



HOUSING + EMPLOYMENT + LIFE SKILLS

NEWS + SUMMER + 2021

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Dear Friends,

“The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.” - Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou’s words capture so poignantly the meaning of home. Home is a place that is ours, where we can feel warm and safe. Sadly, for too many people in LA County, home is something that feels out of reach.

But there is hope. A new state initiative, called Project Homekey, is making a difference and is helping connect people to housing quickly and cost effectively! Union Station is proud to be part of this initiative and we are already seeing the amazing results.

Under Project Homekey, local entities partnered, acquired and rehabilitated a variety of housing types, including hotels and motels, to provide housing to those experiencing homelessness.

In partnership with National CORE, a national award-winning developer of affordable housing (and our partner at Marv’s Place and the new Civic Center building) and with the support of LA Councilmember Kevin De Leon, we acquired two motels in El Sereno. These hotels will be used for interim housing for three years and will then be converted to permanent housing.

The turnaround was quick. We took possession at the end of December, and by mid-April, we had housed nearly 100 people, the majority of whom came from encampments. A small number came from a Project Roomkey site, where they had been temporarily housed during COVID.

I had the honor of speaking to a number of the clients after they had moved in and many of them expressed gratitude for being safe, having a place to wash and knowing that someone cared about them. They talked about being treated with dignity and respect by our staff. One gentleman, Richard, told me that our staff always asked what he needed and how they could help. He laughed and said, “I keep telling them, I have everything I need now that I’m safe.”

One lady, Martha, was working nearby, but didn’t make enough money for housing and had to live out of her car. She was practically bouncing when she talked about finally having “a home.” Another young gentleman was able to get a full-time construction job now that he has a permanent address. All of this happened in a few short months.

I need to give a HUGE thank you to our National CORE partners who walked beside us in this, sometimes tumultuous but amazing, journey.

Another gigantic thank you goes to my team: Sarah Tower, Alexis Boothby, Amber Follett and everyone working at the hotels and supporting our clients. Amanda Green and her Operations team who helped get the hotels ready for occupancy and ensure our clients are provided meals and what they need to thrive. Adam Kaplan and our HR Team who hired and onboarded staff in record time. Hope Stremski and our Contracts Department who dealt with the legal and compliance issues. To all of them and the rest of our Union Station team, I say thank you – I am so proud to work with such incredible and caring human beings.

Finally, thank you to Council Member Kevin De Leon and his staff, who have been incredibly supportive and who helped make this possible. We are honored to work with you.

To all of us concerned with the crisis of homelessness, thank you for what you do and please continue to help us make a difference.

Sincerely,

Anne Miskey
Chief Executive Officer



Anne Miskey, Chief Executive Officer

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HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES
REBUILD THEIR LIVES
AND END HOMELESSNESS

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Welcome Our Newest Board Members

We are proud to be adding four new board members to our Board of Directors in July 2021. Welcome Rita Diaz, Jordan E. Rettig, Bill Ticknor and Steven Townsend! To learn more about our Board of Directors, please visit unionstationhs.org/board.



RITA DIAZ
Attorney/Partner,
Hahn & Hahn



JORDAN E. RETTIG
Client Relationship Associate,
Capital Group Private Client Services



BILL TICKNOR
Partner, Locke Lord,
Real Estate and Real Estate Finance



STEVEN TOWNSEND
Managing Director - Market Leader,
Wells Fargo Advisors

Our Executive Team Shines Bright

Union Station Homeless Services' Executive Team is unparalleled in their dedication to the mission of the organization and their tireless work in striving to end homelessness in our community. Congratulations to Dana Bean, Amanda Green and Shawn Morrissey on their well-deserved promotions this year, and thank you for sharing your passion and perseverance with our clients and Union Station's staff and supporters.



Dana Bean, Chief Development and Communications Officer

Dana works with her Development and Communications team in leading the organization's diverse fundraising and communications efforts, including foundation and government grants, major gifts, corporate partnerships, direct mail, special events, public relations, and brand management.



Amanda Green, Chief Operations Officer

Amanda leads the work of an 18-person team which is responsible for Volunteer Services, IT, Food Services, Facilities & Capital Improvements, Office Administration, Event Management and In-Kind Donations. She has been with Union Station since 2012, and during that time she has held several key positions.



Shawn Morrissey, Senior Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement

Shawn continues to lead the advocacy work of Union Station, advocating for best practices and policies around homelessness, service provision, housing, and housing accessibility and sustainability. He also heads up USHS's Advocacy Committee, as well as the Lived Expertise Advisory Panel (LEAP).

Help Welcome Them Home

We are incredibly proud to share that our new residents have moved into our two Project Homekey sites in El Sereno. As our residents settle in, you can help welcome them home! We are currently in need of the following in-kind donations:

Gift cards to 7-11, Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, Food for Less, 99 cent store (which are all within walking distance); laundry pods and rolls of quarters for the laundromat; tablets that are essential for finding and applying for employment; shelf-stable food and snacks (granola bars, candy bars, chips, soda).

Donations can be dropped off at our Admin Center (825 E. Orange Grove Blvd. in Pasadena), Monday-Friday between 9 am and 4 pm. For more information, visit: unionstationhs.org/wishlist/.



Changing the Narrative Series Is Award-Nominated

We know that our current homelessness crisis is in large part due to a long history of economic and housing policies that discriminated against marginalized populations. Race, gender, sexuality, age, mental and physical disability, and addiction disorders have all served as significant barriers to securing housing. The Changing the Narrative Series engages in an open dialogue about these complex issues and has been recognized by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as one of the top 5 "Most Innovative Awareness Campaigns in 2021."

Learn more and watch past panels at unionstationhs.org/changing-the-narrative-series/.

Advocating for Change

Union Station Homeless Services is growing our Advocacy Department and we ask you to join us in this work. Our goal is to advocate for proven solutions around service provision, affordable housing, and criminal justice to ultimately end homelessness.

Join us as Union Station Homeless Services expands our political advocacy work. Sign up at unionstationhs.org/advocate to receive our #ActionAlerts and stay up-to-date on important political decisions that impact our work.

A Delicious Night of Cooking and Community

On May 12th, Union Station partnered with The Gourmandise School to host our first ever Cook for a Cause event. In an intimate Zoom setting, participants gathered with Chef May to learn how to prepare gnocchi with butter sage sauce, salad with dill vinaigrette, and olive oil cake.

After the flour flew, the eggs were whisked and the pasta was prepared, the group heard a firsthand account from Quintana, a resident of Marv's Place, whose life has forever been changed by Union Station. Quintana summed up the evening perfectly by saying, "It was so hard before when I didn't have a kitchen to cook for my kids. Now, this kitchen is my favorite room in my apartment. Thank you everyone for supporting Union Station!"



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Hope Stremski, *Sr. Director of Contracts & Compliance*

NEWSLETTER

Anne Miskey
Dana Bean
Sevag Abajian
Calvin Chan
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Pamela Davis Kuhr
Brenda Lynch
Cathy Medina



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Sustaining Neighbors: Emily's Story

Emily Greenfield made her first gift to Union Station Homeless Services last year after learning that a formerly unhoused acquaintance of hers was on a path to permanent housing with Union Station. Seeing how well her friend was doing, Emily became “committed to supporting the deeply restorative work of Union Station.” After a couple of one-time donations, Emily decided to join the Sustaining Neighbors Monthly Giving Society.



“I got my first full-time job and I feel so blessed,” Emily said. “I want to share that blessing with others who need provision as well.”

There are over 150 generous donors, like Emily, who make monthly donations to Union Station. When we all come together to end homelessness and rebuild lives, there's no limit to what we can do.

You can be #partofthesolution year round! To become a Sustaining Neighbor or to upgrade your current gift, please visit unionstationhs.org/sustaining_neighbors/.

The Adult Center Gets an Upgrade



Through the generous grant from Pasadena Rotary Club, Union Station was able to upgrade our commercial kitchen at our Adult Center. The upgrade included stainless-steel backing throughout the kitchen, new stainless-steel shelving, a new stove complete with a grill, a fryer, new smallwares, an updated bathroom and more.

Leave a Legacy

Do you know that more than 80% of Americans donate to nonprofits but only 8% chose to continue their support through a bequest?

By making bequests and other “planned gifts,” you can help your charity of choice and leave a legacy. There are many ways to make a planned gift: Bequests, Charitable Gift Annuity, Charitable Remainder Trust, Gift of Stock, Donor Advised Funds, and IRA Rollovers. Designate Union Station Homeless Services as your beneficiary and continue to rebuild lives for years to come.



Learn more about leaving a legacy at unionstationhs.org/help/donate/planned-giving/.