# TRANSITION HOUSE • 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



# 2020: A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

By Kathleen Baushke, Executive Director

# 2020 FINANCIALS

### INCOME AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Individuals	\$885,765 (30%)
Foundations	525,607 (18%)
Corporations	79,271 (3%)
Federal Government	404,895 (14%)
State/Local Government	t 271,555 (9%)
Churches	45,274 (2%)
Rental Income	428,841 (12%)
Fundraising & Events	204,306 (7%)
In-Kind Donations	32,056 (4%)
Total	\$2,977,570

### SERVICES AND OVERHEAD

Program \$	52,443,021 (84%)
Management & Genera	255,731 (9%)
Fundraising	215,938 (7%)
Total	\$2,914,690



Somehow, we survived it. Covid-19 tested the resilience of Transition House's board and staff. We went from an agency of 34 staff members supported by over 600 volunteers annually to 29 staff members and only 50 volunteers. Yet we figured out how to modify our services to provide safe and secure shelter and program services to 72 families, over 70% of whom moved on to stable housing in the community.

Transition House is a homeless shelter and supportive housing program for families with children. We provide a comprehensive antipoverty program delivered by case managers and a career development specialist. Parents in our program are required to work and save money so they can one day move back into housing in the community. Transition House also offers a multitude of children's programs.

When the pandemic began, the shelter remained open, but we also had to forgo the use of volunteers who provided lunch and dinner to our shelter residents. Instead, we purchase food prepared by a local restaurant We closed our dining room and staff served meals to families in their individual sleeping quarters. We had to write and adopt a new and comprehensive operational protocol isolating each family in the shelter in their own sleeping area with no comingling with other families.

We completely revamped our offices and purchased equipment to enable some staff to telecommute. We created three large meeting areas for case managers to convene with clients. These areas include large conference tables with sneeze guards, safe areas for children to play next to their parents, and technology (including computers, copiers, and printers). These rooms have allowed us to continue offering quality in-person case management services.



Pre-covid, we operated an onsite evening education program for parents. These classes were suspended, and instead we utilized the space for an all-day distance learning program for shelter children.

Due to the pandemic, our expenses increased by over \$400,000 in 2020. This figure includes the cost of food for lunch and dinner, which had been completely donated by volunteers in the past.

### Accomplishments in 2020

Our primary accomplishment in 2020 was that we were able to keep the shelter open to serve the community, even though our capacity was reduced due to social distancing requirements. We served 72 families during the year in our emergency shelter; in a normal year, we serve 100 families.

Staff could not have done this without our amazing Board of Directors who were with us 100 percent. Whenever we had a need, they stepped up and filled it. We are also extremely grateful to our Auxiliary, a group of dedicated women who raised more money for Transition House in 2020 than ever before!

### Children's Programs Changes Due to the Pandemic

After the pandemic began, we were forced to suspend our children's evening enrichment activities and field trips. We turned our resources towards quality remote learning environments for children. We created a remote learning program in our administrative offices that accommodated up to nine children for parents who were working.

For parents who were not yet working, we set up equipment in the shelter including computers and internet access, so they could oversee their own children's remote learning.

# HOW YOU HAVE HELPED



## 50 VOLUNTEERS

Pre-pandemic, Transition House was supported by over 600 volunteers annually. Covid-19 changed that.



### **1,351 DONORS** The generosity of our donors makes our work possible.

# SUCCESS RATE

72%

The majority of families succeed in transitioning to stable housing.



# 81% EMPLOYED

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



# \$2,397 SAVINGS

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



# CHILDREN

Children participated in our distance learning program and our licensed infant care center



# 96% LOCAL FAMILIES

Our shelter families come from the Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria areas. 3% of the remaining population comes from either Santa Maria or Ventura.

Of the 61 children who were school-aged that resided in the shelter during the 2020-2021 school year, 46 attended either the Distance Learning Program or worked with parents who were unemployed and staying in the shelter. Both options provided staff supervision. Six attended school in person (through programs for special needs children, etc.) and four went to a relative's home locally to attend. Five children did not attend due to various reasons including behavioral issues or an unwillingness of the parent to send the child to our program.

While our onsite licensed Infant Care Center (ICC) was closed for three months at the onset of the pandemic, we were able to adopt licensing and CDC guidelines to establish new, safe operating protocols. We reopened the ICC in June 2020, although our service level decreased due to social distancing requirements along with the reluctance of some parents to send their child to care in a group setting. We are now actively working to increase enrollment.

### Looking Ahead in 2021

We are offering homelessness prevention case management services designed to help prevent high risk families who have been sorely impacted by Covid-19 from becoming homeless. Using case management, employment assistance and cash assistance provided through United Way of Santa Barbara County, we are sharing our expertise to help families retain their housing.

Our dinner provider groups have begun cooking again. Vaccinated volunteers are preparing food offsite or in the shelter kitchen. Our staff plate and serve meals to each family in their individual sleeping rooms as we have not reopened our dining room yet.

We hope to reopen our evening classes for adults and our evening children's enrichment offerings by September if we can.

We are so grateful to the Santa Barbara community members and foundations that stepped up and helped us cover our additional costs in 2020. We could not have survived the year without you-**—thank you!** 





"Put your pride to the side, not just for your sake, but for your children. Don't give up, there is hope."

-Sophina, mother of two

# SHELTER LUNCH AND DINNER PROVIDERS

10 Healthy Cooks All Saints by the Sea Episcopal Church Alto Lucero Alvx Capri Amazon Amie Parish and Friends Buen Provecho Calvary Chapel Comfort Food Cooks Congregation B'Nai B'rith Cottage Hospital 5 South Crew de Veer Don and Judy Nason El Montecito Presbyterian Church Embracing the World Emily Izmirian Feed Your Soul First Congregational Church First Presbyterian Church Free Methodist Church Friends of Transition House From The Heart Frontier Technology, Inc. Garden Street Academy Ginger Rubsam Giving Back SB Goleta Presbyterian Church Jessica & Friends Kathy Bailey & Friends Katy Burt Knights of Columbus Kristi Curtis Nick, Laura, and Friends Kyleen Dawson

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# PROGRAMS

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 2020 were as follows: 62 percent children; 71 percent Latino, 18 percent Anglo, 7 percent African American, 2 percent Native American, and 2 percent other ethnic groups; 75 percent were single-parent families. In 2020, we served a total of 370 individuals (111 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 crisis, 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 assure 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.

**Note:** some aspects of our familiy support services and children's programs were suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic.



# DISTANCE LEARNING

In August of 2020, Transition House created the Distance Learning Center to provide supervision during online schooling for children of working parents living at the shelter. Headed by one of our beloved staff members, Jonathan Keck, the program began outdoors, in front of the shelter with younger students in the age range of six to eight years old. They took part in arts and crafts, reading, board games, relay races, and were encouraged to take part in lively activities and exercises during school breaks. A month later an older group began to join, and as each student's schedule began to conflict, focusing on schooling became the priority.

In November, due to construction and cold weather, the kids were moved indoors to a two-classroom setting. In February, as the world slowly began to open back up and childcare opportunities arose, the initial younger group stopped attending the program and the older group began to increase in numbers. The program ended up giving our students an environment that was equipped with academic resources so they could focus on their studies. Jonathan Keck recalls, "The kids were great, it was a excellent opportunity, and the parents were extremely grateful to have a place to bring their kids while at work where they knew the children would get their school-work done."







# INFANT CARE CENTER

One of the most important services our supporters enable us to offer to families is free and low-cost care through our licensed Infant Care Center (ICC), which allows parents to work full-time while knowing their children are receiving compassionate, high quality care. Last year, indeed a year like no other, our Center faced challenges that none of us could have prepared for.

Nothing about operating an infant care center during the pandemic was easy. We closed our Infant Care Center (ICC) doors on March 17, 2020. When we reopened 3 months later, everything our ICC staff had once done so smoothly suddenly needed to be reevaluated and modified. We had to operate with reduced hours, smaller group sizes, and numerous new health and safety protocols in place due to licensing and Public Health Department/CDC requirements.

Transition House was able to continue to employ ICC staff during those months of the Center's closure. Childcare is not a job that exactly lends itself to working from home! However, during closure our teachers stayed committed to keeping families engaged. They posted fun activities, parent resources, "Check-In" videos and held virtual circle times with the children. It turns out that in many ways, working with children helped prepare our teachers for what it would take to navigate the uncertainty of operating an infant care center during a pandemic. As early childhood educators they knew how to pivot, adjust, and handle the situation that was right in front them. Teachers also took this time to complete trainings and attend workshops through online platforms. Natalie Robinson, our Infant Care Center Site Supervisor, spent numerous hours staying up to date on the quick unfolding of COVID information from Public Health, while educating herself on how to safely reopen the Center.

It feels good to finally begin getting back to some version of normal. Our enrollment is increasing as families are returning to the workplace. Parents have adjusted to the new health and safety protocols in place. Our teachers have become accustomed to changes like constant sanitizing, disinfecting and mask wearing.

Infant Care Center teachers knew right off the bat that mask-wearing could present some developmental challenges. Masks reduce the ability of infants to learn auditory and visual cues, such as recognizing when someone is happy, sad or angry. To overcome these potential barriers to learning and communicating, our teachers have opted to wear clear masks. Wearing a mask while chasing wobbly walking toddlers is *not* comfortable, but they do it anyway because they love what they do. Just one more way the ICC teachers show their dedication to meeting the needs of the littlest of learners.

We are most grateful to our donors, funders and community supporters who have made navigating our Infant Care Center through a pandemic possible. Because of you, we are able to ensure that while families are working on building their way back to financial stability, their little ones are receiving the highest quality of care.

# **2020** DONORS

### \$50,000 and Above

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We apologize for misspellings or omissions. Contact ktopar@transitionhouse.com with changes.

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"I thank God for Transition House and the staff that never gives up on the families that need help getting back on their feet."

### -Aurora, mother of four

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"The program works. It is demanding, but there are ways to do it. Use it as a stepping stone and set goals for yourself in the future."

-Transition House mother of four

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"I have everything organized. All the bills are taken care of, and the job allows me the flexibility to pick up the kids. Things got a little tough during the pandemic, but I was able to take care of everything."

-Gregory, father and grandfather, three years after his stay

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