I was honored to be part of the interfaith prayer services leading up to the exciting Unity for the Sake of Change event at the Oracle Arena on Inauguration Day. The prayer services and the Oracle event were organized by Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson and his staff.
I was particularly honored to be a speaker at the Jodo Shinsu Buddhist Temple at their first interfaith service, and at St. Paul’s AME Church. BFHP provided information and recruited volunteers at Jodo Shinsu Temple, St. Paul’s AME and at the Oracle Arena.

The end of 2008 was full of ups and downs. The ups? Requests. Requests for services, requests for holiday food boxes and requests for hot meals (30% more than last year) were all up. People who lost their housing after their landlords defaulted on the mortgage payments asking for shelter – that has been up too. The ups can get you down.

The downs? Individual donations are way down. For the 2008 Winter Appeal, we had 20% fewer donors than we did in 2007. Since we had fallen behind in individual donations, my hope is that you can help us catch up. Please make a contribution so that BFHP can keep responding to what is up in the community.

Fortunately, there are ups that don’t get you down. Foundation and corporate support was up! First-time supporters such as Yahoo! Employees, California Wellness, Fireman’s Fund Insurance, Lowell Berry, Thomas J. Long and the San Francisco 49ers helped make up for those increased requests for assistance.
Others, such as Safeway, Red Oak Realty, Partnership, J.R. Orton, Middle Passage, Wells Fargo, Flora Family, Richard Maisel, Evelyn & Walter Haas, Walter & Elise Haas, and Kazan, McClain, Abrams, Fernandez, Lyons & Farrise kept up their charitable contributions.
Community engagement is up! Helping hands came from Cal, M Squared, Armanino and McKenna, Adagia Restaurant, Chef Erick Balbuena of the Musical Offering Café, Skates on the Bay, Courtyard by Marriott Emeryville, Hotel Durant and other places. Congregational support is up. Churches such as Berkeley United Methodist, Epworth United Methodist, Friendship Missionary Baptist, General Mission Ministry, Northbrae Community, Progressive Baptist, St. Mark’s Episcopal, Trinity United Methodist, Lakeshore Avenue Baptist, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley and others increased their giving and volunteers over last year. Support was up for special projects like Gifts for the Forgotten and Thanksgiving Food Boxes.

2008 had its ups and downs. I am hoping that 2009 will bring the positive change we need and that you will be a partner with BFHP in making it happen.
Blues & Jazz Benefit

5th Annual Blues & Jazz Benefit for Homeless Women & Children
March 27th from 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Gaia Arts Center
2120 Allston Way in Berkeley
Doors open at 5:00 p.m.
Dinner served from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Tickets are: $30 in advance
$40 at the door
Includes meal and entertainment

Bands:
Beverly Johnson
Jawbone
Rhonda Benin & Company
The Dave Matthews Blues Band

Win!!!
2 roundtrip Southwest Airline tickets
A night at the Clarement Resort & Spa
Flat screen television

Get tickets by calling 510-649-4965 X312 or alandsberger@bfhp.org
Volunteers and residents of Russell Street will always cherish this Thanksgiving.

“Our Thanksgiving dinner this year at Russell Street Residence brought together our community of residents and their families, staff and their families, and volunteers from Berkeley and as far away as Willets. We conversed and ate and sang together in celebration. All of us got to know each other a little better, we birthed a new tradition of Thanksgiving with and for our residents.”

- Howard King, Russell Street Residence Manager

BFHP would like to give a special thanks to a star volunteer, Rod Maslowski! Thank you Rod for helping us organize Thanksgiving food bags, pick up large and heavy loads of donations, and fundraise by making cold-calls and creating contact lists! We really appreciate the dedication and effort you’ve put into supporting BFHP's work!
The Best Part of My Job
By: Anne Landsberger, Development Associate

“I’ve worked for Berkeley Food and Housing Project now for six months, but I immediately felt how involved and dedicated the Berkeley Community is in supporting our agency and other local nonprofits that work to ease important issues. I’m sure it partly has to do with the fact that as BFHP’s Development Associate, I’m the donation and volunteer coordinator, as well as part of the public relations team, so I see you all quite regularly either at our shelters when you’re volunteering and donating, or at community events. I’d have to say it’s these interactions with you all that are the best part of my job – it’s truly moving!”

- Anne Landsberger
Development Associate

Judy and Dan are a couple who recently moved to Berkeley and met up with BFHP at the Spice of Life Festival this past October. During the festival Judy and Dan learned enough about our agency from our conversation that they joined our mailing list so as to receive regular updates about what we are doing to ease the crisis of homelessness. In December, a couple months after the Festival, I received a call from the receptionist to come receive a donation. As I introduced myself to the donors, I realized I had met them before and said, “Did we speak with you at the Spice of Life Festival?” They were amazed that I remembered them, “we really wanted to do something to help your organization support those who come to you for assistance because you guys really do amazing work.” While Judy and Dan were moved by BFHP’s mission and work, I was amazed at what they had brought for us! They had an overflowing cart full of toys, sports equipment, books, school supplies, and baby clothing to give to the children living in the shelter for Christmas! Judy and Dan’s contribution absolutely demonstrated to me how much our work at BFHP touches the community, and thus, in return, how much the community wants to facilitate our success. It’s our relationship with you, the Berkeley community, which keeps BFHP a functioning nonprofit that actually succeeds at easing the crisis of homelessness!

Will You Be BFHP’s Friend?
By: Eve Howard, Board Member

Yes, we want you and your friendship! As a member of the Board of Directors for Berkeley Food and Housing Project I was asked to host a “Friendraising Event” at my home. Basically the goal is to invite friends and neighbors and share information to build awareness about BFHP. Donations are accepted but not expected. My event was the Thursday after the inauguration. Though we invited a bunch of folks, and were ready with wine and cheese platter, attendance was modest. But the good news is all that did attend were friends either before and/or definitely after and the conversation was lively. Well worth an hour and half. I encourage you to volunteer to have a “Friendraising Event” at your home too. Contact Paul Cwynar at pcywar@bfhp.org or Anne Landsberger at alandsberger@bfhp.org.

Eve Howard
Program Developments

By: Geoff Green, Associate Director

The long-planned Berkeley Shelter Reservation Program, a grant BFHP received last July, began operations in January. There are now two daily reservation periods for homeless folks to receive a bed – at Noon and at 7:00PM. The second time period allows us to fill bed openings caused by “no-shows. We’ve also added a weekend reservation period from 10AM to Noon. Prior to this, BFHP shelters had one sign-up per day and no weekend sign-ups.

Our second exciting new service is the opening of our LifeLong Medical Clinic at Dwight Way. LifeLong has been a BFHP service partner for years and operates wonderful health and mental services for homeless and indigent Berkeley residents. Beginning January 26th, they began operating a clinic at NCWC every Monday, specifically for NCWC residents and day program clients. Long-range plans are to add a social worker weekly to provide direct mental health services.

Startling Statistics

This month’s statistics are a reflection of the new face of homelessness that we, and all homeless service providers, are seeing. The elderly who have lost housing, young singles and families who have lost employment and could not afford their rent, and/or people who faced foreclosure. In 2008, we saw:

► 26% increase in the number of meals served at the Quarter Meal
► 30% increase in the number of meals served at the Dwight Way lunch
► 165 formerly homeless people housed – 17% of all housed by agencies in Alameda County

Berkeley Shelter Reservation Program
1-866-960-2132

Board Of Directors

Board Chair: Bart Grossman, PhD
Vice-Chair: Larry A. Rosenthal
Treasurer: George Fruehan
Secretary: Krista Kim
The chief complaint that 95% of the donors have about charities is that they do not provide information on how they use gifts, the programs and services they deliver, their fundraising costs and the impact of their work on the public. Because it is important to know something about a nonprofit’s financials, you can examine its Form 990 (Income Tax) through an online tool like www.Guidestar.org.

**Good and Bad News**
The first seven months of the 2008-09 fiscal year have gone well due primarily to our surpassing our foundation grants goal, but individual giving is down compared to last year. Going forward we know that it will be more difficult to obtain funding from foundations and corporations that have traditionally been a source of revenue. We are no longer eligible for funding from some foundations and others have either stopped funding altogether or have reduced their support because their portfolios are 60-70% less than what they were last year.

**What We Are Doing**
To correct that trend is to grow our donor base in three ways: public events, mailing lists and Friendraising Parties.

We participate in public events such as the Solano Avenue Stroll, the Spice of Life Festival and the Berkeley Crush. Periodically, we purchase a list of prospects, e.g., people donate to social service agencies, which we segment by household income and geography. We did this for the Winter Appeal. The normal response rate for this is about 1%, which is what we realized this year.

The most efficient way for us to increase our donor base is to have board members or donors invite their neighbors to a Friendraising Party at their homes. (See Eve Howard’s article.) This allows us to speak directly to a group of individuals and answer questions.

### 2007-2008 Expenses

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**A Simple Solution**
Most gifts arrive at the end of the year. This creates a problem throughout the rest of the year. A simple solution is monthly giving. You can donate monthly through online giving (www.bfhp.org) using your credit card or your checking account. For more information, contact the Development Office (510-649-4965 X312 or alandsberger@bfhp.org).

As of 2009, BFHP has adopted an environmental policy which requires us to reduce the amount of waste we are generating. One way we have decided to eliminate waste is by cutting out the paper it takes to list our donors in the printed version of our newsletter. You will be able to find donor acknowledgements on the contributions page of our website (www.bfhp.org). Thank you for understanding and supporting our desire to be an environmentally conscious agency. Want to see what BFHP is up to on a more regular basis, to comment about what we do in the community, or to discuss questions related to homelessness or volunteering? Become our friend on Myspace or Facebook! You can easily find us by going to the links page of our website (www.bfhp.org) and clicking on the links.
“You ladies really made us feel special tonight”
Those eight words of a Berkeley Food and Housing Project (BFHP) client were recounted by Co-Coordinator of Amnesty International at UC Berkeley, Elizabeth Hopper, who had volunteered at BFHP’s women’s shelter months earlier. As Elizabeth shared her volunteer experience, her smile revealed the pride she felt in knowing that she had positively contributed to the lives of those in the community.

My name is Farrah Moos, and I am a first year student at UC Berkeley, as well as a volunteer coordinator for BFHP. In my short five months at BFHP, I have found that the majority of Cal student volunteers truly enjoy feeling connected to the community outside of campus. Of course, in light of my own personal experiences, such an idea makes perfect sense to me. It has been the positive sentiments I have experienced with every service learning action that kept me active in every community I have lived in. My involvement at BFHP began with applying to a Bonner leadership position at the Cal Corps Public Service Center on campus. I am one of 40 Bonner student service leaders in the program, each of whom works with a community partner such as a school or nonprofit. For 8 to 10 hours each week at BFHP, I help coordinate the schedules of the women’s shelter and quarter meal, maintain the volunteer database, and improve the volunteer experience through orientation and reflection processes. In the last five months, I have definitely learned a lot. It has also been really rewarding to connect students with volunteer opportunities and receive positive feedback on their experiences. Comments like that of Elizabeth Hopper make my day! The awareness of BFHP’s work is spreading on the Cal campus and I look forward to further developing the relationship between UC Berkeley and BFHP.
Dear Beloved BFHP Reader,

For Spring, we wish for:

1. Passenger Van
   We need this one the most!!

2. Volunteers
   For group projects or general inquiries contact:
   alandsberger@bfhp.org
   For the meal program contact:
   fmoos@bfhp.org

3. Toiletries
   Especially trial/travel sizes, deodorant, bar soap,
   diapers, foot powder, foot spray, disposable razors,
   Vaseline, mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrushes,
   lotion, nail cutters, Q-Tips, cotton balls

4. Clothing
   New undershirts (1X, 2X, 3X, and 4X), new
   underwear (1X, 2X, 3X, and 4X), white socks

5. Kitchen Supplies
   Glassware, pots, pans, silverware, dishes, slow
   cookers, tea kettles, full size sheet pan rack

6. Food Supplies
   Peanut butter, jelly, pasta, coffee, non-perishables

7. Misc.
   Band-aids, peroxide/rubbing alcohol, ear plugs,
   feminine napkins, tampons, Depend, Midol, cough
   drops, pain reliever, allergy/cold medicine (adult/child)

8. Household Supplies
   Laundry detergent, mops, brooms, sewing kits,
   kitchen/bathroom cleaners, round table (36-42 inches)

9. Linens
   Sheets, comforters, blankets, sleeping bags, towels

10. Entertainment
    Non-violent DVDs, CDs, games

For a virtual tour of our programs or to donate online,
please visit www.bfhp.org

If you wish to donate any of the above items to BFHP,
please contact Anne at alandsberger@bfhp.org or call
510-649-4965 ext. 312.