# TRANSITION HOUSE • 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Keep the Faith... We'll Be Together Again Soon

By Kathleen Baushke, Executive Director

# 2021 FINANCIALS INCOME AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Individuals	\$966,497 (27%)
Foundations	583,421 (17%)
Corporations	163,817 (5%)
Federal Government	266,892 (8%)
State/Local Government	t 434,398 (12%)
Churches	32,999 (1%)
Rental Income	413,832 (12%)
Fundraising & Events	411,998 (11%)
In-Kind Donations	246,677 (7%)
Total	\$3,520,531

## SERVICES AND OVERHEAD

Program \$	52,750,703 (84%)
Management & General	285,697 (8%)
Fundraising	249,817 (8%)
Total	\$3,286,217

he title of my letter in last year's Annual Report for 2020 was "A Year Like No Other." I almost want to laugh when I think of it as I also ponder my title for this 2021 letter. If coming out of a pandemic resembles an awakening, in 2021 we wanted to scream, "Wake up already!" Well, finally, we did, although 2021 felt like we spent most of the year slowly stepping out of bed and putting our feet gingerly on the ground.

Much of 2021 was spent working to maintain the sanity of our shelter families, and frankly, our own! The year was spent riding out the pandemic and visiting and revisiting our Covid-19 operating protocols. We went from the harsh conditions of keeping families completely and totally separate at all times in the shelter, to considering methods that would allow case managers to meet with families in-person, and to reinstituting our children's programs.

During 2021, we continued to operate without our onsite volunteers. Those included our dinner provider groups, our children's program volunteers, our screeners, and others. Thankfully, we continued to be blessed with our exemplary board of directors and our Auxiliary. They stepped up in so many ways to help our staff feel supported. They inspired us to keep doing the work of helping parents and their children.

We also spent much of the year asking our volunteers to keep the faith and ride out the pandemic with us. We asked them—begged them—not to drift away. Not only did we miss them and the work they helped us accomplish; we also missed their friendship and camaraderie!

Practically and emotionally, we couldn't afford to lose our volunteers. Before the pandemic, we counted over six hundred unique volunteers annual-

ly, including those who were members of service groups.

We couldn't imagine having to rebuild those kinds of relationships from the ground up.

Even though the way we operated the shelter had changed, we continued to help families get back into housing. We stayed true to our case management methodology. We found opportunities in the midst of the economic upheaval created by the pandemic. In 2021, roughly 76 percent of shelter families returned to stable, permanent housing.

We also lent a hand case managing families from the community that received CARES rental assistance from United Way to prevent eviction as a result of Covid-related economic events.

Towards the end of 2021, we began to plan ahead. "Enough of the pandemic!" we cried. We set a date for the 2022 Mad Hatter luncheon. We started writing curriculum for our evening children's programs. We surveyed our food provider groups to see what they would need to feel safe in the shelter once more. We dusted off the computers in the lab of the Family Support Center and prepared to reopen the Center and classes.

Then, at the end of 2021, the Omnicon variant hit big time! :-o

Don't worry—I know this is the 2021 Annual Report, but I won't end it on this note. We can cheat! All those things we'd planned for at the end of 2021 have actually happened. Food providers are back, children's programs are back, evening classes are back, and the Mad Hatter luncheon was a huge success! Thanks for keeping the faith—it is good to be together again!



# **Our Mission**

(D)

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.

# TOGETHER, WE HELP FAMILIES



Thanks to you, families like Krystal and her son, Logan, are finding "peace" and the tools to build a better life at Transition House.

# **Krystal's Story**

ransition House has been a savior to me in the most crazy and uncertain times. These past few years have been an unpredictable roller coaster of emotional ups and downs. Not just for me and my son, but for all of us. I had never felt so unsure about the future then I did when COVID-19 hit.

Just after having my son, I lost my job of 10 years. I then began a career in hospitality, which was a bit challenging as a single parent. After only one year in my new profession, COVID shutdowns began. I found myself struggling to maintain a residence on unemployment alone. That's when I came to Transition House.

We found a community and friends with compassionate hearts, understanding minds, patient ears, and helpful hands at Transition House. Everything offered in the program provided me with a foundation to create a stable, secure, and structured future. It was exactly what we needed.

The children's program has offered my son and other children tremendous support, like homework assistance and teen weekly programs, as well as my son's favorite, the evening enrichment program. My son gets to participate in story time, outdoor play, field trips, and other activities that help nurture a positive and confident individual.

From the volunteers who generously provide us with delicious meals each night, to the support staff, thank you all for making us feel at home. All your efforts have given me the ability to work towards building a strong foundation for my son and our future.

# YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND IMPACTS



## VOLUNTEERS Pre-pandemic, Transition House was supported by over 600 volunteers annually. Slowly, volunteer opportunities are returning.



# I,375 DONORS The generosity of our donors makes our work possible.



# SUCCESS RATE

The majority of families succeed in transitioning to stable housing.



# EMPLOYED

Nearly all parents gained, maintained, or increased employment income while in our program.



# \$2,706 SAVINGS

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



# CHILDREN Children from the

shelter, our other housing locations, and from the community participated in a variety of programs.



The vast majority of shelter families come from the Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria areas. Five percent come from Santa Maria and five percent are from Ventura. Only one percent come from outside the area.

# HOW IT WORKS

Transition House's target population is Santa Barbara area homeless families with children, and families and individuals at high risk for homelessness. Shelter client demographics in 2021 were as follows: 62 percent children; 68 percent Latino, 18 percent Anglo, 8 percent African American, 4 percent Native American, and 2 percent other ethnic groups; 71 percent were single-parent families. In 2021, we served a total of 425 individuals (129 families) through all our programs. Our programs include:

#### Three-Stage Family Housing

**Program:** The first stage begins with a 90-day stay at our 70-bed emergency shelter. At the shelter, families recover from crises, establish realistic goals with the help of a case manager, work on employment, and start to save money. The second stage offers six months of transitional housing at the Firehouse for up to six families at a time. Families continue to work on education and employment, and participate in the mandatory savings program. Families may then continue to our 33-unit thirdstage program, spending two years in an apartment with supportive services.

#### **Homelessness Prevention**

**Program:** The goal is to prevent low-income households at high risk for homelessness from losing their housing. We provide education that helps adults increase wages, improve English skills, and increase family stability. We provide referrals for mental health and childcare services, and we try to ensure long-term success by helping eligible clients apply for permanent low-income housing. We also offer emergency rental assistance and one-onone case management when needed.

# **Family Support Services:** Our family support services are critical to families' success in achieving permanent housing. Parents receive personalized case management and enroll in onsite classes such as career development, English, computer skills, budgeting, and parenting.

#### Homeless Children's Programs:

Homeless and low-income families can receive free or subsidized care through our licensed Infant Care Center, which can serve up to 20 babies. School children participate in specialized evening enrichment programs—including a literacy program—that aim to break the cycle of poverty for children who are at highest risk of becoming homeless as adults.

# Our three-stage housing story

A family waiting to enter the shelter in 1992

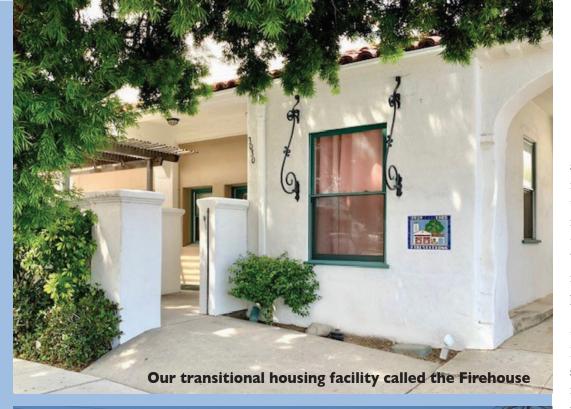
Although Transition House was founded in 1984, we did not own our shelter space until 30 years ago when we purchased 434 E. Ortega Street.

Thanks to volunteers under the guidance of a dedicated contractor named Mark Luria, the building—which was once a factory—was transformed in 1992 for use as a sheltering space. At that time, Transition House served single men and women along with families. The dormitory-style sleeping space required men and teenage boys to sleep in separate quarters, away from other family members.

With added space available for programming, we opened an infant care center and began our career development and case management offerings.

Several years after the purchase, Transition House leadership decided to narrow its scope of service to families with children. With that, we realized that separating families by gender and age was a flawed policy, and a recipe for failure. In 2006, we undertook a massive remodel and created separate family sleeping rooms. Today, 18-20 families live in the shelter for up to four months or more, while they work to improve their financial situations and gain the skills needed to maintain stable housing.





Mom's apartments, including our onsite licensed infant care center and our administrative offices, are also part of the HOMES program



Over the years, it became apparent that some families needed much more time than the average shelter stay of four months would allow to address all their barriers to stable housing. Yet extending shelter stays past six months often led to a decline in progress.

With this in mind, we opened a transitional housing facility—the Firehouse—in 1996. Families can stay for six months. They have more privacy and autonomy, and pay a portion of their income in rent, all while continuing case managment and working towards their goals.

We acquired and developed Casa Marianna and Mom's apartments in 1998 and 2012 respectively, bringing the units in our third stage supportive housing program called HOMES to 33, with two more units available for property managers. Families that are accepted into the apartments continue with case management. Most families move on after several years, opening up units for shelter families who follow them.

> Casa Marianna apartments, part of our third stage HOMES program

# **2021-2022 SHELTER DINNER PROVIDERS** Our dinner provider group volunteers nourish bodies and souls—they let families know that neighbors care.

**Serving Since** 

Meal Provider Group	Serving Since	Meal Provider Group	Servin
All Saints-by-the-Sea Episcopal Chu	ırch 1985	Living Faith Church	
Amazon	2016	Marissa Bernstein-Rivera and Family	
Buen Provecho	2015	Montecito Covenant Church	
Cambridge Drive Community Chui	rch 1984	Mo's Fine Cuisine	
Carpe Data	2022	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church	
Comfort Food Cooks	2015	Renegades Soccer Club	
Congregation B'nai B'rith	1984	Santa Barbara Zoo Board of Directors	
Cottage Hospital Nurses	2014	Space for Dinner	
El Montecito Presbyterian Church	1988	Spiritualist Church of the Comforter	
Embracing the World	2001	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	
Feed Your Soul	2011	St. Anthony's Community Association	
First Congregational Church	1985	St. Barbara Parish	
First Presbyterian Church of Santa	Barbara 1984	St. Mark's University Parish	
Free Methodist Church	2014	Sylvia and Friends	
From the Heart	2015	Team Chumash	
Geosyntec Consultants	2022	Trinity Episcopal Church	
Giving Back SB	2019	Trinity Lutheran Church	
Goleta Presbyterian Church	1984	Unity of Santa Barbara	
Knights of Columbus No. 1684	1989	Vedanta Society of Southern California	
Live Oak Unitarian Universalist	1987	Waypoint Church	



# **2021 DONORS**

# Thanks to the commitment of our donors, we are making meaningful progress in the fight to end family homelessness.

#### \$50,000+

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Our Auxiliary is a women's leadership group dedicated to raising funds for our children's programs.

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Our board of directors are champions for the homeless families we serve. We thank them for their unwaivering commitment to Transition House's mission and vision.