

BERKELEY FOOD & HOUSING PROJECT

Spring 2011



Newsletter

BFHP Joins National Effort to End Veterans' Homelessness in Five Years



From Terrie Light
Executive Director

The Obama Administration has directed Veterans Affairs (VA) to end homelessness among veterans in five years, and BFHP is doing its part. The goal of the President's *Opening Doors* program is to prevent and end veteran homelessness by 2015. President Obama is committed to the success of *Opening Doors* and will invest only in the most evidence-based, cost-effective strategies. To this effect the VA has contributed new funding to programs across the United States.

In March 2011, we will begin admitting veterans into a special program within our downtown Men's Shelter. Twelve veterans at a time will receive intensive case management services focused on providing links to employment and medical and behavioral health care services. In addition, the men will receive hands-on life skills training to make sure that their transition from long term homelessness into stable housing is successful.

Why are these special services needed? Veterans are 50% more likely to become homeless than the general American population. The risk of becoming homeless is even greater for minority and/or poor veterans. California has more homeless veterans than any other state (19,532). In comparison, Florida, which ranks second, has 7,135. Most homeless veterans live in urban settings, are men between the ages of 31 and 50 years, and are living with a disability.

BFHP is privileged to be part of President Obama's solution to end homelessness for our country's veterans. We look forward to strengthening ties with our community partners and making Berkeley a leader in another solution to our nation's problems.

Inside: an interview with L. John Harris, *Berkeley's Foodoodler*
and Linda Kenyon returns as *Julia Child*

Renewal: NORTH COUNTY WOMEN'S CENTER

From Claire Banerjee, North County Women's Center Manager

As the new manager at the North County Women's Center, I am making sure that at the forefront of all we do is ensure we provide a safe, healthy and *healing* environment for women and children, along with services to help them *end their cycle of homelessness*. As a new employee what impresses me the most is the sense of "grass roots" community and a palpable energy of commitment to one another. It is heart-warming to see staff and clients go out of their way to lend assistance, to share a new perspective, and to solve situations before they become "problems."

B FHP staff is trained in a relational approach that helps motivate clients to tap into their own strengths, cultivate a renewed sense of hope and resiliency, and move forward to create a better life for themselves. As a manager, this translates into a strong commitment to staff training, one-on-one supervision sessions, team building activities, and providing time for the different learning styles of staff. Staff model independent living skills such as time management, problem solving, active listening, self care, and empathy. I am pleased to see increased staff awareness regarding their function as role models and a growing cognizance of how to best model these skills on a daily basis.

The NCWC received a donation of a beautiful exterior paint job with colors familiar to those of you who have viewed our website (purple, green and white). We are also in the process of installing new blinds and flooring in the shelter area (a dark violet). This building renewal parallels the changes our clients experience at the NCWC. I invite you to stop by and see us at the NCWC and learn more about our commitment to uplift the most vulnerable women in our community.



Reporter Rita Williams and Lisa, a former client



Suzoni, a board member & former client, presents a gift to Skates on the Bay



Kendra, Women's Shelter Coordinator, presents a gift to Bayer

View more pictures from our 40th Anniversary & the *newly painted* North County Women's Center (winner of MB Jessee's 2011 Project Color: Painting for Charity Giveaway) at www.flickr.com/photos/bfhp/

REDUCING OUR *Carbon* FOOTPRINT

Green Team Kick off at BFHP

When Viviana Lahrs, Facilities Project Specialist, joined BFHP last summer she made a commitment to make our facilities as green as possible. With its large community presence, BFHP has the opportunity to make a substantial impact in environmental consciousness in the community. Businesses that recycle do so, partly, because employees expect it. Employees find pride in working for a company that embodies environmental values and focuses attention on its environmental impact and responsibilities. It is Viviana's hope that BFHP's donors find pride in contributing to a nonprofit that is dedicated to continuing to break the cycle of hunger and homelessness while reducing carbon emissions and landfill waste.

In October 2010, BFHP received a grant from Stop-waste.org to implement a recycling and food waste program. The program goal is to establish a successful recycling program at all four BFHP sites. The objective is to reduce the amount of landfill waste by 50%. A successful recycling/composting program depends on staff support. Viviana created a Green Team to support this need. Each site has a Green Team representative who is responsible for leading the recycling and composting

program. The Team meets monthly to brainstorm how to improve the program.

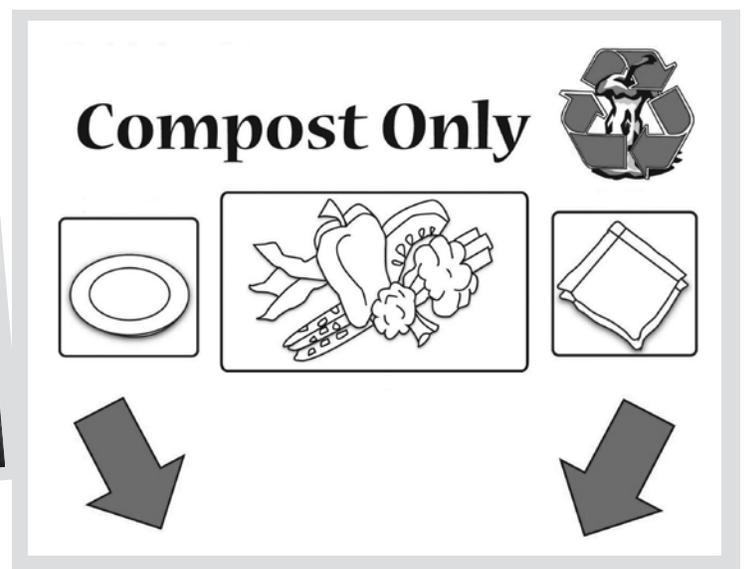
The top two challenges in implementing a recycling and composting program within a homeless shelter are client participation and on-going funding. To address the first, BFHP is developing easily understood signage that includes pictures and simple text directions so that clients can separate food and paper plates from plastic garbage.

Composting also requires the use of biodegradable compost bin bags that are at a slightly higher cost than a standard plastic garbage bag. To address this challenge, Viviana is searching for funding and other resources to help support the costs of the compost bags and other compostable products.

The Green Team project brings pride to all involved. Staff, clients, community and donors know that they are a critical part of BFHP's recycling/composting success. In turn, BFHP takes pride in fulfilling our environmental and communal responsibilities.



The Green Team at the North County Women's Center: Candace, Activities/Life Skills Specialist, Viviana, Facilities Project Specialist & Claire, NCWC Manager



AN *Interview* WITH L. JOHN HARRIS

Berkeley's Foodoodler

L. John Harris is the author of the recently published cartoon/memoir Foodoodles: From the Museum of Culinary History (El Leon Literary Arts). His cartoons and texts celebrate and skewer his 40 year service in Berkeley's food revolution. A native of Los Angeles, Harris studied art at UC Berkeley in the late 1960s. In the 1970s, while working part time in some of Berkeley's most iconic food businesses, including the Cheese Board and Chez Panisse, he wrote The Book of Garlic (1974) and in 1980 founded Aris Books, a specialty cookbook publisher. In 1988 he launched his Foodoodle byline in several Bay Area magazines and in 1995 began making documentary films, including "Divine Food: One Hundred Years in the Kosher Delicatessen Trade." Harris is donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Foodoodles to BFHP. The book can be purchased at independent bookstores or via the author's website, www.foodoodles.com.



How did you come to know about and support BFHP?

I think it was my friend and former BFHP Board Member, Paul Terrell, who first invited me to a BFHP event. I was immediately impressed with the fact that BFHP had taken on the unglamorous job of feeding and housing people at the lowest socio-economic levels. So many food-centered organizations and charities are working higher up the cultural food chain: sustainable agriculture, urban farming, Slow Food etc. I was moved by how BFHP keeps its focus on the very basic issue of helping people stay alive (housed and fed) and functional (drug and crime free).

As the moderator at the Books Inc, "Legends of the Gourmet Ghetto" panel and book signing, you said, "It's counter-intuitive that in Berkeley, where good food is such a big part of our culture, that there are hungry people living on the streets." What do you mean?

Again, it's what drew me to BFHP—the fact that in Berkeley, the home of an American food revolution and a new style of cooking known as California cuisine, there are a lot of people who know nothing about our foodie culture and who could probably care less. Isn't it curious that right here in Berkeley, there are people who still think mac and cheese from a can or a box is the ultimate treat, and are so grateful to have a portion served up to them by BFHP. This is not the image that most people have of Berkeley, but hunger always trumps gastronomy.

You consider yourself "gastronomically incorrect." What does that mean? And tell us about the aesthetic vs. political background of Berkeley's food revolution you alluded to at the book signing.

I have always been more of an aesthete than a politico, so in the 1960s I was never as radical as some. During the food revolution of the 1970s I was less interested in the politics of food than the aesthetics. Bohemian subcultures that create art revolutions are made up of these two groups—the aesthetes on one side and the politicos and manifesto writers on the other. Artists in every medium are, of course, a mixture of the two, but we lean one way or the other.

Picasso was more an aesthete than a political man and after he painted Guernica in response to horrors in Spain he eventually joined, some say out of guilt, the Communist Party. Likewise, our revolution in the culinary arts had aesthetic and political/polemical dimensions. So if I was politically incorrect in the 1960s, today I am gastronomically incorrect from a food politics perspective. My cartoons react satirically to the polemics and pomposities of foodie culture.

I miss the days of pure sensorial immersion in food before the politics and polemics moved center stage, though I acknowledge that this is to a large extent environmentally critical. I guess you could say that through my relationship to BFHP, like with the Aris Books reunion and BFHP fundraiser at Oliveto in 2006, I try to balance my aesthetic self-centeredness, and my own pomposities with a bit of political activism. Just like Picasso!

What's next for you and your Foodoodles?

I'm continuing to do my "Legends of the Gourmet Ghetto" panels and book signings with the legendary cooks Joyce Goldstein, Bruce Aidells, Victoria Wise and Alice Medrich. The next one is at Omnivore Books in San Francisco on March 13, and I'm drawing new cartoons, writing for food blogs, and planning my summer in Paris. The Paris food scene needs a foodoodler too.

A LIFE OF MY OWN: MEETING ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

On February 15th, 2011 We had a sold-out audience at The Marsh Theater in Berkeley for the west coast premier of Linda Kenyon's one-woman show. We are so thankful for Dr. Wendy Clupper of The Marsh, for her support in making this event a success; for board member Emily Kenyon for underwriting the event; for Linda Kenyon for her dazzling performance; and for everyone who attended and made the night a rousing success. This event raised over \$3,000 for the North County Women's Center as well as introduced BFHP to a new group of potential donors.

You can further help formerly homeless women moving into housing by donating one of these new items:



- o Set of dishes or glassware
- o Set of flatware
- o Set of pots & pans
- o Laundry baskets
- o Sets of towels
- o Sets of sheets
- o Comforter or blanket

Bring new household items to 2140 Dwight Way (off Shattuck) in Berkeley through April 30, 2011. Mark your package for "Claire Banerjee," North County Women's Center Manager. Please tell us the Fair Market Value of your donation and staff will give you a tax receipt. Questions? Contact Paul Cwynar (510) 809-8515, pcwynar@bfhp.org



Linda Kenyon plans to return later this summer as Julia Child. Proceeds from the event will benefit our Feeding Program. Learn more about Linda Kenyon at www.LindaKenyon.com.

STRONG *Financial* PRACTICES...

...Lead to Clean Audit, from Purvi Knopf, Controller

BFHP received another clean audit for our fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. BFHP is required by our government funders to have an independent auditor review our financial and programmatic records annually. The independent auditor reviews:

- Our process of ensuring donations are spent according to the donor's wishes
- Reports about the impact of each of our programs
- Our accounting practices and internal controls on spending

The review process is time consuming and tedious. Each audit process sheds light on various ways in which we can improve our efforts to both safeguard your donations and ensure they are used wisely. Our Executive team takes this to heart, and regularly implements new internal controls.

The auditors looked thoroughly and did not find a single number in our financials that required changing. For this we are very proud.

BFHP holds donor funds to the highest regard and makes every effort possible to use these funds efficiently and transparently, and to direct the funds towards client services and housing results. Thank you for entrusting us year after year! *Our 2010 fiscal year audit is available for view on [guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).*

BFHP *Development*

Legacy Giving, Stocks, Bonds and Other Charitable Contributions

From Paul Cwynar, Development Director

There is always talk about politicians and professional athletes leaving their "life's legacy", but little talk about donors leaving theirs. Legacy gifts, or future gifts to BFHP, allow you to convey your personal values to the community and enable us to achieve long-term financial stability and sustainability.

Your legacy gift will be your largest and most significant act of philanthropy. Consider your legacy gift to the community by naming BFHP as a beneficiary in your will, insurance policy or savings account. We advise you to discuss the matter with your estate or financial planner.

Do you have stock that has appreciated in value? Did you know that you qualify for the "qualified appreciated stock" deduction by donating appreciated stock that you have owned for more than a year? BFHP accepts stocks, bonds and other securities. Always check with your tax professional or read IRS Publication 526 for additional information on charitable contributions.

For more information on legacy giving or stocks, bonds and other securities, contact Paul Cwynar, Director of Development at pcwynar@bfhp.org or 510-809-8515, or go to the donate page on our website: <http://www.bfhp.org/donate/ways-to-donate>.

VOLUNTEER *Spotlight*

Elaine Chang Creates Opportunities for Others to do Good Work

“What motivates me is creating opportunities for others to do good work for a good cause,” says Elaine Chang, BFHP’s Volunteer Coordinator since September 2009. As a Cal freshman, Elaine felt compelled to address homelessness – the community’s most visible issue. Attracted to BFHP’s outreach, she served meals at the Multi Service Center, and held a fundraiser in her second semester.

Elaine made volunteering easier by posting opportunities online through Cal and The Volunteer Center. Elaine established BFHP’s volunteer orientation so all volunteers know BFHP’s mission, history and programs before serving a meal.

By tracking volunteers with an online calendar and matching a person’s interest with agency needs, Elaine has retained a majority of our volunteers. Retention not only saves the agency time, but also allows Elaine to share with volunteers the agency’s needs and upcoming events, like toiletry drives and the semi-annual volunteer appreciation event.

Elaine encourages volunteers to post their reflections on Guidestar and Yelp. One posting reads, “I have come to be on a personal level with many of the homeless men and women ... It is such a terrible thing to see, so many people without shelter, but through the BFHP, people have guidance in getting on the right track to finding a home and a job.”

By improving methods to recruit, train and retain volunteers Elaine has made serving at BFHP a positive experience.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Meet other volunteers also dedicated to easing and ending the crisis of homelessness in the Berkeley community.
Enjoy meat and vegetarian barbecue.

BFHP’s North County Women’s Center, 2140 Dwight Way in Berkeley
Wednesday April 27, 2011 from 5-6:30 p.m.

Bring a friend and introduce them to the Berkeley Food and Housing Project!

Contact Elaine for more information at volunteers@bfhp.org, (510) 809-8506





Berkeley Food and Housing Project
 2362 Bancroft Way
 Berkeley, CA 94704
 www.bfhp.org

NON - PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 OAKLAND, CA
 PERMIT #214

Thank You

We thank the following businesses, churches, corporations and foundations that made it possible for us to continue serving a burgeoning client base through these difficult economic times. We also appreciate all individuals who have made it possible for us not to eliminate any services. Those names are listed on our website.

2M Associates, 4th Street Yoga, Ackerman's Servicing Volvos, Inc., AJE Partners, Alameda County of Education, Alba Witkin, Albert Nahman Plumbing, Alta Bates Medical Center, Angie Woolman Quilt Arts, Arkin Tilt Architects, Ashby Lumber Company, Attorneys For Children, Barclays Global Investors, Bayer HealthCare, Berkeley City Club, Berkeley Community Media, Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, Berkeley Methodist United Church, Betterworld Telecom, Central Launderette, Costco Wholesale, Direct Line Tele Response, Drew Properties LLC, East Bay Housing Organizations, Eaton Kenyon Fund, Elmwood Care Center, Episcopal Charities, Episcopal Senior Communities, Epworth United Methodist Church, Eurest Dining Services, Firedoll Foundation, First Baptist Church of Berkeley, First Congregational Church, Heffernan Group Foundation, Homeless Action Center, Humanity Baptist Church, J.R. Orton, Jr. Charitable Trust, K&S Co., Inc., Kaiser Permanente, Kazan, McClain, Abrams, Fernandez, Lyons & Farrise, Levi Strauss Foundation, LifeLong Medical Care, Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation, Inc., Marsh Risk & Insurance Services, MB Jessee, Middle Passage Foundation, MinuteMan Press, Miramonte High School, Morrison Foerster Foundation, Nancy Mueller of Berkeley Hills Realty, Northbrae Community Church, Options Recovery Services, PLTS Student Association, Project Night Night, Protech Skincare, Red Oak Realty, Rubicon Programs Inc., Second Church of Christ Scientist, St. Clements Episcopal Church, St. John's Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, Sugar Beat Sweets, Synectic, Synergy California LP, The Bay Architects, The California Wellness Foundation, The Daily Californian, The Flora Family Foundation, The Grubb Company, The Mechanics Bank, The Natural Grocery Company, The Partnership Foundation, The Redwood Clinic, The Safeway Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, The Tomash Family Foundation, The William G. Gilmore Foundation, Toy Go Round, Trinity United Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, United Way, University Lutheran Chapel, Verizon Wireless, Walter & Elise Haas Fund, Wells Fargo Foundation, Whole Foods Market, Winning Situations, and Y & H Soda Foundation



Paul, Development Director, with Bev of the Oakland Potluck who purchased all the food BFHP needed to give families a complete Christmas meal



The Piedmont Girl Scouts went above and beyond to help BFHP provide 75 families with complete meals for Thanksgiving



facebook.com/BerkeleyFoodandHousingProject



twitter.com/berkeleyfood