



HOUSEWORK

news from transition house • santa barbara, california • fall 2023

Family Support Center Reopens Its Doors to the Community!

By Gina Whitefoot, Associate Director

The Family Support Center (FSC) is the star of Transition House’s Homelessness Prevention Program. This evening education program offers seminars designed to improve income earning capacity, teach money management skills and goal setting strategies, and promote effective interpersonal communication and parenting techniques. Workshops are also offered that allow participants to improve overall health and well-being and minimize stress.

The FSC is not just for parents from our shelter—now low-income persons from the community who want to gain greater economic and interpersonal stability are welcome to enroll in our free evening workshops. Our four core offerings include *English as a Second Language*, *Mindful Parenting* in collaboration with New Beginnings Counseling Center, *Employment Education*, and *Financial Literacy*. Classes are offered in five-to-eight-week sessions, with each session taking place one night a week, Monday through Thursday. Sessions in both English and Spanish are available for each offering. The FSC is located at our administrative office building at 425 E. Cota Street.

Individuals can also access our drop-in Computer Lab, where they will receive assistance accessing resources designed to bridge the digital divide for families experiencing poverty. Such resources include help enrolling in Covered California health insurance,



Students in the *Mindful Parenting* evening class work on improving their parenting skills while gaining new perspectives.

signing children up for school, income tax preparation, waitlist placement for affordable housing, housing searches, resume preparation and job searches—and the list goes on. In addition, they can benefit from one-on-one training by our staff in a variety of basic skills that range from navigating internet and social media safely, to learning Microsoft Office applications.

To remove barriers parents may face to furthering their education, our Family Support Center offers free on-site childcare during workshop hours. While adults attend classes or access the computer lab, their children can

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Buckley Kelley Place Welcomes Families Home

By Kathleen Baushke, Executive Director

Three formerly homeless families are delighted and grateful to find a place to call home at Buckley Kelley Place, Transition House's newest affordable housing development. The project, located near downtown on Salspuedes Street, welcomed these tenant families in June.

The property's three homes were named for long-time Transition House supporters and shelter volunteers, Jim Buckley and Patty Kelley, along with their two children, Katie and Conor.

The houses were acquired with funding provided by the City of Santa Barbara's Community Development department. The property was purchased early in 2020. But before it underwent extensive remodeling, the original houses were used to isolate shelter families with Covid-19 that were moved there to quarantine during the first two years of the pandemic.

In 2022, Transition House began extensively rehabilitating the houses, including replacing all the electrical and roofing, remodeling kitchens and bathrooms, and doing extensive landscape work. The configuration of the homes includes one three-bedroom and two two-bedroom units, and each has a small private outdoor area that is fenced so young children can play safely.

The three families that now occupy the property include a three-generation household, a single working mom of two, and a disabled mom with her two teenage daughters. They love their new units, the comfortable floorplans, and the wonderful outdoor areas! They look forward to many happy family times spent at home together in the future.

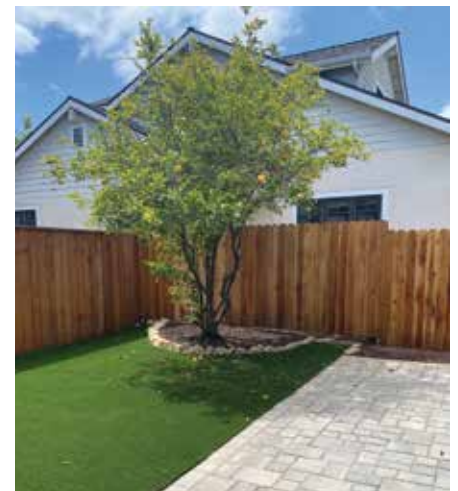


Jim, Patty and Conor celebrate the opening outside of Katie's House.



Each home has been completely remodeled, with a safe fenced play area for children.

The Buckley Kelley family's three decades of service to Transition House's homeless families is truly inspiring. When Transition House acquired the property, there was little question as to who to name it after. After caring for families in the shelter for so many years, we are glad that Jim, Patty, Katie, and Conor will know that their service is celebrated with welcoming places for families to call home. 🏠



Storyteller at Transition House—A Perfect Partnership

By Gina Whitefoot, Associate Director

Transition House is delighted to announce a new partnership with longtime local non-profit and early childhood education center, Storyteller Children's Center, who recently assumed operations of Transition House's licensed Infant Care Center.

Transition House has operated onsite, licensed infant care for families living in our shelter and housing since the early 1990s. We founded the center because in our work with homeless families, we realized a significant barrier to parents getting back to work was the lack of affordable childcare—specifically infant care for children ages six weeks to two years. In addition, we knew that parents who have lost everything are sometimes reluctant to place their children in care—the trauma of homelessness causes Moms and Dads to want to keep their little ones close. Having infant care onsite with caregivers they trust has alleviated the concerns of many parents who are returning to the workforce.

For many years, we have made referrals to Storyteller's toddler and preschool programs. The sole mission at Storyteller Children's Center is to provide high-quality, early childhood education to homeless and low-income families while offering children and their parents comprehensive support services. Many of the babies who began infant care in our facility would


then transfer at age two to Storyteller's toddler facility located about two miles away. Storyteller sets the standard for trauma-informed early childhood education in our community and has been around for over two decades; it made sense to see if there was a way to further our partnership.

In the Fall of 2022, we began meeting with Storyteller leadership to explore the idea of combining forces and having Storyteller run the operations of the Infant Care Center. This would allow both agencies to truly focus on what each does best. Transition House could continue to provide comprehensive case management to support families experiencing housing instability, and Storyteller could expand their offering of therapeutic early childhood education to the youngest of learners. Local funders agreed, and we received encouragement to move forward. Eventually, Storyteller assumed oversight of the Center under its own license, beginning on July 1, 2023, and appropriately changed the name of the Center to Storyteller at Transition House.

Storyteller brings its expertise in early

childhood development to the program, offering better training and advancement opportunities for staff. Storyteller's multiple childcare sites and larger staff-base offer the Infant Care Center many resources to draw from. Storyteller will build upon the care already provided to families in the infant care center, which has utilized ASQ assessments, Learning Stories, and ongoing teacher training.

The terms of the merger give each agency the opportunity to offer its best resources. Transition House is contributing the use of its Infant Care Center facility free-of-charge to Storyteller. Storyteller, in turn, hired Transition House's staff, absorbed the existing clientele, and assumed all operations of the Center. They will continue to provide free or subsidized infant care to our families, and Transition House will offer free, onsite evening parenting classes for all Storyteller parents. These classes work to address gaps in skills, and offer resources to families that need extra support.

We are very excited to see this merger come to fruition, and grateful to the dedicated staff and leadership at Storyteller for working hard to make it happen. 



Storyteller at Transition House's Infant Care staff



Yardi Staff Uses Teamwork to Build Bicycles for Families

By Kathleen Baushke, Executive Director

Yardi Systems, an international property management software company whose headquarters are located in Goleta, has been a longtime supporter of Transition House.

This year, they reached out to see if their staff could make a contribution of bicycles for families living in our transitional housing facility.

They were conducting a training conference for over fifty of their human resources staff members from offices around the world hosted at their Santa Barbara location. They were looking for a service project to include in their conference offerings.

Attendees were unaware that bike building was on the agenda. On the day of the build, they were placed in teams of three people and had to build a bike with only a simple instruction sheet and

a minimal collection of tools.

At first, Yardi staff approached the project with some hesitation; looking up how-to's on cell phones was forbidden. But quickly, their teams attacked the task and found ways to work together to accomplish this goal. There was a professional bike tuner onhand to check each finished bicycle for proper assembly and safety. The pro would also answer one question per team, if needed, during the process.

At the end of the day, beautiful new bikes were assembled and provided to enthusiastic Transition House families, and Yardi staff got to know each other better. One final take-away from the project—it really is better to wear jeans to a work-related conference!

Transition House would like to thank the Yardi human resources team for helping our families! 📌



T-House kids enjoy their new bikes!



We have to do what!?



Yardi staff members dive right in.

Along with providing annual operating grants to Transition House's shelter since 1997, this year, Yardi also provided funding for a new roof for the shelter. We are very grateful for their partnership and their dedication to changing the lives of local homeless families!

Family Support Center, cont. from page 1

do homework, read, and play games with our caring Children's Program leaders and dedicated volunteers. Older children are allowed to spend time in the computer lab doing homework or participating in computer-based lessons such as typing. While at the Family Support Center, children interact with positive adult role models who provide tutoring and supervision, and benefit by witnessing their parents take proactive steps towards improving their family circumstances through education.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from our anti-poverty classes, please refer them to Denise Mendez, Transition House's Education Programs Manager. A current schedule of classes is available at www.transition-house.com/family-support-center/. To register, interested participants should call Transition House at (805) 966-9668 and ask for Denise. 🏠



Free onsite childcare is provided for children and for teddy bears.

O P E N H O U S E

Join us for a tour of our family emergency shelter



Learn more about how we help children and their families work toward a better life.



Thursday, November 2nd
Drop in between 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m.
434 E. Ortega Street

Bring a friend if you'd like!

For more information, contact Gina Whitefoot at
(805)966-9668 or gwhitefoot@transitionhouse.com

CAN YOU HELP? WE NEED:

pillows • towels • twin sheets • blankets (no wool)

Gently used items can be donated to our administrative offices at
425 E. Cota Street Mon.-Thurs. 9AM to 4PM.

THANK YOU!

Hats and Heroes: How You Helped Us!

By Kellie Topar, Development and Communications Coordinator

Mad Hatter Luncheon Garden Party

The Transition House Auxiliary and hat wearing attendees outdid themselves this year! Transition House Auxiliary's 24th Annual Mad Hatter Luncheon on May 11, 2023, themed "Garden Party at the Ritz", was blooming with support. With ticket sales, matching gifts, a silent auction, and other community donations, the 34 ladies of the Auxiliary raised \$175,000 for Transition House's programs for children! A testament to the importance of these programs for children was highlighted when six current Transition House staff members were introduced as having once lived at Transition House shelter as children, and their stories were shared with attendees. Our hats off to all our hardworking Auxiliary members and friends who made this Mad Hatter a great success!

Mad Hatter Friends

Becky Adams
 Darlene Amundsen
 Carla Amussen
 Robert Brown, Guitarist
 Ca' Dario
 Chuck's of Hawaii
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 The Dance Network
 ETC Ensemble Theatre
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 Roberta Miller

Sandy Moss, Jeweler
 Judy Newland
 Grace Pacheco
 Julie Richards
 San Ysidro Pharmacy
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 Santa Barbara Maritime Museum
 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
 Santa Barbara Polo & Raquet Club
 Santa Barbara Winery
 Missy Sheldon
 Luna Paige Smith
 Mary Stern
 Trader Joe's
 Tre Lune
 Underground Hair Artists
 Barbra Valentine
 Mimi Veyna
 Lorraine West
 Diane White
 George Williams
 Parm Williams

A Superlative No-Ball

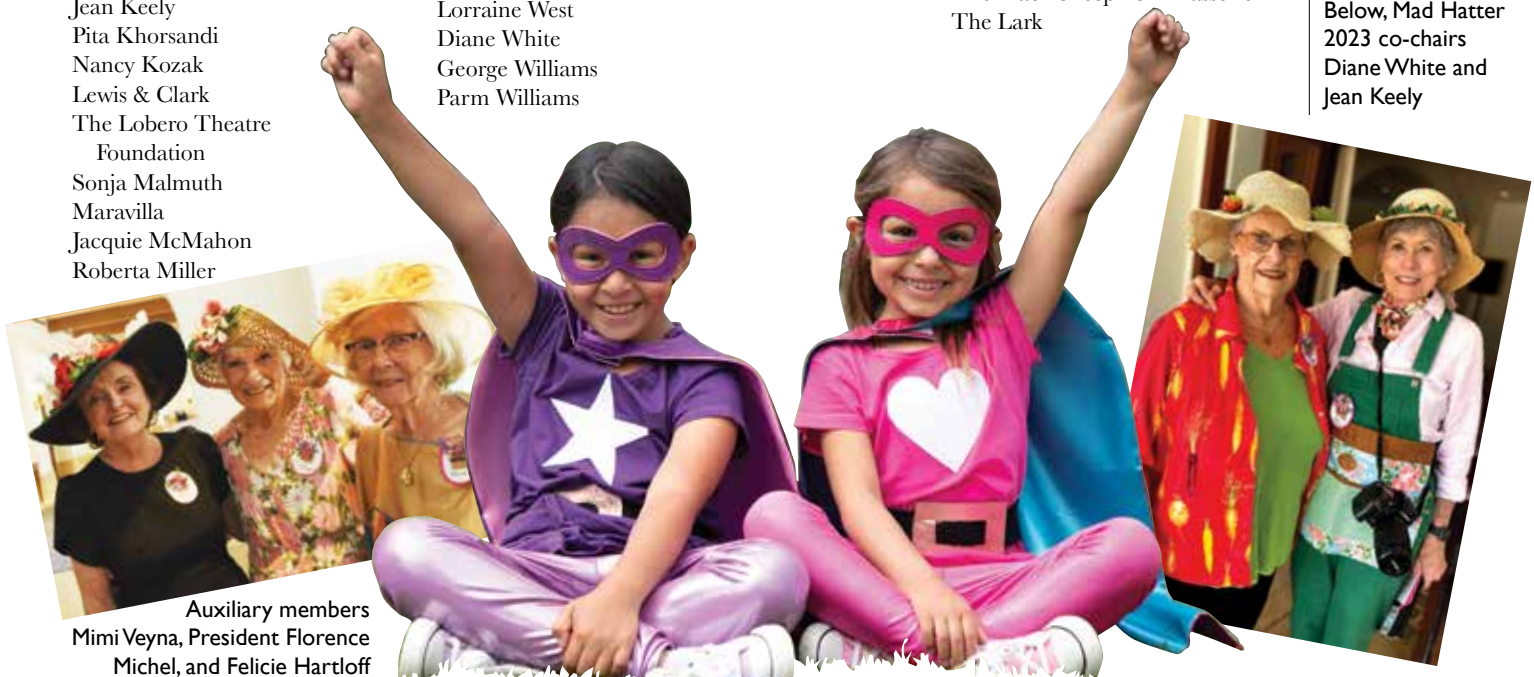
We are incredibly grateful to all the superhero supporters of the 19th Annual Help-a-Kid No-Ball. Your generosity helped raise over \$176,000, making it our most successful No-Ball yet! Featured in this year's No-Ball invitation were Transition House's own child heroes who once lived in our emergency shelter. They had a blast dressing up for you and being the superkids they are! With the No-Ball, 100% of donations goes to where it is needed most—to support programs for the more than 200 children who come through our shelter and housing programs each year. Your contributions provide what every child deserves—a safe place to sleep and programs offering hope for the future. Thank you for helping Transition House children!

No-Ball 2023 Raffle Donors

Aperitivo Wine Bar
 Arnoldi's Café
 Bettina
 Bouchon
 Finney's Crafthouse
 Grassini Family Vineyards
 Los Arroyos
 Olio Cucina
 Reunion Kitchen + Drink
 Santa Barbara Inn
 Sonos
 The Black Sheep "SB Brasserie"
 The Lark

Each year, children from Transition House dress up to match our theme. These young superheroes are super in every way!

Below, Mad Hatter 2023 co-chairs Diane White and Jean Keely



Auxiliary members Mimi Veyna, President Florence Michel, and Felicie Hartloff

Secret Santas Bring the Magic of Christmas to Transition House Families!

By Rissa Gross, Volunteer Coordinator

You can bring the magic of Christmas to children living at Transition House's Emergency Shelter. Each holiday season, Transition House's **Secret Santa Program** ensures that children living in our family shelter will not go without on Christmas morning, and parents will not worry about being able to provide gifts for their children.

As a friend of Transition House, you know the traditions that make the holidays special for our families. We rely on the generosity of friends, volunteers, and donors to make the holidays magical, and each year you make Christmas wishes come true.

There are a variety of ways you can participate in our Secret Santa Program:


- Adopt a child or family's wish list, purchase the gifts, and deliver them unwrapped to Transition House yourself.
- Shop our Amazon holiday wish list and have gifts for a child sent directly to Transition House.
- Provide a monetary donation or gift card so that we can

purchase gifts off the wish list of a child for you. We will put our elves to work getting your gifts for you!

Your participation as a Secret Santa will make all the difference for a child on Christmas morning!

For more information on how you can help this holiday season, please contact Rissa Gross:

Email: holidays@transitionhouse.com

Phone: (805) 966-9668, ext. 129 



Leave A Legacy of Giving for Years to Come

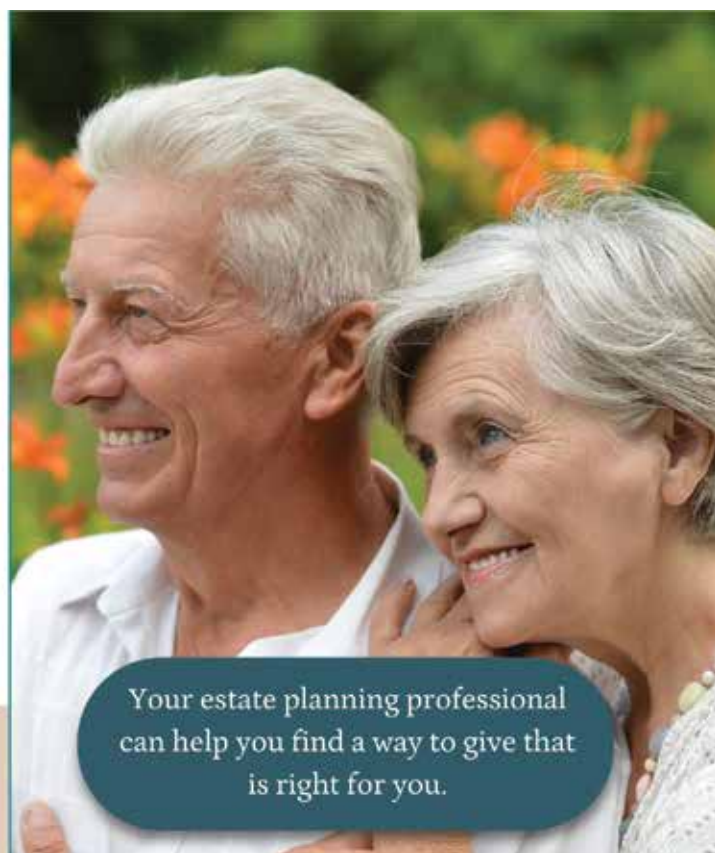
Are you considering making a gift that will transform the lives of homeless families for years to come?

You can, with a legacy gift to The Leni Fe Bland Transition House Tomorrow Fund.

The truth about planned giving:

- ✓ Most planned gifts are simple and affordable.
- ✓ Planning ahead gives you peace of mind and helps Transition House plan for the future.
- ✓ You can make a gift, no matter how big or small, that will have an impact for years to come.

To notify Transition House of your intent to include us in an estate plan, or to learn more, please contact Kathleen Baushke at (805) 966-9668 or kbaushke@transitionhouse.com



Your estate planning professional can help you find a way to give that is right for you.



THE WAY HOME
Transition House

425 E Cota Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 966-9668
www.transitionhouse.com



Join Transition House's
Home Maintenance Crew

12 gifts in **12** months can make a difference in the lives of homeless families all year long.

If you would like to join our crew of faithful and consistent monthly donors, whom we affectionately refer to as our *Home Maintenance Crew*, you can visit us online at www.transitionhouse.com and click on **Donate**. Choose the monthly frequency option and your desired contribution amount.

You can also contact Kellie Topar, Development and Communications Coordinator, at (805) 966-9668, ext.128.

2023 CORPORATE SPONSORS

We are grateful to the local, regional and national businesses that support our efforts to fight poverty and increase affordable housing opportunities for our most vulnerable neighbors. Please support these businesses if you can. Thank you to all!

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