Letter From the President of the Board of Directors

From the desk of Dr. Larry Rosenthal, BFHP Board President

Dear Friends:

As we move into this autumnal season, growing numbers of our neighbors in the East Bay are facing real challenges. Since the economy remains sluggish, Berkeley Food & Housing Project’s (BFHP) staff connects daily with more and more people looking for work and not finding it, or finding too little work to make ends meet. Too many in our community are homeless or at risk of becoming so. Too many lack the support of family and friends to assist in difficult times. Too many struggle with untreated, often chronic physical and mental health challenges. All of this occurs against a backdrop of a government social safety net stretched to the brink by unparalleled budgetary tensions. As unprecedented demand for BFHP services continues to swell, the resources traditionally supporting our efforts are threatened. We must not idly stand by when even a single person lacks safe shelter and a warm meal.

The Berkeley Food & Housing Project is committed, more than ever, to ending chronic homelessness in our region and serving as a model program for colleagues in our field. Our successful service-delivery strategies continue to lift people out of homelessness and move them toward economic independence. Emergency shelter, transitional housing, nutritious meals programs, intensive case-management and continuum-of-care support are critical to our mission. We are dedicated to placing clients into permanent supportive housing and expanding the Bay Area’s supply of such units.

On a personal note, it is a privilege and honor to be associated with the Berkeley Food & Housing Project. Everyone involved with the organization is pulling together to make life better for those who come to us for help. I’m inspired by the work we do. For more than forty years, BFHP has been improving the lives of our neighbors who are homeless and hungry. We abide by our long-standing pledge: “to continue breaking the cycle of hunger and homelessness”. The greater the disadvantages our clients face, the more energized we are to lend a helping hand.

As always, BFHP welcomes your interest and participation. Our Board is focused on several key initiatives: – making our work more sustainable, our successes more palpable, and our leadership more impactful. We are exploring opportunities to strengthen and expand our facilities and services to meet evolving demands. An area of keen focus will be expanding services for homeless men particularly, veterans. It is readily apparent that BFHP must design and develop a new service delivery hub to effectively and efficiently serve our target populations.

As we collectively chart the path forward, we are grateful for your support. Your help is needed now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Rosenthal, J.D., M.P.P., Ph.D. serves as Executive Director of the Berkeley Program on Housing and Urban Policy, and Assistant Adjunct Professor at the Goldman School of Public Policy, at the University of California Berkeley. Dr. Rosenthal joined the Board of the Berkeley Food & Housing Project in September 2006 and began serving in the role of Board President in 2010.
BFHP is Always Glad to Accept In-Kind Donations. Here is What We Currently Need the Most:

- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Towels
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Blankets
- Pillows
- Dishes
- Pots & Pans
- Silverware
- Kitchen knives
- New bedding
- Towels
- Laundry baskets
- Reusable travel size shampoo bottles
- Computer desk on wheels

Feeling Inspired? Here’s How to Get Involved!

Volunteer as a Group!
There are many ways that groups can volunteer!
- Serve a meal!
- Help us with Special Events!
- Organize a food drive!
- Help renovate our facilities!
- Help with holiday projects!

Volunteer as an Individual!
Whether you are looking for a one time opportunity or a regular commitment, we could use your help!
- Prepare and serve a meal!
- Provide Administrative support!
- Be a reading or math tutor!

Contact us today to get started!
Visit bfhp.org E-mail volunteer@bfhp.org
Or call (510) 809-8506

Create-a-Gift Card!
Gently used furniture and clothes = $$$

You can help provide gift cards for individuals and families moving to permanent housing. BFHP teamed up with The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and it is a win-win for all. Storage limitations means BFHP does not accept furniture or clothing, but St. Vincent de Paul Society does! So, call (510)636-4240 and schedule a pick-up or drop off your items at 9235 San Leandro Street Oakland, CA (510) 638-7353 . Donation Drop Off Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am-4:30pm or Saturday 10:00am - 4:30pm (closed Sunday) St. Vincent de Paul Society will credit an account creating gift cards BFHP can distribute to clients for shopping at their stores. Make certain to reference Berkeley Food and Housing Project when making your donation.

This Holiday “Give Back to Your Community”. Help BFHP Feed the Homeless and Hungry in Berkeley by Donating Items needed for a Thanksgiving Food Box or Donate $40 for the Cost of a Food Box.

Razors
Shaving cream
Towels
Soap
Deodorant
Lotion
Blankets
Pillows
Dishes
Pots & Pans
Silverware
Kitchen knives
New bedding
Towels
Laundry baskets
Reusable travel size shampoo bottles
Computer desk on wheels

Still have questions? Visit www bfhp org Contact Whitney at whubbard@bfhp.org
A partnership of Home Depot and Hands on Bay Area provided a team of volunteers and supplies on September 9, 2011 at the Men’s Overnight Shelter. After a day of hard work, the facility was refreshed by an exterior power wash, interior painting, new kitchen shelving and the welcome addition of a kitchenette for new Veteran’s Unit. Clients and staff are thrilled and thankful.

**Chan Fellowship Program Guangzhou Students Volunteer at NCWC**

On August 1, 2011 two days after arriving in the United States, six undergraduates from Guangzhou, China visited Berkeley Food & Housing Project’s North County Women’s Center. The six students helped do some heavy cleaning including doors, wood cabinets and playground equipment. The Chan Fellows participated in a 5-month intercultural service learning program through UC Berkeley’s Public Service Center. Sandra Lee, a Cal undergrad serving as a CalCorps Bonner Leader at BFHP, enjoyed conversing with the Fellows about poverty related issues and the operation of homeless shelters. Sandra stated the Chinese students were intrigued with U.S. student involvement in community volunteer projects. A few stated that volunteerism was uncommon among students at home.

**Homeless Berkeley Veterans, Now Home at BFHP.**

Client data clearly indicates the Berkeley Food & Housing Project annually provides emergency shelter, meals and support services to more than 200 veterans. All service branches are represented by those who served in conflicts spanning from Vietnam to Iraq or Afghanistan or in peace time roles. Nearly all are trained and skilled including mechanics, technicians and culinary workers. Sadly, all the veterans were homeless and searching for employment. Each and every one wanted a place to call home! BFHP quickly realized that there had to be a better way to serve those who served for us. The agency reached out to Veteran’s agencies and organizations for solutions. In March 2011 BFHP secured a per diem funding grant from the Veteran’s Administration. The agency quickly carved out a dedicated unit within the existing Men’s Overnight Shelter providing barracks-style housing for 12 men.

The new Veteran’s Unit provides a place where the men (1) can settle in while actively seeking employment and permanent housing opportunities. Each veteran has an assigned bunk and personal storage locker. The men share access to a common area with television, a new kitchenette for preparing a snack or favorite recipe along with two computer desks and printers.

BFHP staff works with the veterans and coordinates essential support services from a wide-range of partner organizations. The Veteran’s Administration is actively involved in assisting these men in their quests to “Come Home”.

To date, 5 of the veterans have successfully secured employment and private permanent housing. Others are on-track to do the same in the next few months. Other vets in the Men’s Overnight Shelter eagerly await a chance to participate in this precedent setting program. The Veteran’s Program participants also serve as wonderful role models for other shelter clients.

Everyone at BFHP is thrilled to say: “Welcome Home, Berkeley Vets, Welcome Home!”

**Terrie and Suzoni Go To Washington**

Executive Director Terrie Light (right), and Suzoni Camp (left) agency Board Member and former NCWC resident participated in the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference held July 13-15, 2011 in Washington, D.C. Terrie and Suzoni are pictured here with U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D) California. While in D.C. they also advocated for the BFHP mission “to end the cycle of homelessness” with staff from the offices of Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Congresswoman Barbara J. Lee (D-CA-9th District).

**North County Women’s Center Gets into Hot Water. Please Help.**

The North County Women’s Center is getting itself into the ideal kind of hot water. Solar arrays for rooftop installation have been ordered as well as a hydro-thermal boiler unit. Installation gets underway October 11. Initial funding is in place thanks to a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and U.S. DOE/ARRA - ME2 Funding through the City of Berkeley. However, BFHP urgently needs to raise the remaining $20,000. A private donor has generously offered a “Challenge Grant” and will match donations committed to the “Boiler Project” up to $10,000. So, join us in meeting the fundraising challenge and provide renewable, efficient hot water for the women and children “at-home” on Dwight Way.

**Whole Foods says: “Bring Your Own Bags”**

Once again, our friends at the Berkeley Whole Foods store at 3000 Telegraph Avenue are donating a Nickel each time a customer uses their own bag at checkout. The Telegraph Avenue store started collecting “Nickels” to benefit Berkeley Food & Housing Project and the Alameda County Community Food Bank in October and will continue through January 15, 2012. The total number of “Nickels” will be split 50/50 between the two agencies that have a long history of working together to provide nutritious meals for those who would otherwise be without. So, bring your own bags to Whole Foods on Shattuck and they’ll take care of the rest. Be sure and tell them BFHP says: “Thanks”.

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Berkeley Food and Housing Project Benefit Show

*Julia Child says, “Bon Appétit”* performed by Linda Kenyon

Hosted by L. John Harris, author of Foodoodles

October 29th at 3pm & 6pm 1744 University Avenue Berkeley, CA

Join us October 29th at 3:00 or 6:00pm to enjoy an enchanting performance by actress Linda Kenyon. Linda will become Julia Child, the iconic American chef and all proceeds will benefit Berkeley Food and Housing Project’s feeding program which has recently seen a 30% increase in demand. Follow Julia as she regales with tales of her early childhood, her adventures during World War II, learning to cook French cuisine, and writing her best-selling cookbooks. Ticket prices range from $30 to $50, with a reception following the evening show.

*Written by Clay Teunis

For tickets call 1-800-838-3006 or go to http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/190543