



NEWS FROM BEACON HOUSING



SOUTH PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL LATIN X STUDENT CLUB SURPRISES CASA DE ALEGRIA FAMILIES

We are deeply grateful to the young women and men of South Pasadena High School's Latin X student club. We were connected with this marvelous group, led by Junior Sofia Nava, through an association with St. James Episcopal church. When the Latin X Club heard about the Transitional Living program for women and children escaping domestic violence at Casa de Alegria, they went into action and inquired how they might help. Upon identifying the families' need for personal care items, the club members instituted a goods drive at the high school and have blessed both the moms and children at Casa with shampoo, conditioner, lotion, body wash, and other essential care items. Beacon Housing cannot thank the students and teacher enough for their compassion and initiative in caring for the families at Casa.

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HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AT BEACON HOUSING

An abundance of giving over the holidays blessed the spirits of Covid weary Beacon Housing residents. Hummus Labs, a Mediterranean restaurant in Pasadena, kick-started the giving with a Thanksgiving feast for the families at Casa de Alegria. Then, though the pandemic did not allow for Casa's annual Christmas party, St. James Episcopal Church continued their tradition of lovingly giving by donating and delivering brightly wrapped presents for the children and a delicious Christmas dinner for each family. Several individual donors delighted each child at Casa with their own Christmas gift. Kaimore, one of our

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Welcome to our new newsletter format! It's been a very busy first few months of 2021 for us, and I do hope that this finds you all healthy. After an incredibly tough year for so many of us, we are thankful to see glimmers of light at the end of the tunnel. But for many of those we work with, the future remains deeply uncertain. In looking at the coming year, we are focused on continuing to serve those in need with housing and programs, while also continuing to expand the emergency assistance for those in dire need, such as through our Helping Hand grant program. As you can see in these articles, our work is possible through the support of so many in the community, from students to restaurants to our church partners, who continue to come together through the tough times and unhesitatingly offer their help and prayers - we are grateful to each and everyone of you. May 2021 continue to be a year of resilience and hope for us all.

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Ways You Can Help:



Donate money or in-kind goods



Spread the word to your networks



Volunteer your skills and time with us

new partner organizations, added to the joy with generously donated grocery store gift cards, bottles of hand sanitizer, and masks for the residents at Casa de Alegria, Garfield Agape Court, and Lowe House. Beacon Housing contributed Target gift cards for each of the students in the tutoring club at Garfield, as well as gifts for the children and Target gift cards for moms at Casa de Alegria. Thank you to all our friends, donors, and partner organizations that made the season bright with cheer, love, and generosity.

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BEACON HOUSING ANNOUNCES COLLABORATION WITH DOOR OF HOPE AT CASA DE ALEGRIA

Beacon Housing's founders, Jack and Bob Samuelson, envisioned Casa de Alegria, our transitional housing site for mothers and children rebuilding their lives from homelessness and domestic violence, to be a place of healing and rebuilding. With this goal in mind, Beacon Housing is excited to announce a collaboration with Door of Hope, a Christian nonprofit organization with extensive experience in providing holistic transitional housing services. Starting this year, Door of Hope began property and program management of Casa de Alegria. We believe this association brings together the respective strengths and Christ-centered missions of both Beacon Housing and Door of Hope to assist families on their journey of recovery, while allowing both organizations to serve more families in need. This collaboration maintains Beacon Housing's focus on expanding education opportunities to our residents as a means of ensuring long-term housing security, while enabling Door of Hope to provide support services designed to help families overcome the practical, emotional, and financial challenges they face as they transition to permanent housing. We look forward to many successful years ahead.



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HELPING HANDS COVID RELIEF GRANT

At a time when so many families are struggling to make ends meet, Beacon Housing is thankful for the generosity of La Canada Presbyterian Church and other caring donors, which has allowed us to set up a Helping Hands COVID Relief grant to assist households in need to pay their utility bills. The grant is available to low to very-low income families who have been impacted by a loss of job or reduced working hours due to the pandemic. So far, five families have been selected to receive a grant of up to \$500. We are hoping to be able to continue keeping the grant going and help other families in the months ahead with your support. One of Beacon Housing's Garfield Agape Court residents, who was joyously grateful to learn she was awarded the grant, shared with us, "Wow, thank you so much! I am incredibly humbled and grateful for this generous gift. Thank you immensely for your prayers, and I also pray for you and Beacon Housing." All of us at Beacon Housing wish to express our gratitude for the love, kindness, and generosity that makes this financial relief possible.

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NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Beacon Housing has partnered with Door of Hope and Kaimore, an organization to promote economic mobility by providing targeted professional development services for those who are underprivileged, to offer a free nine-week Workshop Series on Professional Development beginning in March. The training will assist individuals in building business skills essential to finding a job and effectively promoting those skills in today's job market. The workshops will be presented remotely using Zoom and cover a variety of topics including skills assessment, career planning, LinkedIn profile, recruitment and job search, cover letters, interviewing, etiquette, attire, and time management. We are so excited to collaborate with Door of Hope and Kaimore to offer this important free training for those who are in need.