

East Oakland Community Project Newsline

Fall 2006

Providing the homeless of Alameda County with the tools for self-sufficiency

Celebrating Crossroads!

“Today, we celebrate the groundbreaking for a new facility and program that exemplifies everything we know is essential to success: a capable and committed provider backed by multiple public agencies that understand the importance of substantial and sustainable funding commitments and support,” Dave Kears, Director of Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, stated at the groundbreaking for Crossroads on August 21, 2006.

Flanked by supporters from the City of Oakland, County of Alameda, private funders and concerned individuals, the East Oakland Community Project (EOCP) celebrated the groundbreaking of Crossroads. The new emergency and transitional housing facility’s state-of-the-art design represents a significant gain in services for homeless individuals and families in Alameda County: one of dignified housing, service-

The design of the new Crossroads facility will accommodate the unique circumstances of our residents.

oriented and environmentally-sustainable design. Since 1990, EOCP has been operating a 105-bed shelter for homeless men, women, and families in a former grocery warehouse on International Blvd. We have succeeded in creating a haven for homeless people to rebuild their lives with clean beds, hot meals, health care, and a wide array of

support services. However, we have long struggled with trying to create a healing environment for homeless people in a decrepit building.

Along with increasing EOCP’s capacity to assist homeless people by 20% to 125 beds, the design of the new Crossroads facility by Kodama Diseño, Architects and Planners will accommodate the unique circumstances of our residents. Beyond the essential living accommodations, the new building will include a respite care area for people recovering from illness, a meditation room and a dedicated wing for families. Crossroads’ design utilizes several state-of-the-art green building technologies to increase health benefits for residents and defray energy costs—more than any other emergency housing provider in the nation.

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The design for the Crossroads facility creates a more supportive environment for helping homeless people regain their independence.



Left to right: Marye Thomas, M.D., Director of the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, Dave Kears, Director of Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, and Arnold Perkins, Director of Alameda County Department of Public Health.

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Andrea Youngdahl, Director of the Department of Human Services, thanked the officials, agencies and individuals who have contributed to the creation of Crossroads: "This collaboration has brought about a new beginning for the East Oakland Shelter and a new start for the many homeless clients who will be served by this facility." EOCP will open Crossroads' doors in the Fall of 2007. Until then, we need your support more than ever. Only with the financial base donated by loyal supporters like you have we been able to come this far. We thank all of you for making this dream a reality!!! ♡

City, County and community members joined EOCP to break ground for the Crossroads facility.

We are grateful to the following government agencies, foundations and individuals who have made Crossroads a reality:

- Alameda County Board of Supervisors: Healthcare Services Agency and Behavioral Health Care Services. Our deepest gratitude to Supervisor Nate Miley for his steadfast support.
- Alameda County Housing and Community Development
- City of Oakland City Council, Community and Economic Development Agency and the Community Development Block Grant
- Congresswoman Barbara Lee's Office
- Ed Bullock and Jeff Ryan, Realtors
- EOCP Staff and Board of Directors
- Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program
- HEDCO Foundation for funding the hydronic heating system
- Our Development Team: Natalia López, Jonathan Austin, Kodama Diseño, Oliver & Co.
- State of California Emergency Housing Assistance Program
- StopWaste.org
- The San Francisco Foundation
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
- U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Special Projects of National Significance
- Washington Mutual Bank
- Y & H Soda Foundation

Marlon's Story

"Something inside humans likes violence," states Marlon Smith (name has been changed), former resident of EOCP. "It is in our history from the beginning of time and is not easily changed."

Having grown up in urban areas with high violence and crime rates, Mr. Smith has been in close proximity to violence for his whole life. He became homeless in New York and relocated to Oakland with the goal of finding

employment. When Marlon came to EOCP, he was unable to separate his anger from violent actions. This anger made it difficult for him to forge healthy relationships, including in the workplace.

While at EOCP, Marlon participated in many of the supportive services offered, including employment and housing search assistance, substance abuse counseling and life skills training. In life skills training, Marlon realized that he had never been taught to properly handle his anger as a child. Marlon explored the negative results of anger and violence with his peers and recognized the benefits of learning how to manage his temper.

"It is a lot easier to change yourself than someone else..."

Marlon found a job working as a security guard and saved enough money to move into his own apartment in Alameda. He decided that he needed to share the lessons he had learned about anger and violence with others, so he started a group at his church to address these problems with youth. "It is time for us to look at the violence within each one of us and change ourselves for the better. It is a lot easier to change yourself than someone else and that is probably the best place to start." ♡



Building Partnerships, Creating Better Spaces

You can make a difference in the lives of homeless individuals and families! To make a tax-deductible donation, please mail your check to EOCP at 5725 International Blvd., Oakland, CA, 94621.

For more information, contact **Elizabeth Abernathy** at (828) 215-0192 or elizabeth@eocp.net. We appreciate your gift.

E OCP applauds the leadership and generosity of **Rebuilding Together** and the numerous companies and organizations whose employees/members volunteered their services in April 2006 to improve EOCP's facilities. Over 100 volunteers collaborated to give our programs a face lift, including painting, paving a driveway and installing water heaters. In addition to improving the efficiency and appearance of our housing programs, these efforts cultivate a greater sense of dignity and self-respect for our residents, who are striving to regain their self-sufficiency. We give a standing ovation to the following volunteers and donors: American Aggregate Slurry, Americorps, Commonwealth Title, Give Something Back, Head Royce, Herd's Machine Shop, Kaiser Alameda HR, Latter Day Saints, Oracle, Oz Service, Roberta Beier, Round Table Pizza, Senders's Market, Swirl, UCOP, US Bank, Ziffel Manufacturing, and ZXE Fraternity HSU. ♡

Special Thanks



We thank our donors who contributed to our **summer raffle**, which raised \$3,800 for homeless children to participate in educational field trips! As a result of your support, our young residents were able to visit Chabot Space and Science Center, Jack London Square, Great America, and the Exploratorium.

We also want to say a special thank you to the individuals and business who contributed such excellent prizes for our raffle: Chez Panisse, James and Cynthia McBride and Wendy Jackson.

Congratulations to the raffle winners, Dr. Denys Crain-Gully, Sr., Martha George, Margaret Hegg, M.D., and Donna Howell! ♡

Holiday Wish List

- * Toys
- * Puzzles
- * Craft Materials
- * Books
- * Videos
- * CD Player
- * Children's CD's
- * Diapers and Wipes
- * Children's Furniture
- * Computer Software (educational, games)
- * Rugs
- * Twin Size Comforters
- * Sturdy bunk beds with protective railings
- * Sturdy high chairs
- * Personal hygiene products (tooth brushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, combs & brushes, lotion)
- * Towels, Washcloths
- * Bed Sheets, Pillows, Pillowcases, Blankets
- * Professional Clothing
- * Books and Magazines
- * Plants and Gardening Supplies



MISSION: EOCP empowers homeless individuals and families in Alameda County to regain a life of self-reliance. We provide dignified emergency and transitional housing and compassionate, comprehensive support services that prepare homeless people to successfully transition to well being.

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**EAST OAKLAND
COMMUNITY PROJECT
NEWSLINE**

Elizabeth Abernathy, *Editor*
Elaine Joe, *Designer*
Tom Howes, *Photographer*
Claudine Tong, *Photographer*



East Oakland Community Project

5725 International Blvd.
Oakland CA 94621
510 532-3211 tel
510 532-2112 fax
www.eocp.net~

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