



**Covenant  
House  
California**

# CHC inside

SPRING 2014

Opening Doors for Homeless Youth

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friend,

Every day at Covenant House California (CHC) is an uplifting experience for me for two very

specific reasons. The first is a simple and obvious one. When I talk to the youth whom we are helping on a daily basis and I see their progress, I feel a sense of satisfaction about what we are accomplishing. I know that CHC is making a difference.

The second reason is specifically directed at you. After all, you are the reason that CHC is able to make that difference. It takes a great amount of effort to accomplish what we do. Yet without your support, CHC would not even exist. Homeless youth would not have a place to find hope.

I am so grateful for your confidence in our work. It is always a moving experience to think about your efforts and dedication to CHC—to know that you are out there and that you care.

Sadly, there are still youth out there on the streets who desperately need CHC's help. I hope you will continue to be our partner as our mission moves forward. Please never cease making a difference.

With much appreciation,

Patrick S. McCabe  
Executive Director, CHC

## CHC'S CLINICAL SERVICES TEAM



Daniel Ballin (center) hosts a group counseling session for CHC residents.

When a youth enters CHC seeking help, there is an effort to meet their immediate needs—providing safe shelter, food and clothing. CHC will then help the youth with employment and education, and whatever is necessary to guide them toward a stable, independent life. Oftentimes, though, a youth can enter CHC's program with internal struggles which need to be addressed before this can happen. It's the job of CHC's Clinical Services Department to help the youth overcome these issues.

"A lot of our youth have through some

very tough situations in foster care, child abuse, gang or street violence, or a whole list of other things," says Daniel Ballin, the Clinical Services Director for CHC's Los Angeles campus. "This can make it even more difficult for them to take the necessary steps to move forward when they are still dealing with their past."

Ballin says Clinical Services does several things when helping a youth, which include sorting through what their experiences have been, and helping them learn new ways of thinking and coping. "This helps strengthen their

(CONT. INSIDE)

## DEDICATED: HANS AND VALERIE IMHOF

Several years ago, Hans Imhof met a nun who was rather passionate about her job. "My husband was immediately taken by her knowledge and sense of commitment," says Valerie Imhof, Hans' wife.



That nun was Covenant House

California's Sr. Margaret. It was this meeting which would spark the Imhofs' curiosity about CHC and which would eventually lead to a commitment that has lasted more than fifteen years.

"Sr. Margaret invited Hans to stop by the Los Angeles campus and when he was on a

(CONT. INSIDE)

# CHC YOUTH: ADONTE

"This is the first bed I have slept in years," says Adonte, a 22-year-old resident of Covenant House California's Bay Area shelter. He has been a part of the program for three months and says it has changed his life. "If not for CHC, I would be on 35th Avenue, selling drugs to survive."

Growing up wasn't easy for Adonte. His stepfather had mental health issues and oftentimes, he found himself being the caretaker for his mother and two brothers. Frequently, his family was homeless. When he moved to the Bay Area, things didn't improve. He found himself sleeping on couches, or on the floor at his grandmother's apartment. Often, he slept in his car with his belongings in a shopping center parking lot. Things went from bad to worse, though, when Adonte lost his job. He wasn't just homeless—he had no income.

Adonte wasn't sure what he was going to do, until the day he ran into a friend



in People's Park. After explaining his situation, his friend suggested that he check out Covenant House California. His friend had been a resident there and thought that Adonte would be right for the program. It took a week, but Adonte decided to take his friend's advice.

When he entered CHC for the first time, Adonte met Outreach worker Clay Adams and felt welcomed instantly. "I thought it would be chaotic

here. I was worried about my stuff and expected that the residents would be fighting all the time. It was anything but that," he says.

Now, with the help of CHC's Employment Skills Program, Adonte has found a job and is working hard. He also has been attending the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, where he has been learning music theory, audio production and vocal mixing. In addition, he will be attending San Francisco State University for the music recording industry certificate program.

Adonte's schedule is hard. He works from 4am to 12pm and still has classes to attend as well, but he knows his hard work will pay off one day—something he attributes to his time at CHC. "I've learned how to live my life with the demands of work, school and sleep. I am learning to be a man."

## CLINICAL SERVICES TEAM (CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE)

internal world, so they are able to move forward in life and get a job, an apartment and stabilize their life."

CHC's Clinical Services works with the youth in several different ways. The first step is a psychosocial assessment of any youth who enters CHC's program. Each youth is interviewed by a member of the Clinical Services Department to obtain as much background information as the youth will provide. The information is then shared with the youth's Case Manager, who helps them with their specific needs as they advance through CHC's program.

Another service which is offered is group therapy. "Sometimes, it's more effective to have conversations with a group. They can learn from one another and feel a sense of community. It helps them realize that they're not alone in their struggles," says Ballin.

Clinical Services also offers long-term assistance to the youth, through therapy with licensed social workers. In addition, a psychiatrist is available once a week for those who may need medication.

"I believe we're very fortunate to have a clinical services program at CHC," Ballin says. "It doesn't just help the youth, it keeps us more informed about the population we serve and how we can best help them in the future."



CHC's Los Angeles Clinical Services Staff

## CHC RECEIVES FOUR-STAR RATING

Covenant House California received a four-star rating (the highest rating) on Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator is America's largest and most influential charity rater, designed specifically to help donors find worthy charities.

Charity Navigator's rating system examines two broad areas of a charity's performance: the financial health of the organization, and their accountability and transparency. On a scale with a high score of 70, CHC achieved a perfect score for accountability and transparency. CHC received an overall score of 60.46, which resulted in the four-star rating. Four-star ratings define an organization as "Exceptional," as well as outperforming most charities in its cause.

Charity Navigator is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

## HANS AND VALERIE IMHOFF (CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE)

business trip, he took a tour, met with the staff, and talked about CHC's goals and mission. He was very impressed with everything he saw," says Valerie.

Soon, Hans was bringing Valerie up to Los Angeles for the same tour. Her experience was similar to his. "I remember being very struck by CHC's staff—both their knowledge and dedication," she says.

Hans and Valerie say that their support of CHC comes from an admiration for the program.

Last year, during CHC's 25th Anniversary, the Imhofs' generosity

went even further. They took advantage of the naming opportunities that were available and sponsored the Angel Garden at the Los Angeles campus.

"To us, the garden is a place for refuge, reflection and quiet. It's something we all need to replenish our lives, particularly for these kids. It made sense to us," she says.

Valerie is a former teacher and Hans is an electrical engineer who runs several companies. They have been married for forty-two years. Their support for CHC has had a lasting impact on the youth who have entered the program, but Valerie is modest about their commitment.

"We just think it's important to give and CHC is offering something of true value by trying to change the lives of these youth, and helping them reach their goals."



*The Angel Garden at the Los Angeles campus was named in honor of the Imhofs.*

## CHC YOUTH: TERESA

"There's no other program like this," says Teresa, a 20-year-old Covenant House California youth. Teresa has been a part of CHC's program before, but this time, things are different for her. She has a desire to take responsibility for her life and wants to take advantage of CHC and everything that the program has to offer.

Growing up, Teresa's life was a rocky road. She never had a completely stable home. Her parents died when she was just four years old. She moved in with her grandmother, but living with her proved to be difficult. As a result, a social worker decided it was best for Teresa to live in a foster home. Five years later, Teresa had lived in more than 19 different foster homes.

When Teresa turned 18, she was no longer eligible for foster care. She found herself on her own and without guidance. As a result, she found herself drifting. She had fallen through the cracks of the system.



"That time was a blur. I did a lot of drugs, squatting, hotel hopping, sleeping on my grandmother's porch," she says.

One dismal night, she saw a friend play Russian Roulette and kill himself. "I would hate to say that I changed my life at the expense of someone else's life, but it was definitely a wake-up call."

Unlike before, Teresa has come to Covenant House California with a different attitude and a commitment to complete the program. Along with safe shelter and three meals a day, Teresa has been provided with health services and training to help her begin an independent life.

Working with the Employment Skills Program, Teresa received her California High School Proficiency Certificate and is now taking courses to become a Pharmacy Technician. She now has a savings account and a plan with goals.

"I get a lot of support and encouragement from CHC. I want my brother to come into the program here, so he can get the kind of help that I have."

# CHC'S SECOND ANNUAL SLEEP OUT: EXECUTIVE EDITION



On November 21, 2013, Covenant House California held its second annual Sleep Out: Executive Edition in Los Angeles. More than thirty-five executives and community leaders chose to spend a night sleeping outdoors on hard pavement, in solidarity with homeless youth, as well as to raise funds for CHC. This was part of the nationwide Sleep Out, which took place in thirteen cities across North America. Each event was sponsored by the Covenant House in that city.

"I wanted to support all the homeless

kids in Los Angeles," said Paul Hanneman, a CHC Board Member and Sleep Out participant. "Somebody has to raise awareness of this cause and I think this one of the best ways to do it."

The evening began with the participants meeting with CHC youth, followed by a late-night meal and an informal group discussion about youth homelessness. Afterward, the Sleep Out participants were given a sheet of cardboard and a sleeping bag, and were then escorted to an area outside of CHC's campus, where they prepared their sleeping area for the night.

"It opened my eyes even more to the plight of homeless youth and what they really endure," said Christophe Choo, another participant.

Collectively, the group raised almost \$400,000 for CHC, as well as learning firsthand about the struggles of the homeless.



(above) The Sleep Out participants try to get some sleep. (left) Participant Paul Hanneman thanks his supporters for their donations.

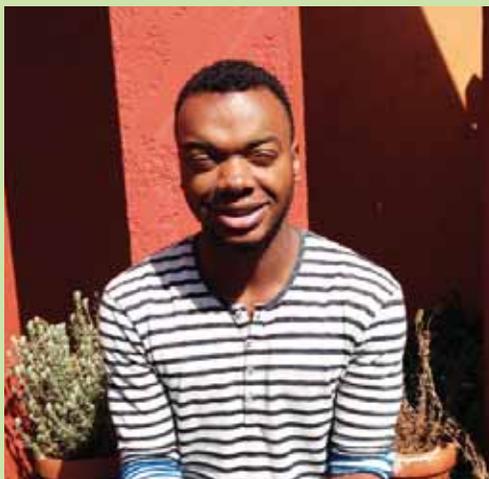


## CHC ALUMNI: DION

"I always wanted to be in a place where I can contribute to something that helps people," says Dion, a former CHC resident, who is now a film editor. "I finally got that chance." That chance is helping with CHC's Digital Dove Program, the same program that got Dion started on his career in the film industry.

Several years ago, Dion was in his early twenties, when he experienced a streak of bad luck. He and his roommates were victims of theft from their landlord at the time and were on their way to becoming homeless. He came to Covenant House California, desperate to find a place to stay.

Dion went through CHC's transitional living program and followed his assigned case plan, but he admits not having a specific direction or goal. Everything changed for him, though, when he decided to attend a Digital



Dove class. Digital Dove is CHC's filmmaking program and Dion says it literally changed his life. "I had a moment where I realized that this was for me. It was what I wanted to do," he says.

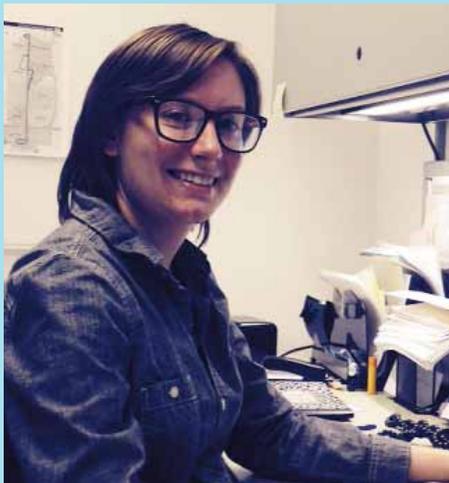
His enthusiasm was noticed by the Digital Dove instructors and soon,

Dion had an internship and was editing pieces on Final Cut Pro. Not long afterward, the instructor at the time told Dion he should be working in post-production and recommended him for a job. It took a while, but eventually, Dion got the job. After a little time, that job led to other things. He now works as a Media Manager at Asylum Entertainment.

Now, Digital Dove is creating an advisory board who are involved in the film industry to help the program grow and determine its direction. Dion has been asked to be a part of that board, because of his career and his role as a CHC alumni.

"It feels really good doing it," he says. "I wouldn't be where I am without Digital Dove. Being a part of the board gives me a chance to help others pursue their passion, so they can change their life in a positive way."

## GIVING BACK THROUGH CHC: TARA RUTHERFORD



"I really like the fact that CHC isn't just a shelter," says Tara Rutherford, an Education and Employment Specialist at CHC's Bay Area campus. "CHC is a program and a place where people can make significant progress in reaching goals or changing their lives."

As an Education and Employment Specialist, Rutherford works directly with CHC's youth. She performs a variety of tasks, but they ultimately lead to two things: helping the youth get an education and helping them find a job.

Rutherford hosts two hours of group meetings with the youth each day. She also meets one-on-one with her clients twice a week to see what kind of personal assistance they may need for school or finding a job.

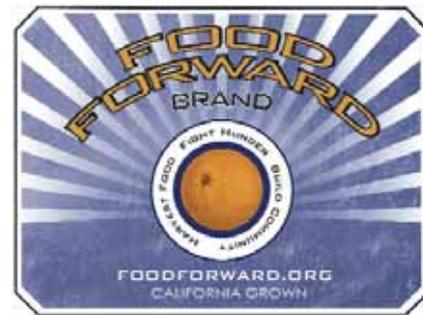
Originally from Pennsylvania, Rutherford came to the Bay Area to attend school. After getting her Masters in Psychology and Philosophy, she looked for a job that would allow her to give back to the community. She says she found it in CHC. "Giving the support and help that these youth need can make a big change in their lives. They can go from being homeless to being incredibly successful in the future. It gives me a sense of hope."

## FOOD FORWARD AND CHC

Covenant House California serves three hot and fresh meals a day to its clients at both its Los Angeles and Bay Area campuses. With the meals served to homeless youth on the streets through CHC's Outreach Program, the total number of meals served each year is more than 150,000. That is why the in-kind donations of the nonprofit group Food Forward are so important.

Once a week, every week, CHC's Los Angeles shelter receives an in-kind donation of fresh fruit and vegetables from Food Forward, a volunteer, grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to making change around urban hunger. The organization collects fresh local produce that would otherwise go to waste from backyards, farmers' markets and the downtown wholesale market, and delivers it to agencies serving people in need. Because CHC serves so many meals, Food Forward's in-kind donations are an ideal fit.

"We really appreciate the work which



Food Forward is doing," says Anna Waller, the FMA Production Manager who supervises meals that are served at the CHC's Los Angeles cafeteria. "Their in-kind donations ease the financial strain of serving quality meals to the youth."

Food Forward donates 100% of the produce they collect to local food pantries across Southern California. With their numerous distribution partners, they provide fresh produce to more than 40,000 clients a month. For more information on Food Forward, visit their website at [www.foodforward.org](http://www.foodforward.org). CHC thanks Food Forward for their in-kind donations and their support.

## WAYS TO HELP: IN-KIND DONATIONS

Covenant House California regularly accepts in-kind donations for its youth. CHC relies heavily on the kindness and commitment of companies, community businesses, and private donors to meet these needs, which are often beyond the organization's budget constraints.

Donations can be delivered during regular business hours:  
Monday through Friday, 10am to 6pm

For more information on CHC's specific needs, or to arrange a drop-off, please contact:

in Los Angeles:  
Jody Turken  
Manager of Stewardship and Donor Relations  
(323) 461-3131, ext. 253  
1325 N. Western Ave.  
Hollywood, CA 90027

In the Bay Area:  
Jill Battalen  
Bay Area Associate Development Officer  
(510) 379-1010, ext. 1009  
200 Harrison Street  
Oakland, CA 94607



1325 N. Western Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Non Profit Org  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 116  
Los Angeles, CA

**DO YOU KNOW A YOUTH IN NEED OF HELP? PLEASE CALL 1.323.461.3131**

<https://www.facebook.com/covenanthousecalifornia>  
<https://www.youtube.com/covenanthouseca>  
<https://twitter.com/covenanthouseca>  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/covenanthousecalifornia>



[WWW.COVENANTHOUSECALIFORNIA.ORG](http://WWW.COVENANTHOUSECALIFORNIA.ORG)  
[info@covenanthousecalifornia.org](mailto:info@covenanthousecalifornia.org)

**Donor Hotline**  
1.866.COV.DOVE  
**Bay Area Program**  
200 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94607  
Tel. 510.379.1010  
**Los Angeles Program and Administration**  
1325 N. Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027  
Tel. 323.461.3131



**Patrick S. McCabe**  
*Executive Director*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**James H. Leonetti**  
*Chair*

**Paul Hanneman**  
*Vice-Chair*

**William Brodhead**  
David M. Carter

**Dr. Vincent E. Castro**  
Beth A. Corets

**Robert M. Curry**  
K. Kristine Dunn

**Joseph P. Esposito**  
Dean Factor

**Michael Kibler**  
Jordan L. Kruse

**Daryl Kueter**  
Sr. Jo-Anne Laviolette, DC

**Scott McMullin (Chair Emeritus)**  
Michael F. Marino

**John G. Mavredakis**  
Joseph K. Nelson

**Karl A. Pettijohn**  
Jeremiah T. Reynolds

**Herbert Richard Schulze**

**EXECUTIVE STAFF**

**Andrew Downes, Pres, ELG**  
(Emerging Leaders Group Rep.)

**John Garcia**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Sylvia LaMalfa**  
*Associate Executive Director*

**Melanie Merians**  
*Chief Development and Communications Officer*

**Luz Buan**  
*Chief Financial Officer*

**John Garcia**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Sylvia LaMalfa**  
*Associate Executive Director*

**Melanie Merians**  
*Chief Development and Communications Officer*

**John Garcia**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Sylvia LaMalfa**  
*Associate Executive Director*

**Melanie Merians**  
*Chief Development and Communications Officer*

**John Garcia**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Sylvia LaMalfa**  
*Associate Executive Director*

**Melanie Merians**  
*Chief Development and Communications Officer*

**John Garcia**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Sylvia LaMalfa**  
*Associate Executive Director*

**Melanie Merians**  
*Chief Development and Communications Officer*

**John Garcia**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Sylvia LaMalfa**  
*Associate Executive Director*

**Melanie Merians**  
*Chief Development and Communications Officer*

**John Garcia**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Sylvia LaMalfa**  
*Associate Executive Director*

**Melanie Merians**  
*Chief Development and Communications Officer*

**John Garcia**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Sylvia LaMalfa**  
*Associate Executive Director*

**Melanie Merians**  
*Chief Development and Communications Officer*

**John Garcia**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Sylvia LaMalfa**  
*Associate Executive Director*

**Melanie Merians**  
*Chief Development and Communications Officer*

**John Garcia**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**COVENANT HOUSE CALIFORNIA**

is a 501(c)(3) organization,  
and monetary donations  
are tax deductible.

FEDERAL TAX ID: 13-3391210

**INSIDE CHC** is written  
and published by the  
Development Department  
of CHC.

COPYRIGHT © 2014

**Managing Editor:**  
Steve Daniels

**Contributors:**  
Lin Conner

**Regina Klein**  
**Melanie Merians**

**Andree Morn**  
**Jody Turken**

**Tanya Quafie**  
**Degen Fener**

**Jill Battalen**