



DESTINATION HOME

DONOR NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

Happy Holidays from Our Staff At Sacramento Self-Help Housing



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Debbie's Success	1
Permanent Supportive Housing	2
Connie's Story	3
Support SSHH	4



From all of us at Sacramento Self-Help Housing, thank you for supporting our efforts! Keep reading to see how you made miracles happen in 2017.

You Made Debbie's Success Possible

The generosity of our donors makes a dramatic difference in the lives of local people. I'd like to tell you about Debbie, who resided in Grace House (our transitional house in Elk Grove) from February to September. During that time, I worked closely with her as her case manager. Debbie also met weekly with her Elk Grove HART (Homeless Assistance Team) mentor.

Upon entry, Debbie was on SSI. Over seven months, she managed to save over \$2,000 towards her goal of locating

permanent housing. She also got on the wait list for a Section 8 voucher. Moreover, Debbie contacted Sacramento County to sign up for community service in order to get back her driver's license.

In September, Debbie successfully located a room for rent in South Sacramento, paid her deposit, and happily moved in. Debbie is working weekly at a local church to complete her community service hours, and she looks forward to her future. Thank you for making a difference in Debbie's life!

— Kerri Jones,
Interim Housing Case Manager

New Permanent Supportive Housing Building Community

This holiday season, we are so grateful for funding to expand our Permanent Supportive Housing program. Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as in-kind gifts of housewares and furniture, make our success possible.

Since we began our Permanent Supportive Housing program in 2006 (with 24 beds), we have increased our capacity dramatically. We work every day to ease the homeless crises in Sacramento and serve the most vulnerable populations.

SSH now has a total of 154 beds for disabled, chronically homeless men and women, located in 30 single-family residences! We couldn't be more pleased.

We're not stopping there, however — our most recent addition, "Building Community," will add beds for 50 more people currently experiencing homelessness. This new project just started days ago, on December 1st.

Our funders require us to lease up and fill four houses in the first 90 days! That's a tall order in this housing market, but because of the tireless work of Patti Uplinger, *Housing Locator*, and the participation of four homeowners, we already have four houses that are in the process of being approved. We hope to have all four of these properties secured in the first 30 days. Phenomenal work!

I believe that "Building Community" defines what we do as an agency. It's what we strive for to better our communities and the residents in them — to give them a safe place to call home.

Read Connie's story on the following page, and find out how Permanent Supportive Housing transformed her life.

— Anne-Marie Hooper, *Permanent Supportive Housing Program Director*



After having lived by the river for several years, Bill and Trina just moved into one of our Permanent Supportive houses a month ago.

“Being homeless is to lose your identity as a person.”

—Connie,
From our Permanent Supportive Housing Program



Connie's Story

Before becoming homeless, I was a manager with over 30 years of experience in the same career. Unbeknownst to me, I had a disease that was quietly destroying my body and my brain. Tasks that should have been simple were no longer making sense to me. I lost my job. So now, I was living on the street, just another one of the thousands of homeless people in Sacramento. I was proud of being a self-sufficient and independent woman, but now I needed help.

Some people think that being homeless means freedom from responsibility, and the pressures of daily life. It does not. The struggle just to find a restroom is tremendous, especially for women. Obtaining nutritious food is an impossible quest. Personal safety is a huge issue! Finding some shade during sweltering summers, or shelter during cold and rainy winter nights is a Herculean mission. One simply cannot afford the energy it takes to do more than just exist from moment to moment, and constantly worry about things like: "Will I get hurt? Arrested for sleeping? Bitten by animals?"

I found out about Sacramento Self-Help Housing three years into my homeless odyssey. I was housed by SSHH and was able to get back on my feet. Having a permanent address meant getting my mail, and re-connecting with family; finding "ME" again. Being homeless is to lose your identity as a person. You become invisible to other people, and thus feel invisible and powerless

to help yourself. Families are ashamed of you. People think the worst about you. By housing me, and getting me off the street, SSHH enabled me to have a platform to plant my feet on and to spring back from the effects that being homeless had on me. I looked forward to the weekly Social Service visits from a wonderful and wise woman who connected me to counseling and health services. She became my rock and my compass while I found my feet in this strange world with walls, showers, toilet paper, and hot, nutritious meals.

Just this week I moved into my own apartment! After 3 years of homeless living, and then 2 years with a stable home through SSHH, I am empowered to restart my life.

With the people at Sacramento Self-Help Housing using their energy and dedication to serve our community here in Sacramento, I can finally afford to do more than just exist. I can now use my energy to strive for normalcy.

With my and my family's heartfelt and eternal gratitude for their guidance, patience, and care, thank you SSHH!

I could not have done it without you.





The Joy of Giving

Donate to Any of Our Programs

We appreciate all donations, and you may specify which program you want to contribute to at sacselfhelp.org

For Landlords

Since 2006, SSHH has been successfully leasing houses for our various programs. If you are looking for a reliable lessee while also giving an opportunity to those less fortunate, contact Patti Uplinger for more information at puplinger@sacselfhelp.org.

Donate Furniture & Houseware

We are always expanding our programs and houses for clients! Contact Anne for more information ahoopers@sacselfhelp.org

Amazon Smile No Cost Donations

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Sacramento Self-Help Housing just by shopping regularly on Amazon!

To donate, all you have to do is shop on smile.amazon.com and choose Sacramento Self-Help Housing as the organization you'd like to support. Learn more [here](#).



*Our success is based
on your generosity!*

*There are many
ways you can help
this holiday season.*

