



Community Matters

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A Magical Evening - Gala Dinner 2006

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Nearly 300 guests attended the Upward Bound House gala dinner on the evening of April 6th at the Skirball Cultural Center. The evening started off with cocktails and the opportunity to meet and greet at the Silent Auction where bidding was brisk on an eclectic array of vintage Provencal furnishings, artist-designed leather goods and jewelry, entertainment industry memorabilia and rare wines.

The Silent Auction was elegantly appointed thanks to the discerning touch of auction chair Arlette Parker and volunteers.



Dinner honoree Coach Ken Carter signing autographs

Board President Kim Defenderfer led the Dinner speeches with an upbeat emphasis on the high success rate our clients enjoy as they work to regain permanent housing and independent lives. Executive Director Andrew Parker screened a short video on the Family Place program and then

announced the organization's plans to purchase a local motel to expand Upward Bound's services to dispossessed families.



June Lockhart, David Hennagin and Cathy Griffin

Our ambassador, June Lockhart gave a warm introduction to Coach Ken Carter, the guest of honor. Coach promised a succinct speech, "like a cheerleader's skirt - long enough to cover the important points and short enough to hold your interest". Carter captivated the crowd with elegance and humor as he emphasized the power of optimism and the need to support the families at Upward Bound - struggling to regain their footing.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, Cathy Griffin presented Dave Hennagin, Managing Director of DDB Direct, with an award of recognition for the pro bono service DDB has so generously given Upward Bound for its marketing efforts.

During dessert actors Bill Fagerbakke and Catherine McClenahan introduced the Live Auction with a performance of the Baladi Dance Theatre. Dinner attendees then showed their passion for Upward Bound's mission by briskly snapping up apartments at Family Place that were auctioned off for "adoption".

We very much want to thank all of the Evening's volunteers and benefactors. We especially want to thank First Federal Bank of California, and Nickelodeon Pictures with Platinum table sponsorships. DDB Worldwide, St. John's Health Center and Michael and Robbie Tollin (producer of the film Coach Carter) with Gold table sponsorships. DDB Direct also very generously donated items for the Silent Auction.

A special thank you goes to Board members Cathy Griffin and Cindy McQuade both of whom worked hard to realize the Evening's success.



In Memory of David Anderson

by Dick Davis

David Anderson brought special skills and total dedication to the development of Upward Bound House.

From “day one” when Reverend Donald Shelby asked him to serve on the Board of Directors of the newly established Upward Bound House, his role on the Board and in special assignments was key to its establishment and success.

David drew on an extensive background in engineering, and general and financial management acquired through business experience including his many years as President of GTE.

David had the knowledge and patience to work through the many problems with the development, design, myriad approvals and construction of the project. For years he participated in weekly meetings with contractor representatives, the architect and others to finalize plans and working details during the period of actual construction.

From the inception of the dream and through years of fund raising, David and his wife Marilyn were major financial contributors.

With the scope and extent of David Anderson’s contributions it is hard to see how Upward Bound House could have come into being without him.

We and the present and future beneficiaries of the services Upward Bound House offers owe David Anderson an unending debt of gratitude.

Volunteer Profile

Doris Battig



A long time member of First United Methodist Church, Doris Battig has been involved with Upward Bound House since UBH was merely a concept.

In 1997 Doris began volunteering, coming in once or twice a week to help with filing and general office tasks. When UBH began managing Senior Villa, Doris started assisting our comptroller.

One of the most important tasks Doris performs is handling the savings accounts for the residents of Family Place. She says, “It’s bittersweet, yet gratifying to see our families graduate to independent living. It isn’t an effort, but a joy to work with the families at Family Place, especially with the babies”.

Each year Doris has volunteered at the Annual Gala Dinner, cataloging Silent Auction gifts and performing many tasks at the dinner itself. Whether setting up the silent auction or cashiering, Doris does it all with a smile.

Doris was born and raised in Idar Oberstein, in southwest Germany, noted for its wine country. In 1960 she immigrated to the U.S. to attend school and met Wynn, the love of her life and husband of 45 years.

Doris enjoys hiking and an active, engaged mind. Once a year Doris and Wynn travel to Northern California to experience the spiritual majesty of the redwoods and the company of artist, Thomas Kincade, whose work the couple collects.

First grade teacher Patty Eskridge of **Farragut Elementary School** was inspired to run a drive to collect clothing, household items and groceries to benefit our Family Place families.

In early March this resourceful teacher organized the Student Council which, in turn, rallied the rest of the students for the ambitious school-wide effort.

Participation was overwhelming as the kids collected six vans full of household goods and food.

Tracy Woodbury, Program Director of Family Place recently remarked, “We are still unpacking all the wonderful items the kids collected”.

Thank you Patty and everybody at Farragut Elementary School.



Ronaldo's Story

by Tina Hill

Ronaldo is a proud young man with a history of anger and violence and as a result, trouble with the Law. But this is a story of how love redeems. Two years ago, unexpectedly, Ronaldo received custody of his two baby girls, ages 1 and 3. Suddenly he had become a single father, but the family had no place to live and no secure employment to sustain them. Imagine for a moment tending to two little girls in temporary shelter after shelter while trying to find a job without a permanent address to put on your resume.

Luckily, another agency referred Ronaldo to Family Place where Program Director Tracy Woodburry determined that Ronaldo had the motivation to succeed. Because Family Place was full, the family had to wait. When Ronaldo eventually received the call that there was a vacancy he remarked, "I know that with God's help this will prove to be the best thing for me and my girls".

Family Place provided a positive atmosphere and support. At first things didn't go smoothly. Ronaldo had to learn basic skills such as combing the girls' hair and changing diapers. Then Ronaldo learned more advanced tasks.

The pressure was trying. Not unexpectedly at one point Ronaldo became discouraged. But with his willingness to listen to his case manager's advice, and by applying the skills learned from the parenting teacher at Upward Bound, and by implementing suggestions from the life skills class, he began to see a ray of light.

Surprisingly, whenever staff at Upward Bound wanted to show an apartment to visitors, it was always Ronaldo's apartment that was picked because it was oh so neat and obviously home to a loving family, full of stuffed toys and decorations to delight the girls. One would never guess that the family that lived there was headed by a single father with a troubled past.

But still it was hard - months into his stay at Family Place Ronaldo found only day labor and the girls were still on welfare. Then four months into the program he was able to secure dependable child care and at ten months Smart & Final offered him full-time employment - where he happily still works.

Finally, the Los Angeles agency Beyond Shelter helped the family locate permanent housing in Los Angeles. With a smile, Ronaldo says he can go on and on with stories about his struggles while here at Family Place, but we'll leave it at, **"THANK YOU UPWARD BOUND HOUSE FOR EVERYTHING"**.



"Surfing the Net" and a Senior reading to a child in the Intergenerational Center

Welcome to the Neighborhood



Upward Bound House representatives Andrew Parker and Cindy McQuade accept a \$5000 donation from Ann Whatley and Julia Rankin of Fidelity Investments. Fidelity Investments has just opened new offices on Wilshire near Upward Bound's Family Place facility.

Kitty Wallace joins the Board of Directors

Upward Bound House is pleased to announce its newest Board Director; Kitty Wallace. Although new to the Board, Kitty has been working with Upward Bound this past year with predevelopment work for a new family services facility.

Kitty is Senior Vice President at Sperry Van Ness and has her offices in Brentwood. Since joining Sperry Van Ness in 1997 she has been setting records - in just the past three years, she has closed over 100 multi-million-dollar transactions, making her the #1 multifamily agent in L.A. County. She is among the top 1% of 1% of investment brokers in the nation..

Kitty received her bachelor's degree from USC's Entrepreneur Program, with an emphasis in finance. She is married to Craig and they have two girls. Kitty also serves on the Board of USC LUSK Center and the IRETO Advisory Council.



"I'm pleased and proud to be involved with Upward Bound House and to serve as a Board Member for this exemplary organization, working to improve the lives of individuals and the Los Angeles community as a whole."

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Big Sunday 2006

On May 7, 2006 close to 25,000 volunteers of all ages gave service to more than 200 different non-profit agencies in Los Angeles. It was all part of Big Sunday '06, L.A.'s Annual Day of Service. There were opportunities for every passion, talent, and age. Projects, planned throughout the day to suit any schedule, last from one hour to the entire day. Big Sunday is an annual event, completely non-denominational, non-political and free of charge. All anyone is asked for is their time and talent. The day is totally underwritten by private, corporate, and foundation grants and donations.

Upward Bound House residents were a part of the event in two separate field trips. Our Senior Villa residents were hosted on a visit to the Norton Simon Museum, and Family Place residents were treated to a fabulous "Lunch and Movie" date in Hollywood.

Our seniors were thrilled with the welcome they received at the museum. Awaiting their arrival was a group of Big Sunday volunteers with snacks, drinks and plenty of smiles. The seniors were escorted by docents through the exhibits on a private tour before the museum opened to the public. Resident Taisa Aybinder said, "The art and the gardens were so very beautiful, and the volunteers were a joy."



The Family Place bus was full of parents, strollers and excited kids. The trip to Hollywood's Harmony Gold Theatre was a first for all of them. Treated to Subway sandwich meals the families then packed the theatre for a special showing of the movie "The Rat Race." Seven year old Carlos and his younger sister Sarah were the first to take their seats. "The movie was so funny," said Sarah. "It was so funny my brother laughed really loud."

Thanks to organizer David Levinson and the volunteers who made this trip possible. Also, a special thanks to the two wonderful anonymous women who showed up from Big Sunday with 150 bags of food for all of our grateful residents. You are truly amazing!

Thank you Dinner 2006 Silent & Live Auction Donors

We Are Baladi Dance Theatre ♦ Dellarobia ♦ Sculpture to Wear

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The Disney VoluntEARS helped for the very first time. Coordinator Jackie Butler, Emma Abrahamian, Mark Ahn, Lisa Kaplan, Sharon Lee and Yvette Lopez made checking in and out a breeze with their good cheer and professionalism.

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Topanga Women's Circle

Imagine living with your family in a car or with hundreds of others on cots lined up in the middle of a gymnasium and then arriving with your infant children to your new apartment at Upward Bound's Family Place. Your new home is friendly, fully outfitted with brand new towels, decorator bedspreads, a crib, flowers, age-appropriate toys, and welcoming stocks of toiletries and food. It is dignified and clean. You'd probably start to cry, as many have, when they first see the work of the Topanga Canyon Women's Circle.

The Circle has now "adopted" eight apartments and taken upon themselves to provide a very warm welcome to families in crisis. Thank you to the sixteen women (and two husbands) of the Topanga Canyon Women's Circle. Your work puts the human touch on our efforts to help.

To find out more about how you can adopt an apartment e-mail arletteparker@verizon.net

Upward Bound House is a community-based nonprofit organization designed to help mitigate the affordable housing crisis on the Westside of Los Angeles. We fulfill this mission by providing free transitional housing to homeless children and their parents and affordable housing for very low-income seniors.