

# East Oakland Community Project Newsline

Spring 2012

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## Promising Collaboration Leads to Employment Opportunities

Andrew is a tall, solidly built and soft-spoken young man. His case manager at EOCP, Chel Best, set up our meeting to speak about his involvement with the Goodwill One-Stop Services program. Though he seemed timid at first, his gratitude

and excitement about the program really came through as we spoke. "I'm just excited to have a job." he said with a smile. Andrew explained that he had searched on his own for over six months, to no avail. However, after becoming involved with

Goodwill's employment services and finishing their Janitorial Certificate course, Andrew was employed within a few weeks.

Dan McGrue, Director of Homeless Services with Goodwill Industries of

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## Promising Collaboration Leads to Employment Opportunities

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the Greater East Bay, credits much of the recent growth and success of the One-Stop program to the collaboration developed with EOCP. “It’s a great relationship,” said Mr. McGrue, “EOCP was one of the first agencies to embrace us.” Through Goodwill Industries’ One-Stop Career Center, jobseekers can get training in the areas of trucking, janitorial services and culinary arts. Once they’ve completed their training, One-Stop also supports trainees with job placement assistance. They have helped 34 EOCP residents find employment over the last year. Better yet, most clients have been able to find jobs that pay a livable wage at an average of \$11.22 per hour.

Goodwill’s approach is to forge partnerships with several industries (e.g. janitorial, trucking and food services) that offer accredited training programs. Once Goodwill forms these partnerships, they pay for clients’ short term job training and help with placement in their respective fields. “When they leave the program,” says Mr. McGrue, “they come out with skills, they’re

excited and confident.”

On the EOCP side, Case Managers Tambra Duren and Chel Best agree that “the collaboration between

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Goodwill Industries and our agency... has proven to be an effective one.” “With Goodwill assisting with the most sustaining aspect of our goal for clients, they help to expedite our clients’ path to housing.”

Goodwill and EOCP’s case managers work with clients on a case by case basis, finding out what will work

best given the wide range of clients’ experiences and talents, as well as the myriad obstacles many of them face. They ensure that the employers who provide training treat clients with dignity and have a proven track record of success, thus acting as advocates for clients.

Goodwill’s One Stop program goes beyond doing the bare minimum to get clients employed. Going back to Andrew, for instance, who beamed with gratitude as he explained how Goodwill had provided bus and BART passes for him to get to and from training. Once he got the job, Andrew was presented with a 31-day pass to and from his new job in San Jose which would have cost him over \$150. Tiana Ellis, a former Goodwill staff member put it well, “The clients have been our main push and motivation, and they have shown us that you can make the most of any situation. I tell them, “You are here today but you don’t have to be here in six months.”



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We appreciate  
your gift!

# OUR SUPPORTERS

## HELP PEOPLE OVERCOME HOMELESSNESS

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### Foundation Support

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Heffernan Foundation  
AIDS Walk Fund of the  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
The San Francisco Foundation

### Individuals and Businesses

Anonymous (12)  
Mellina Abdullah  
Alternative Telecom Networks  
Hansel Anderson  
Cassandra Benjamin  
Oji Blackston  
Natalie Bonnewit and Matthew  
Myers  
Megan and Jon Chenoweth  
Robert D. Crowder  
Dell Employee Giving Program  
Sonia and Don Dunning  
Karen Euston  
Farley's East

Paula French  
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John Shepherd  
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Judith Ghidinelli and Sharon  
Page Ritchie  
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Monique Parrish and  
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Linda Retta  
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Todd Tews  
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## Help us save some trees!

EOCP will be using the internet to communicate with  
friends and supporters in the future. Please send your  
name and email address to: [ea@eocp.net](mailto:ea@eocp.net).

*Thank you!*

## 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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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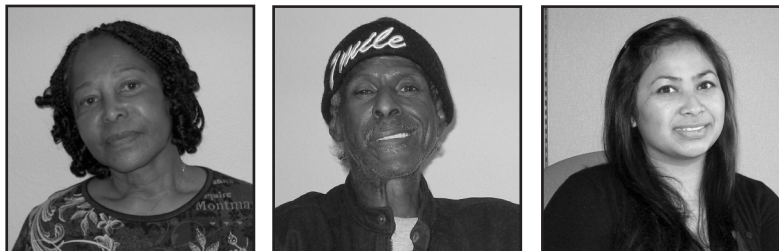
Randy Harrison, *Maintenance Technician*  
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*Maintenance Technician*  
Martha Hercules, *Food Services Manager*  
JoAnne Riley, *Cook*

## OUR HOUSE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Linda Fuentes,  
*Our House Case Manager/Coordinator*  
Gloria Fields, *Youth Counselor*  
Babalola Ogunbiyi, *Youth Counselor*

## MATILDA CLEVELAND/ FAMILIES IN TRANSITION TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Joel Abrevaya, MSW  
*Client Services Director*  
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Jillian Hutchinson, MA  
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Lisa Osborne, *Housing Manager*  
Shariffa Payne,  
*Housing Placement Specialist*  
Zachary Sessions, *Overnight Caretaker*  
Laurie Soms, *Cook*



## Compassion Solves Homelessness



### East Oakland Community Project

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