



McKinsey & Company in Palo Alto assists the Clothing Closet

FIVE WAYS YOU CAN HELP

InnVision the Way Home

ORGANIZE! Plan a clothing drive in your neighborhood. We are always in need of gently used men's jeans, new underwear, sneakers, and warm jackets. Towels are also very important.

COLLECT! Going on a trip? Save the hotel toiletries and bring them to the Opportunity Center. They're the perfect size for our clients.

DONATE! We always welcome donations of cash or stock to provide revenue to keep our programs running. See if your employer will match your gift.

VOLUNTEER! Our biggest need is for volunteers willing to work on weekdays in our programs.

INVITE US TO SPEAK! We would love to come speak to your organization about the Opportunity Center and homelessness in our community.

Contact InnVision the Way Home at (650) 853-8672 or www.InnVision.org

Donations

THANK YOU to all the supporters of the Opportunity Center. The center has been built but the dream doesn't end there! Financial support is still needed and hugely appreciated. Donors may contribute directly to Community Working Group for general operating support or designate your gift to the program of your choice:

- **Endowment Fund:** covers the non-staff operational expenses at the Opportunity Center (i.e. maintenance, utilities, etc.) AND subsidizes residents unable to fully cover their rent.
- **InnVision Support Services:** provides residents and unhoused clients resources. Individuals and families receive assistance with educational supports, food, clothing, and case management. You can learn more about InnVision at www.InnVision.org.
- **Opportunity Health Partners:** provides much needed onsite medical and mental health care to residents and walk-in low-income clients. Learn more at www.Opportunityhealthcenter.org.

DONATE ONLINE AT www.opportunitycenter.org

OR MAIL YOUR GIFT TO:

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP, 555 Bryant Street, PMB #321, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Please Contact Us:

To reach Doug Ford, Administrative Consultant, or to make a donation:

Direct Line: 650-853-7066 ext 205

Email: cwg@opportunitycenter.org

U.S. Mail: 555 Bryant Street, PMB #321
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Website: www.opportunitycenter.org

Get On Our Mailing List:

If you know anyone who is interested in the Opportunity Center project, please contact us so we can add them to the mailing list!

OPPORTUNITY CENTER Newsletter

FALL 2007



Community
Working
Group

A COMMUNITY RESPONSE
TO HOMELESSNESS

The mission of the Opportunity Center is to promote human dignity both by providing for very basic needs of persons in our community, and by offering them the opportunity to find housing and a stable life. The center serves the entire community as it responds to the problem of homelessness and poverty, which affects everyone.

A DREAM FULFILLED

One year after the long awaited grand opening, the Opportunity Center is indeed a "dream fulfilled." The incredible support of the community has helped us change so many lives. The finishing touches on the bricks and mortar have been the fingerprints and stories of all who pass through the front door. The 88 apartments have been filled with families coming out of emergency shelter and individuals coming literally off the streets. Affordable rents and rental subsidies have put a roof over 119 heads. Onsite counseling and support have helped them begin the process of stabilizing and rebuilding their lives.

Of the 28 children residing at the Opportunity Center, 23 enrolled in local schools and received help with homework to get their education on track. The InnVision Summer Adventures program was a huge success with field trips, daily activities and weekly themes. A resident whose three school age children participated in the program said it was "wonderful and a relief that I had time without the kids to catch up on my life. My kids had a great summer and went back to school ready to jump right back into learning."

At the InnVision Opportunity Services Center, residents are receiving help with finding work, job training, and accessing funding benefits and medical insurance. Onsite money management services and drop in day



Opportunity Center of the Midpeninsula, 33 Encina Ave, Palo Alto

classes have created a support system that is invaluable. Those still in crisis also find assistance at the Opportunity Service Center. InnVision staff and volunteers provide support daily to over 90 people coming off the street in need of food, clothing, and referrals to the onsite medical and mental health care, as well as linkages to community resources. Monthly discount bus passes are available to drop-in clients and bus tokens if emergency situations arise. The monthly Family Harvest Food provides bags of groceries to struggling families. With the help of Opportunity Health Partners, 30% of subsidized residents have now qualified and receive government funding or are working. InnVision continues to provide emergency assistance to families and individuals who are experiencing financial difficulties and cannot afford a rent or utility payment.

Thank you to every donor and volunteer who made the dream a reality. Working together we can continue to provide those most in need in our community with the tools necessary to rebuild their lives.

John Barton, President
Community Working Group

Christine Burroughs,
InnVision the Way Home



Children living at the Opportunity Center go on a Summer Adventure to Johnson Park

Visit www.opportunitycenter.org for more information.

A COMMUNITY RESPONSE
TO HOMELESSNESS
Community
Working
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555 BRYANT STREET, PMB #321
PALO ALTO, CA 94301

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Santa Clara, CA
Permit #90

Endowment Fund Investing In Success

The Opportunity Center of the Midpeninsula is built. The Grand Opening celebration is a year behind us. The residents have moved in and both residential and day clients are receiving the various services offered in the Adult and Family Centers. Because the Opportunity Center Capital Campaign and the subsequent Opportunity Fund Campaign envisioned the need for ongoing financial support of the Opportunity Center, the Opportunity Center Endowment Fund was established in May 2005.

The Endowment Fund provides a Housing Subsidy Program that enables unhoused individuals and families with little or no income to live in the Opportunity Center with rent subsidies for up to 24 months. The monies for this program have come primarily from donor designated contributions to the Opportunity Fund and are allocated to InnVision and Opportunity Health Partners, who administer the subsidies. The 35 subsidy recipients must participate actively in supportive services with the goal of self-sufficiency and housing retention.

The board of the Community Working Group also designated a portion of the Endowment Fund to cover the Service Center Operating Expenses Program such as utilities, custodial service and maintenance. This allows the service providers—InnVision and Opportunity Health Partners—to concentrate on delivering and funding services rather than paying rent for bricks and mortar.

A third purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide financial support for possible expansion of services offered at the Opportunity Center and/or to respond to unusual circumstances that could impact services at the Opportunity Center. These funds are controlled by the Community Working Group board in consultation with the service providers at the center.

The Endowment Fund was established in 2005 with initial investments of \$1,050,000 of donor designated contributions and \$850,000 of board designated funds. Subsequently an additional \$931,400 has been invested in the Endowment Fund from both donor designated and board designated contributions. Since the opening of the Opportunity Center, CWG has allocated \$184,000 to InnVision for the rent subsidies and the center's operating costs.

Since its inception, the Endowment Fund has grown at 10.75% per year. This incredible rate of return has enabled CWG to provide a higher number of subsidies than originally budgeted—moving more people off the streets. The Endowment Investment Committee of the board oversees the fund and its investment advisor is The Camejo Group, which specializes in socially responsible investing.

Bruce Heister
Community Working Group Vice President



23 children enrolled in local schools

Mr. D

Mr. D is a single father of two teenaged boys. The family moved into the Opportunity Center when it opened in September 2006. The father speaks only Spanish and his children were behind in school. With help from the Bredt Family Services Center, the boys aged 16 and 14 enrolled in Palo Alto Unified School District. They had a solid year in school and are catching up with their peers. Thanks to their rent subsidy, Mr. D was able to provide decent housing for his family, find employment, and save up enough money to send the boys to Peru to visit their mother for the first time in two years!

Ms. U

Ms. U and her 6-year old daughter were living at the InnVision Clara-Mateo Shelter. The family was separated; with her two older sons living with relatives out of state until she could stabilize. The family was thrilled to reunite when a rent subsidy helped them all move into the Opportunity Center last fall. One of her sons had an undiagnosed seizure disorder. The Bredt Family Services staff recognized his need and connected the family with the onsite Don Barr Medical Clinic operated by Opportunity Health Partners. He is now receiving care for his disorder from Stanford Hospital.

Mr. B

After ten years on the street, Mr. B moved into the Opportunity Center last fall. His only source of income was from panhandling. His health was rapidly declining from untreated diabetes. The subsidy from the endowment enabled him to come inside and get help. With a combination of supports from InnVision and Opportunity Health Partners, Mr. B has stabilized his health and was able to complete the paperwork to receive Social Security Income (SSI)—a program he had qualified for years ago but was unable to jump through all the necessary hoops without help.



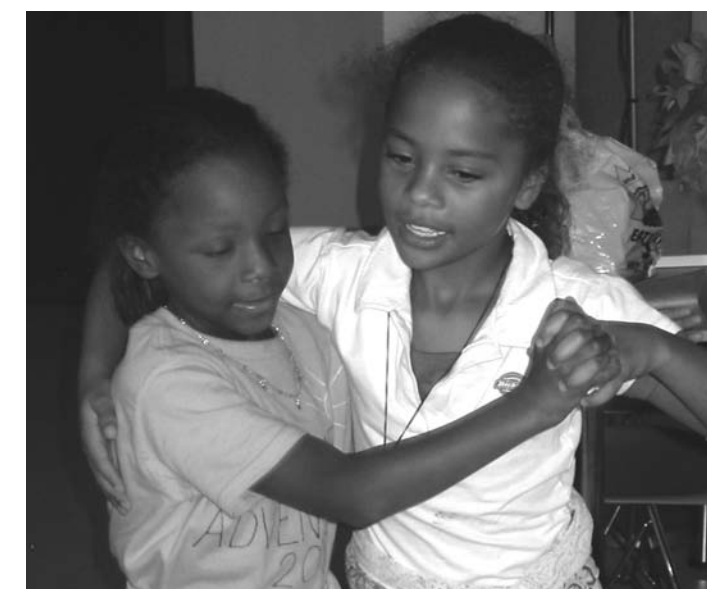
Values are discussed as part of the after-school program



Medical care has been provided to 150 clients a month



All Saints Episcopal Church prepared a BBQ for the service center



Dance lessons begin at an early age!

Opportunity Health Partners Providing Health Care to Opportunity Center Clients

Not only does the Opportunity Center provide a wide range of support services through InnVision, it also provides clients with access to excellent health care onsite through Opportunity Health Partners (OHP). A survey of homeless individuals done in 2005 revealed glaring gaps in the availability of primary medical care and mental health services. Recognizing the needs, the Community Working group, along with InnVision, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, the Stanford School of Medicine, the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Ravenswood Family Health Center of East Palo Alto, collaborated in 2006 to form OHP, a non-profit corporation.

Clients of the Opportunity Center can access onsite high quality services at the Don Barr Medical Clinic. Services include mental health assessments and counseling, physicals, and immunizations. These services are provided by: Dr. Patty McGann, a Family Physician from the Palo Alto Medical Foundation; Dr. Lars Osterberg, a

General Internist from the Palo Alto VA Medical Center; and Dr. Daryn Reichert, a Psychiatrist from the Stanford School of Medicine. A medical assistant and a mental health case manager complete this excellent medical team. So far, the team has been providing care to over 150 clients per month. These services are available both to residents of the Opportunity Center and to day clients who remain unhoused.

OHP and the Ravenswood Family Health Center are currently exploring ways that the two organizations might better collaborate to further meet the health care needs of the homeless population of the Mid-Peninsula. Margaret Allen, a Board member of OHP, is also a Physician's Assistant at Ravenswood who provides care to homeless individuals and families in East Palo Alto from a mobile van. By combining the strengths of both organizations, we look forward to even better health care services for the homeless. Stay tuned!