

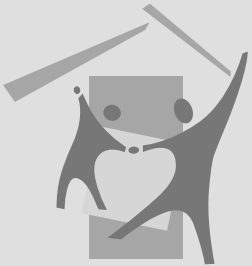
OPPORTUNITY CENTER

QUICK

UPDATE

WINTER 2002/2003

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.



Community
Working
Group
A Community
Response To
Homelessness

The Opportunity Center: Leaving a Legacy Susan Packard Orr Kicks Off Major Gifts Effort

"I have supported this project because I'm concerned with the way our community treats those who are homeless and in need. I think it's an extremely important project, and I hope other members of the community will offer their support also," said Susan Packard Orr, President of Telosa Software, who spoke at the first major gifts committee event for the Opportunity Center Capital Campaign last month. The event featured Ms. Orr as honored guest, who has agreed to serve as Honorary Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign, along with retired Superior Court Judge and current Stanford Vice Provost LaDoris Cordell.

Frank Benest, Palo Alto City Manager, also offered remarks at the event. "I don't know about you, but at this stage of my professional life, I think about the legacy we'll leave behind for our community—maybe you think about that too. The Opportunity Center is a chance for us to leave a legacy we'll be proud of," said Mr. Benest. "It's the right time to do this, and I hope you'll help make it happen," he concluded.



Susan Packard Orr

The event was hosted by Campaign Co-Chair Larry Brown; Co-Chair Guy Blase was unable to attend. There will be a similar event this month, hosted by LaDoris Cordell and Thomas Ehrlich, President Emeritus of Indiana University.

The Capital Campaign goal is to raise \$8 million, which will include approximately \$5 Million for capital and a \$3 million endowment for ongoing operation of the center.

We hope that local philanthropists will consider supporting the Opportunity Center with a major gift. Please contact one of our campaign staff if you would like more information about making a gift.

Planning Commission Gives Unanimous Approval to the Opportunity Center

On November 13, the City of Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission unanimously approved the preliminary review of the plans for the Opportunity Center, giving a strong indication of the City's support for the project. "We've been gratified that we've received such widespread community support, as the Planning Commission vote indicates, and as so many members of the community have expressed," said Dr. Donald Barr, President of the Community Working Group (CWG) board. Here are some additional milestones in the planning process:

- The Architectural Review Board met on November 21 to give feedback to Rob Quigley Architects, the firm designing the Center, and will take final action on the plans on December 19th.
- The Planning and Transportation Commission will review the Environmental Impact Report on December 18, and take final action on approval of the plan on January 29.
- The City Council is then slated to vote on the project at its February 18 meeting.

The City of Palo Alto staff has been meeting every other week with representatives from the CWG to ensure the project stays on track. "We've been so pleased with the City's help and cooperation," said the Rev. Jim Burklo, the Vice President of the Board.

CWG Developing the Center's Security Program—Will Collaborate with Chamber

Three agencies—InnVision/Urban Ministry, the agency that will run the Center when it's built; The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara, which will build the center and operate its housing; and the Palo Alto Police Department—have been busy developing a security plan for the center, in order to address the neighbors' concerns about security issues. "The Center is committed to being a good neighbor," said Christine Burroughs, CEO of InnVision/Urban Ministry, "and, in fact a key component of our mission is to serve as problem-solvers in the community, as well as to engage the whole community in responding to the

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First Congregational Church of Palo Alto Nearing End of \$50,000 Campaign



Cammy Sunde

“Working with the Opportunity Center campaign has helped diverse members of our church community come together in a meaningful way,” said Cammy Sunde of First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, who is leading a committee that is raising money to meet a \$50,000 goal for the church. The congregation has used youth spaghetti dinners, bake sales, as well as an all-church

pledge campaign to solicit funds for the project. The campaign also got “jump started” by a matching grant that Cammy and her committee received from the United Church of Christ.

After the campaign is finished, a room will be named in honor of First Congregational—leaving a lasting legacy of FCC’s participation in this effort. “We hope it will also mean that people will continue to get involved” in serving the homeless, said Cammy.

Not only did Cammy’s church raise a significant gift—but because of the church’s promotion of the project, another person came forward to make a much larger gift of over \$400,000.

Faith Community Campaign Now Underway

Active campaigns to raise money for the Opportunity Center are underway or just beginning in approximately twenty local faith community congregations—and the number keeps growing as we continue our campaign.

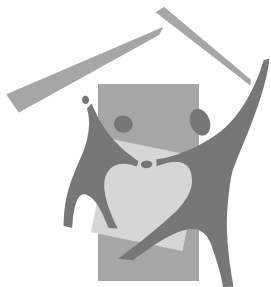
Would you like to see your faith community get involved in raising funds for the Opportunity Center, if it is not? To arrange for a speaker from our Speaker’s Bureau to come to your congregation, or to arrange for a personal visit, please call us at 650-814-6518.

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Unanimous Approval for Opportunity Center

challenge of homelessness.”

In addition, the Chamber of Commerce will be partnering with the CWG to convene a Community Advisory Committee (exact name to be determined) to bring together key community representatives to help plan, support and monitor the center’s security program.



555 Bryant Street, PMB #321
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Community
Working
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A Community
Response To
Homelessness

Should I Give My Gift Now?

You’ll notice that we’re not sending you a response card with this newsletter. We don’t want to compete with other non-profits seeking annual operating contributions; we especially encourage you to give an annual gift to InnVision/Urban Ministry, which now provides homeless services for our community and which will run the Opportunity Center services when the center is built.

We are seeking one-time capital gifts and pledges, which we hope will inspire people to give a larger gift—with up to three years to pay a pledge. We are also cultivating the large gifts that typically “lead” a capital campaign.

In early 2003, we will be mailing out a Giving Prospectus, detailing how to make your gift. We will also soon have the capacity for on-line gifts through our website.

Interested in making a gift, pledge or planned gift now? Please contact a member of our campaign staff or visit www.opportunitycenter.org.

Please Contact Us:

To reach Jeff Vamos, Capital Campaign Director, or Joy Wagner, Associate Campaign Director:

Voicemail: 650-562-3888

Direct Line: 650-814-6518

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 of people who may be interested in the Opportunity Center project, we’d love to put them on our mailing list. Let us know by giving us a call or an email.

Visit www.opportunitycenter.org
for more information.