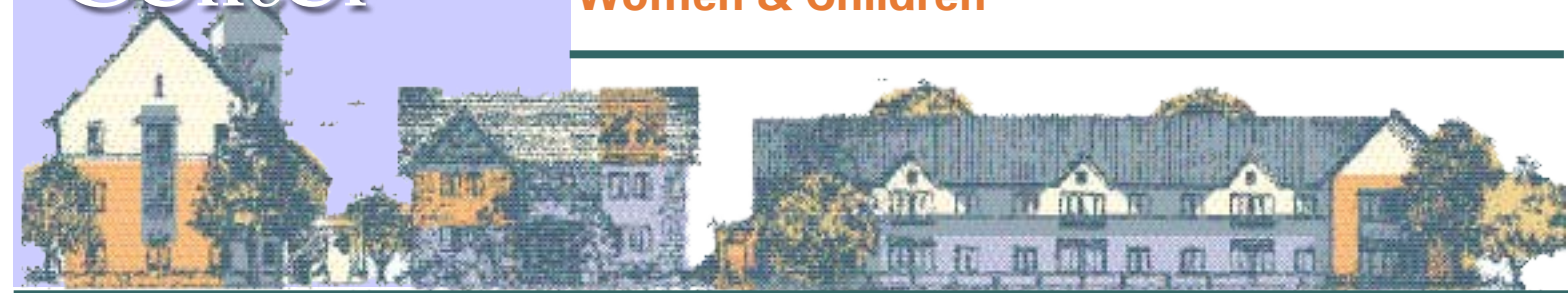


Caring for Homeless Women and Children with Dignity and Love



Good Shepherd Center

for Homeless Women & Children



A Program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

With Gratitude "No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks." (St. Ambrose)

Every day volunteers generously share their time and talents in support of the Good Shepherd Center mission. A special thanks to all whose hands and hearts supported Good Shepherd Center residents through the holidays and into the new year.

- Grazie, Vericella Family & Friends, for giving everyone at Good Shepherd Center something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving Day.

- Thanks to the U.S. Secret Service, Los Angeles Field Office, CHP, LAPD, Ralphs, Starbucks and Volunteers from our Board and Auxiliary for bringing our residents "A Better Christmas."

- Special thanks to Pastor Barnabas, the youth ministry, and the congregation at Solid Rock Church for manifesting Christ's love for all our residents at your holiday party for Good Shepherd Center.

- Hugs to Jane Wilson and all the angels at St. Michael and All Angels church in Studio City for orchestrating another outstanding holiday extravaganza for the Good Shepherd Center moms and children.

- Blessings for your generosity: Los Angeles Women Police Officers & Associates (LAWPOA), NGA, and all the Adopt-A-Family donors.

- Our deep appreciation to Katherine Ali and the Ali Family for providing a holiday feast for our Angel Guardian families, and Tracii Vician & Friends who organized a troop of talented young entertainers to delight our moms and kids with a holiday show.

- Thanks to the members of the Young Professional Group (visit www.yppgla.org for more info!) for creating a magical Christmas morning at our Mother-Child Residence.

- Once again, our heartfelt appreciation to Weekenders USA for staging the third annual Wings of Love Fashion Day January 27th at Languille Emergency Shelter. A resident best sums up the event: "No one has ever taken the time to show me how to dress right, apply makeup, or put it all together before. Now I feel good and look good." A special thanks to the estate of Debbie French Connors.



Members of LMU's M.A.G.I.S. (Men Acting Genuinely in Service) after completing a painting project at Languille Emergency Shelter.

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for Homeless Women and Children**

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A Note from Sister Julia Mary



Now is an exciting time at Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children. As we observe the construction of Phase III of the Women's Village on Beverly Boulevard, we are filled with gratitude for the many supporters who have made this project a reality.

Through the Campaign for Good Shepherd Center, led by Steve and Judy McDonald, and supporters like Century Housing, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and the Dan Murphy Foundation, we're only months away from opening our beautiful new facility. With the Lord's blessing we will continue in the mission He has given us – providing with dignity and love a continuum of care from homelessness to self-sufficiency for our homeless women and children.

Building on Success

Now in the 5th month of construction, Phase III of the Women's Village will add 21 apartments for longer-term residents, a manager's apartment, an employment and client services center, and a retail bakery.

Visit our website at gschomeless.org and follow the Links to view construction LIVE and watch your contributions at work. (User Name: Visitor, Password: Visitor)



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A New Life

We are homeless. Life has not always been this difficult for us – it changed in the blink of an eye. We would be on the streets without Good Shepherd Center, but we are safe now.

I arrived at Good Shepherd Center over a year ago when I was five months pregnant. I used to have a bookkeeping job until I became pregnant, but could not continue to work. My daughter's father was taken away to prison and I had no one to support me.

Most days it is difficult to pick myself up out of bed, but I do it for my daughter. She is my strength.

Good Shepherd Center encouraged me to pursue a college accounting degree. While I'm in class, I am thankful to be able to make use of free day care at Glendale Community College. It is not easy being a single mom, but it is comforting to be surrounded by other moms.

I am very thankful because I know there are many people who support Good Shepherd Center so that women and children can have a chance at a new life.



Ending Homelessness in L.A.

Singled out for his commitment to philanthropy and to ending homelessness in this city, Edward P. Roski, Jr., chairman and CEO of Majestic Realty Co., was honored February 24th with the Sister Julia Mary Award at the Good Shepherd Center Board Gala.



"Homelessness in Los Angeles is not just a problem; it is a crisis which demands our full and immediate attention," Roski said in accepting his honor. "It will take our most passionate leaders and compassionate citizens."

Roski cited sobering statistics about homelessness in Los Angeles. "If you were to take the entire homeless population of New York City, and combine that with the number of homeless in Chicago, and then add that to all the homeless living in San Francisco, the total would equal only two-thirds of the homeless population of Los Angeles: 91,000 homeless on any given night. That's a staggering statistic."

At the gala, Roski congratulated Good Shepherd Center for its pioneering work on behalf of homeless women and children, and called on leaders and private citizens to support the Center's efforts to construct the third phase of the Women's Village.

Sr. Julia Mary expressed her appreciation. "Mr. Roski sets a great example of the compassion that should be present in serving the homeless," she said. "We hope his compassion will inspire others to put an end to homelessness."

The Home Front: Practical Solutions

For 3.5 million Americans each year living in the land of the free, freedom involves living on the street or in other places not meant for human habitation. In Los Angeles, the Homeless Capital of America, 91,000 of our neighbors have no home.

There is not enough housing, particularly affordable housing, to serve those in need. According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, at least one third of emergency shelter requests by homeless families go unmet.

Jail costs are, on average, two to three times the cost of supportive housing, yet many cities criminalize homelessness. In addition to the cost to taxpayers, a police record makes it even more difficult for homeless adults to get a job and find a place to live.

Cities with innovative ways of addressing homelessness:

The Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District, rather than advocating for tougher laws to get the homeless off the street, put their resources to work by building a day center for the homeless.

The Pasadena Police Department partnered with the Los Angeles Department of Health to create the Homeless Outreach Psychiatric Evaluation (HOPE) Team. Mental health professionals and law enforcement officials work together to provide mental health assessments and services to the homeless.

Three things one person can do to reduce homelessness:

Stay in touch with your legislators at the local, state, and federal level. Ask their support in ending homelessness with dignity and love. Using the phone or internet makes this quick and simple.

Set aside some time to get to know the face of homelessness by visiting or volunteering at Good Shepherd Center or a shelter near you. If you call the Development Office (213 482-1834), Ana will schedule a brief, narrated walking tour for you, your family, your club, or friends.

Encourage your children and grandchildren to develop the habit of supporting others through donations to homeless services providers or a cause of their choice. Jack, age 11, requested donations to Good Shepherd Center last year instead of birthday presents. In one day he raised \$600 for homeless children, set an example for his peers, still had a party (aren't friends the best part?), and made the experiment in philanthropy into a school project.



Emcee Colleen Williams with Co-Chair Val Achtemeier



"Auctioneer"
Andrew McDonald

On February 24 the over 400 friends of Good Shepherd Center and Majestic Realty gathered at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel to demonstrate their compassion for the homeless. After a year of planning, the Board Gala raised more than half a million dollars, making it our most successful fundraiser to date.

Highlights of the evening included a rousing auction, a "cash auction" during which guests pledged \$130,000 in 7 minutes, fine dining, spirited dancing, and an award presentation recognizing dedicated Board Member and Phase III Project Coordinator Judy Call and local philanthropist Ed Roski.

Colleen Williams, NBC News Anchor, emceed the event, keeping the focus on assisting the homeless. As Ed Roski pointed out in his inspirational speech, "California has always been progressive. In Los Angeles, we have long been the nation's leader in technology



A Majestic Event



Event Co-Chairs Nancy Fox, Joyce Haight, and Kerstin Royce

and entertainment. Unfortunately, when it comes to homelessness, we also lead the way- the wrong way - and we're way ahead. But LA's homeless are not statistics, though too often they are treated as such, or worse, as criminals. No, Homeless people are people without homes. Which makes our first priority pretty clear: what solves homelessness is homes!"

Hard work by the Benefit Committee and Benefit Chairs Nancy Fox, Joyce Haight, Val Achtemeier, and Kerstin Royce will help homeless women and children in Los Angeles find homes. The result of the committee's dedication was evident not only in the financial success of the event, but in the smiles on the faces of the guests. Support in preparing for the event was provided by the Auxiliary for Good Shepherd Center, Development Department, and staff. Members of Good Shepherd Center's Young Professionals Group (YPG) worked diligently throughout the evening to support the cause.