensuing mudslide. And while our donors remain generous and dedicated to our cause, federal funding for our programs has steeply declined. This is the result of HUD homeless programs increasingly prioritizing single chronically homeless individuals over families with children. Transition House has been working to cut costs and increase income. We have lost both staffing and some program components. But with your help, we are working hard to keep our programs and service levels intact.

Mister Rogers also says, "There are many ways to say I love you. One of the ways is working as well as you can to bring to others what can be nourishing in their lives. It's an offering of love."

We see what you do for Transition House families as just that—an offering of love. And we thank you.

*Kathleen Baushke*

– Kathleen Baushke  
Executive Director

## OUR MISSION

*Transition House is dedicated to the solution of family homelessness in the Santa Barbara community. Capable and motivated families with children are offered life tools and respectful, non-sectarian residential services designed to alleviate poverty and restore self-sufficiency and dignity.*

Volunteers provide dinner seven nights a week to families. On the cover, a family arrives at the shelter in the evening.



# HOW WE HELP

## Three-Stage Family Housing Makes a Permanent Difference

When families first seek help at Transition House, they are met with compassion by someone who listens to their story. Once a family enters our shelter, they are given a private room where all members of the family stay together. They receive three meals a day, thanks to hundreds of volunteers who provide dinners every night, and who make bag lunches for the next day. This is often a traumatic period for families, so they are given a bit of time to adjust before they dive into the hard work needed to return to housing. They don't do this work alone, though. Parents have highly skilled case managers with them every step of the way. Shelter volunteers are there, too, to lend an ear and give families extra support.

For families who need a little extra time, our second stage offers six months of transitional housing at the Firehouse for up to six families at a time. Some families then continue to our third stage program, HOMES, where they can live for up to two years in one of 33 Transition House-owned affordable apartments while receiving supportive services.

## Anti-Poverty Services Lead to Financial Stability

Transition House parents receive case management, employment support, and anti-poverty classes, which are also available to people who are at risk of losing their housing. Classes cover topics such as ESL, financial literacy, computer skills, and parenting. Volunteers are here, too, helping staff take care of the kids while parents are in classes.

## Caring Adults Foster Resilience in Kids

The most important thing we can do for children who are experiencing homelessness is to help their parents secure stable housing. We also foster resilience among these children by providing parenting classes to help parents better navigate the distress of homelessness with their children. We surround kids with caring adults (including many volunteers) who provide mentorship, warmth, and stability while they are with us. Every evening, school-aged kids receive a little TLC—Technology and Literacy for Children—that focuses on building reading and computer skills. Teens have their own group with facilitated discussions, artwork, dance, and academic support. Babies are enrolled in our sliding scale licensed Infant Care Center, which supports them in healthy development while allowing their parents to find full-time work. Volunteers help out in the Center to make it as warm and welcoming for the babies as possible.



Families receive everything they need to rebuild their lives.

# WHO WE HELP

## Anna is Going Places Now

**Out of desperation, Anna finally went to Transition House. Now she's putting her life in order and wonders why she didn't come to us sooner.**

I was renting a studio, but with only one income it was difficult to stay on top of bills and necessities like food. Eventually I wasn't able to keep up with the rent. Lo and behold I got evicted.

My mom encouraged me to try out Transition House, but my pride wouldn't let me. When I was younger, we lived across the street from Transition House, but I didn't really know what it was. I had a lot of negative judgements about it.

Out of desperation, I finally decided to get on the Transition House waiting list. After a couple of weeks, we got offered a spot in the shelter. We had been staying in a motel prior to that.

At first I was upset, angry, embarrassed. But after a week I realized I should have done this years ago. How could I have been so blind, proud, and naive about it? This program is great. I was so afraid of all the rules and the structure. I thought it was just the kids who needed structure, but it turns out that I needed the structure.

Since I came here I've met with three different volunteer screeners and they've all been awesome. I most recently met

with Gray, who makes me feel at home and gives me a sense of peace. She's supportive of my moving forward in my position at work, and gives me words of encouragement. She sees me as very professional and I need to hear those things. *(Read more about Gray on page 7.)*

My life is starting to get put back in order. My case manager, Cynthia, helped me find bus transportation in the mornings for my kids to go to school. She is working with me on finding day-care for my two-year-old. I've been with my job for three years, and Cynthia encouraged me to get the training I need to move into a higher paying position at my company.

My two older boys have commented several times that this is the best home we've had. For the first month when we would get home they would announce, "We're home everyone!" Seeing them look forward to coming home to Transition House definitely lightens my heart. It makes me feel like I'm doing the right thing for them.

The best feeling is coming home to staff that are welcoming. When everybody is getting along and laughing, that gives me a sense that this is my family. This is what I always longed for. Just having that security, that warmth, and feeling like this is where I should be.

In every way possible I want to pay it forward. When new residents arrive they ask, 'How did you feel when you first got here?' I try to put their minds at ease. For me that's paying it forward, letting them know it's going to be okay, telling them, 'You're in good hands. You will be taken care of. You just have to want it. You have to move forward, just keep doing the right thing.'

Now I'm in a good place mentally and emotionally. My energy is lifted and I'm not so down and frustrated all the time. I keep coming back to asking myself, why didn't I do this sooner? I feel like I'm going places now.



Anna is a single mom of three boys, ages two, five, and six. Miguel, on her lap, is the youngest.

“At first I was upset, angry, embarrassed. But after a week I realized I should have done this years ago. How could I have been so blind, proud, and naive about it?”

—Anna



# THE HELPERS

## Unity Church: Feeding Families for 34 Years

**Volunteer shelter dinner providers are helping those who are trying to help themselves.**

Unity Church of Santa Barbara has been involved with Transition House for 34 years. Kathy Elizalde, a member of the Unity Church dinner provider group for the last seven years, shares her story in her own words:

“Our group from Unity Church serves on the 29th of every month. We just love the people. It is so fun when you see someone pregnant one month and the next month you come and they are holding their baby. It’s like we get to be a part of their life for a little while.

Our favorite part is talking with the little kids. They all say thank you for everything we give to them. And we visit with them at the tables when they are eating and some of us sit and eat with the families too. One really fun thing is that we make

the dinner but don’t have to clean up! The residents do all the clean up afterwards. We just buy the groceries, and cook and serve dinner.

In terms of food, we do the exact same menu every month. It’s chicken dogs, chili beans, green salad, corn chips, and for dessert we serve fruit because we like to keep it low-sugar. Transition House just sent out a notice of all the healthy foods and food groups we are supposed to serve, and we passed!

Volunteering is something that I believe in—helping, loving, and caring for others. Shelter residents are people who are trying to help themselves, and if I can help them in any way, then I want to do that. And I think all of us feel this way. It’s not work. We love it!



Volunteer dinner providers in the shelter kitchen



Gray believes in the importance of helping others.

## Gray Felstiner

### Volunteer shelter screener has been an ear for families for seven years

I have been with Transition House for about 7.5 years. I heard about it and I thought that sounded interesting because I am a family therapist. When I realized that Transition House serves families with children I came running over.

My role as a screener is to give support. Support for what is good and happy as well as support for what is not so good and not so happy. I am really just an ear to listen to the residents and help communicate anything that is needed to the appropriate staff.

What is most impactful for me is seeing the courage of these families. I enjoy seeing the ones who are really brave, and I enjoy giving a little extra support to the ones who might be having a harder time when they first come in.

It is hard for me to talk about why it is important for me to volunteer at Transition House. What I can say is, what if we all lived our lives with the heart to do for others? I live my life with the premise that we are one family. I like to say I have the life of Riley, which means a super life with no problems. I was never hungry, I was never roofless. But what I do know is the importance of helping others who have suffered.

I have been profoundly touched, moved, and taught by the families here. I often see families one year, two years, three years later in the community and they always say, 'Thank God for Transition House. It is the best thing that ever happened to me.'

## Kristin Linehan

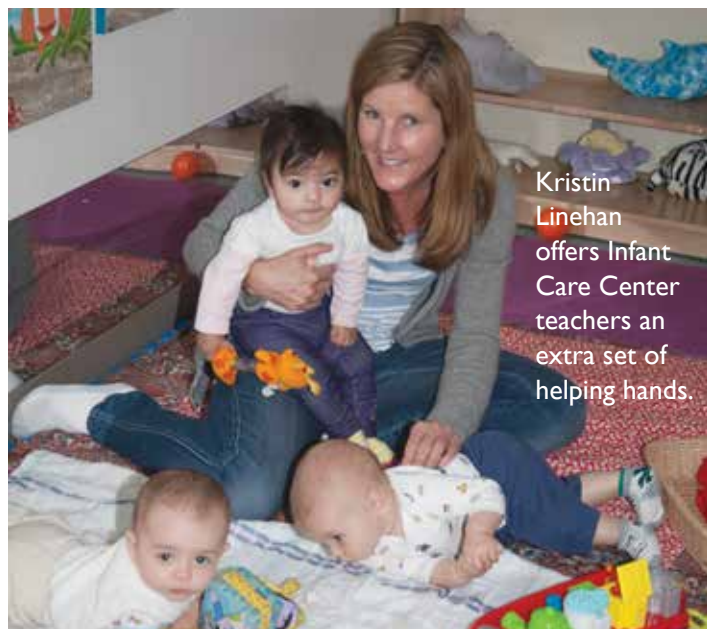
### Infant Care Center volunteer wants to help change the cycle of homelessness for babies.

I go to the Infant Care Center once a week to hold babies, help feed them, and just give them a little extra love and attention. Some of them are as young as six weeks, and sometimes the teachers just need another set of arms to help out. I enjoy giving the babies a little one on one time. They are full of joy and they are so innocent. I look at this little six-week-old and think they can become anything they want. They can change the cycle.

The parents are trying to change their lives by committing to life at Transition House. They have to be following the program—they have to be sober, they have to be going to work or school—but they are also given support services. And I am doing my little part to help. I am just holding a baby so the parents can help themselves get to a steadier place in their lives.

I also help make dinners for the shelter a few times a year with a group of friends. In being a dinner provider I get to know the whole family. I was thinking about one family I met and I wondered if the shelter was a hard place for their fourth grade boy to move into, and so I asked him how he was doing. He said 'I love it! I have friends. I have a room, and I even have my own bed! And I love all the great meals.' It was just the best news to hear!

Public service and volunteering have always been a part of my life, so that is what I have tried to instill in my own children. In our family it is just a given, as it is in my friend group as well. It isn't something we have to do—it is something we want to do. All of us who live in Santa Barbara are pretty blessed. If there is a way to help others also feel blessed, that is something that everyone wants to be a part of.



Kristin Linehan offers Infant Care Center teachers an extra set of helping hands.

# IMPACT OF YOUR HELP IN 2017



**629**

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers generously gave 17,520 hours of time to our families.



**74%**

## **SUCCESS RATE**

The majority of families succeed in transitioning to stable housing.



**\$1,581**

## **SAVINGS**

On average, families saved this amount toward move-in costs.



**1,370**

## **DONORS**

The generosity of so many donors makes our work possible.



**88%**

## **EMPLOYED**

Nearly all parents gained or kept a job while in our program.



**291**

## **CHILDREN**

Children make up over 60 percent of those we serve.

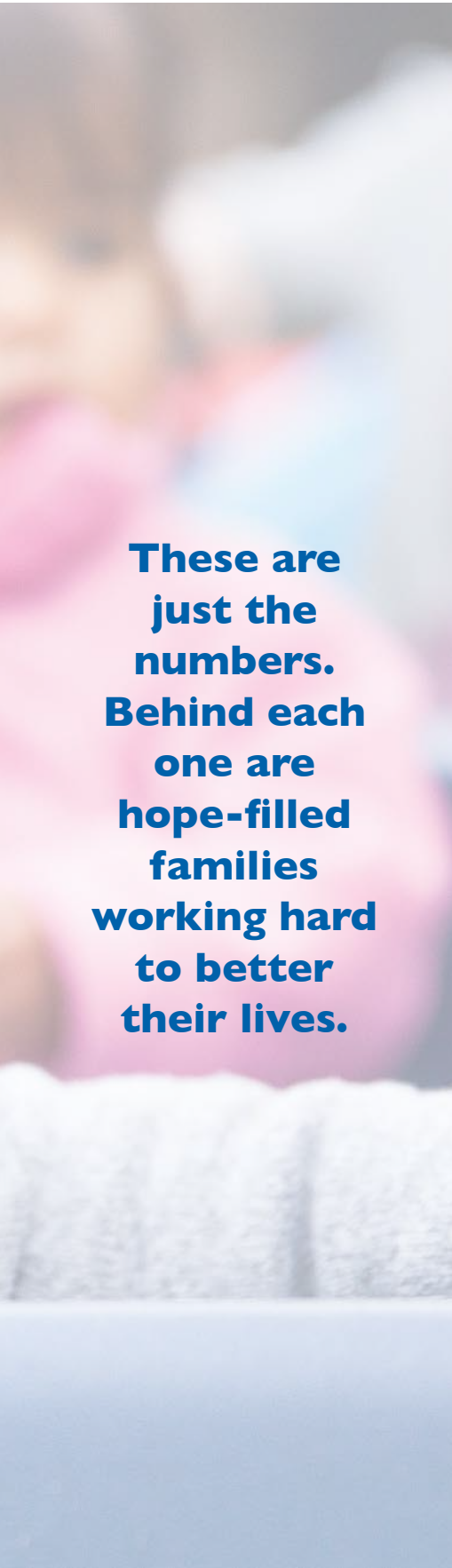


## **80% LOCAL FAMILIES**

Most families come from Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria.







**These are  
just the  
numbers.  
Behind each  
one are  
hope-filled  
families  
working hard  
to better  
their lives.**

# More Ways to Be a Helper

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## Give Time

Serve dinner, tutor kids, help out in the shelter, or join our Auxiliary. Volunteers are the heart of our work!

## Donate Monthly

Sign up to give monthly. It's easy, and you will feel great knowing you are helping homeless families all year long.

## Sponsor an Event

Invest in the success of homeless families by becoming a corporate sponsor of our Mad Hatter Luncheon or Help-a-Kid No-Ball.

## Leave Your Legacy

Secure the future of Transition House until family homelessness is a thing of the past. Planned gifts offer tax benefits while supporting our programs.

## Donate Today

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### Donate Online

Visit [www.transitionhouse.com](http://www.transitionhouse.com)

### Donate Via Mail

Return a donation in the enclosed envelope.

### Employee Giving

Check with your employer to see if they will match your gift.

# More Helpers

## 2017 Dinner Providers

All Saints by the Sea Episcopal Church  
Alto Lucero  
Amazon  
Amie Parish  
Caley and Friends  
Calvary Chapel  
Carpinteria Community Church  
Comfort Food Cooks  
Congregation B'Nai B'rith  
Cottage Hospital 5 South  
El Montecito  
Embracing the World  
Feed Your Soul  
First Congregational Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
Foodtopia  
Free Methodist Church  
Friends of Transition House  
From The Heart  
Goleta Presbyterian Church  
Jessica & Friends  
Kathy Bailey & Friends  
Knights of Columbus  
Live Oak Unitarian  
Living Faith Church  
Montecito Covenant Church  
Mo's Fine Cuisine  
Nick, Laura and Friends  
Ocean Hills Covenant Church  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
Our Lady of Sorrows Church  
Pascucci  
Santa Barbara Church of Christ  
Society of Friends - The Quakers  
Space for Dinner  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
St. Anthony's Community Association  
St. Barbara Parish of the Old Mission Santa Barbara  
St. Mark United Methodist Church  
St. Mark's University Parish  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Unity Church of Santa Barbara  
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## 2017 Corporate Sponsors

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## Donors

### \$50,000 and Above

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Victoria Ward

### \$25,000 - \$49,999

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 Nancy Potter  
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 Angelo Salvucci  
 Santa Barbara Korean  
 Presbyterian Church  
 Douglas and Diane Scalapino  
 Susan and Robert Sheller  
 Alex and Adrienne Small  
 Debra Snyder  
 Shane Stark and Patricia Reilly  
 Stark



# 2017 Financials

## INCOME AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Individuals	\$669,943
Foundations	391,038
Corporations	91,137
Federal Government	460,505
State/Local Government	292,893
Churches	25,999
Rental Income	359,932
Fundraising & Events	221,018
In-kind	475,994
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,988,459</b>

## SERVICES AND OVERHEAD

Program	\$2,421,107
Management & General	242,300
Fundraising	255,527
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,918,934</b>

Eric and Nancy States  
Deborah Steffen  
Regan and Mary Stern  
Sally Stewart  
Tracy Stouffer  
Marilynn Sullivan  
Jean Svoboda  
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