

OPEN DOORS

THE COVENANT HOUSE CALIFORNIA NEWSLETTER



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The Mission and Five Principles of Covenant House



It is estimated that there are more than 17,000 homeless youth in California with no place to go. Covenant House California (CHC) reaches out to these youth to offer them hope, opportunities and, most importantly, a chance.

CHC is one of 27 Covenant House locations in 27 cities throughout the United States, Canada and Latin America. While each location varies in the services it offers, there is a common element they all share—The Mission Statement and Covenant House's Five Principles.

The Covenant House Mission Statement states:

“Covenant House is dedicated to serving all God’s children with absolute respect and unconditional love...to help suffering homeless kids...and to protect and safeguard all children in need.”

The Mission Statement defines the vision for Covenant House. To accomplish this vision, all locations are guided by the five basic principles: *continued inside*

UCOP Selects CHC Bay Area for Philanthropy Project

A special presentation to CHC took place on October 1st in Downtown Oakland at the University of California – Office of The President (UCOP). The employees selected CHC as their beneficiary for their Annual Community Outreach Project.

UCOP employees donated money to support Covenant House California. Funds were then used to purchase personal care items for the CHC youth. In addition, local business Oaklandish donated T-shirts.

UC President Dr. Janet Napolitano met and spoke with CHC's youth and CHC Board Member William Brodhead expressed gratitude to Dr. Napolitano and the employees of the University of California – Office of The President for their support and community partnership.



Dr. Janet Napolitano holds a donated backpack with CHC Board Member William Brodhead (far left), CHC Associate Executive Director Sergio Medina (far right) and some of the Bay Area CHC Youth

Leaving a Legacy of Value: You Can Save Lives

Have you ever considered making a planned gift to CHC? It's a great way to give to Covenant House California. Planned gifts give you the opportunity to maximize the personal benefits of giving to a worthwhile cause and, at the same time, you can minimize your income, estate, capital gains, or gift tax liabilities.

Planned gifts can take many forms. Most often they are in the forms of real state, stocks, life insurance, and retirement plan assets. But regardless of the type of planned gift, at CHC, they literally help to save lives.

To find out more information about our Planned Giving opportunities, please contact our Development Office at 323.461.3131. The Development Office looks forward to hearing from you.



The Mission and Five Principles of Covenant House *continued from cover*

Immediacy: Homeless youth come to Covenant House in crisis. Immediately and without question, we meet their basic human needs.

Sanctuary: Homeless youth are often frightened and mistrustful. Covenant House protects them from the perils of the street.

Value Communication: Covenant House teaches by example that caring relationships are based on

trust, respect and honesty.

Structure: Homeless youth never know how they will get their next meal or where they will sleep. Covenant House provides the stability and structure necessary to build a positive future.

Choice: Covenant House fosters confidence by encouraging young people to make smart choices for their lives.

Covenant House believes that homeless youth have rights to food and shelter, to guidance and education, and the right to be free from abuse. They have the right to be safe and to be loved. This is why Covenant House California continues to keep its doors open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to assist any youth who requests help without judgement.

Philip: A CHC Youth Grateful for the Opportunities

Philip is 21 years old and has been living at CHC for almost six months now. When his mother passed away, he found himself struggling to find a stable home. He lived with family, then friends for a while, but complications always seemed to arise, eventually leading to him becoming homeless and living on the streets of Hollywood.

"It's really dangerous out there," Philip remembers. "I tried to keep to myself as much as possible." It was through a friend that Philip found out about Covenant House California. He says he was surprised by how much CHC had to offer him when he arrived. "I was just expecting a shelter. I didn't know they had things like the Career Center and food, and even a music program!"

Philip has taken advantage of the programs which CHC offers and now has a job and is saving money. He wants to have his own place and eventually go back to school to study music. "I have no idea what would have happened to me without CHC," he says. "I'd still be on the streets, probably." Instead, Philip has found opportunities and hope for the future.



The Holidays are Approaching: We Need Your Help

The holidays can be a difficult time for the youth that Covenant House California serves. However, CHC makes a concerted effort to ensure that this is not the case! At CHC, the holidays are filled with fun, festivity, joy and love for the youth it serves. Thanksgiving celebrations are held at both campuses to welcome friends of CHC and their guests.

For the Christmas holiday, the youth enjoy a caring and loving environment with a CHC brunch, hosted by staff and volunteers. That morning, the youth are given gift cards so that they can choose a

special gift for themselves. They sometimes even receive a visit from Santa Claus!

These holiday events are only possible because of generous volunteers and donors who make financial or in-kind donations of gift certificates. If you are interested in contributing in some way to these events, please contact:

Noel Russell
Community Outreach Coordinator
323.461.3131, ext. 274
(for Los Angeles)
or
Stuart Rogoff
Associate Development Officer
510.379.1010, ext. 1009
(for the Bay Area)



Mixology 2014: Highlights from the CHC Event



The judges: (from left) Jeremy Sisto, Paul Hanneman, Heather McDonald, Rachel Burkons, Naomi Schimek, and Alex Carlton

On October 1st, the Second Annual All-Star Mixology Competition took place in Hollywood to benefit Covenant House California. Sponsored by *The Hollywood Reporter*, *The Tasting Panel* magazine, Delta Air Lines, the Skybar at Mondrian and Funkin Cocktails, the event featured some of

California's best mixologists competing to create the best cocktail for the enthusiastic crowd.

After a prejudged first competition, four finalists were then given the secret ingredient (berries) and were given just fifteen minutes to create the winning cocktail. Kristina Howald, Bar Director at Bestia in downtown Los Angeles, was the winner of the night.

Alie Ward and Georgia Hardstark (*Tripping Out With Alie and Georgia*) and Robert Holguin (ABC 7 Eyewitness News) emceed the evening

There was also a silent auction as part of the evening's events. The money raised from the night will help fund CHC's programs and services in the coming year.



Robert Holguin from ABC 7 Eyewitness News was one of the emcees for the evening.

[A]ZIONE PR's Contribution to CHC's Mixology and Beyond



CHC is grateful to [A]ZIONE PR, a full-service public relations firm located in NYC and LA, for their assistance and dedication to the Covenant House mission. Since 2011, [A]ZIONE has worked from the ground up with CHC to deliver global attention to CHC's various events—most recently with the All Star Mixology event. With over 711,960,919 media impressions, [A]ZIONE's team was able to secure celebrities and press,

including local, entertainment and worldwide media coverage for the 2014 Mixology event, making it the most successful yet!



Alie Ward and Georgia Hardstark from "Tripping Out with Alie & Georgia" with CHC Executive Director Bill Bedrossian

CHC's Annual Report At A Glance: Fiscal Year 2014

In **2014** CHC served **2,713** youth with:



8,147
Outreach
Contacts



144,417
Meals



48,180
Nights of
Care



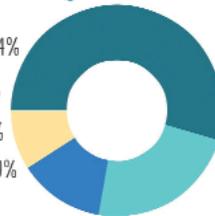
830
Medical Visits



379
Job & Educational
Placements

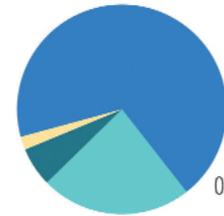
Ethnicity of Youth Served

African-American: 54%
Latino: 24%
Caucasian: 13%
Other 9%



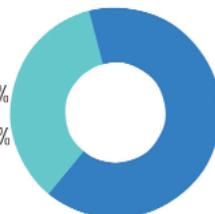
Sources of Revenue

Private Donations: 68%
Government Grants: 23%
Contributed Services & Merchandise: 6%
Other: 3%



Gender of Youth Served

Male: 65%
Female: 35%



Types of Expenses

Program Services: 94%
Program Administration: 3%
Cost of Fundraising: 3%





**Covenant
House
California**

Opening Doors for Homeless Youth

A 501(c)(3) organization
Monetary donations are tax deductible.
FEDERAL TAX ID: 13-3391210

Los Angeles Program and Administration
1325 N. Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027
Tel. 323.461.3131

Bay Area Program
200 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94607
Tel. 510.379.1010

Donor Hotline
1.866.COV.DOVE

WWW.COVENANTHOUSECALIFORNIA.ORG
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A Message from the Executive Director of CHC



Dear Friend,

As the holidays quickly approach, I can't help thinking about the first of Covenant House's Five Principles—Immediacy. At CHC, this means recognizing the needs of a youth who has come through our doors right away and doing everything we can to help them. Oftentimes, this means providing them with shelter, a warm bed and food. But I am proud to say that we also believe that immediacy means making them feel safe, wanted and, most importantly, loved.

There is probably no other time of year when this is more important. Most of us will spend time with our families during the holiday season, but our youth are often victims of abuse and neglect. The holidays can be a difficult time for them. To prevent this from happening, we try to let the youth know that they are a part of the CHC family—a family that cares for and believes in them. I encourage you to be a part of this special mission.

CHC is not just a shelter to these youth. It is a place of hope. It is their home. And with your support, we can continue to make it a joyous one.

From all of us at CHC, I wish you and yours a very special holiday season and thank you for being a part of our family.

Sincerely,

Bill Bedrossian
Executive Director, Covenant House California

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