

An Evening of Giving and Hope



HOUSING WORKS supporters bow their heads as The Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord offers the invocation to begin the evening of celebration and fellowship.



Tom McGuiness (second from right) receives recognition for his outstanding community leadership from HOUSING WORKS board of directors. (R to L) Judy Vaughan, Joan DeFrancesco, Gwynne Guibord, Mary Kirchen, Tom McGuiness, Andrew Kerr; row 2, Ray Mattes, Tom Halliwell, Kathy Cooper-Ledesma. Not pictured, Vivian Engel, Marya Barr, Karol Schulkin.

It was a night of firsts through the generosity of many. The first Housing Works fund raising dinner on July 22 brought together about 100 supporters who enjoyed the culinary delights provided by Tom Harney and Sodexo in the beautiful garden setting of The Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord and Dr. Lo Sprague's home.

One of the special highlights of the evening was the initiation of the Tom McGuinness Community Leadership Award that was presented to Tom with the inscription, "To be given to individuals who follow Tom's tireless example to create relationship centered sustainable community with systems and structures that provide for healthy, quality living especially for the economically poor." The first recipient, a long time champion of community building with an emphasis on affordable housing, was Mercedes Marquez, the current General Manager of the Los Angeles Housing Department. She won cases against slum lords in skid row, served as senior counsel to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development during the Clinton administration, and worked to develop affordable housing that addresses the needs of farm workers, Native Americans, elder gays and lesbians, and persons with HIV/Aids.

The courage and strength required to face the issues of homelessness and regaining independence and economic stability was shared by two women who participate in the Long Term Housing Program. Zoe Contreras and Tabia Salimu described their first hand experience of the struggle to find and maintain a safe affordable environment in Los Angeles for their families.



Tabia Salimu and Zoe Contreras share their stories of coping with the housing crisis in Los Angeles. Tabia (left) works at Los Angeles Men;s Project; Zoe, pictured with 2 year old Isabella, works for a law firm in West Los Angeles.



(left) Tom McGuinness is greeted by Mercedes Marquez, first recipient of the Tom McGuinness Community Leadership Award. (right) Keynote speaker, Tony Salazar, congratulates Mercedes. Both have worked tirelessly to change the landscape of affordable housing in Los Angeles.

Through the generosity of our donors and in-kind support from several organizations, Housing Works received approximately \$25,000. Many thanks to those who pledged to make contributions through the year.

The purchase of Alexandria House Apartments was announced with great enthusiasm. Through the partnership of Alexandria House and Hollywood Community Housing Corporation and Housing Works serving as consultant to Alexandria House, the dream of providing permanent housing for women in transition is happening.

The guest speaker for the evening, Tony Salazar, President of the West Coast Division of McCormack Baron Salazar portrayed a vision of safe neighborhoods with homes affordable at several levels as a means of hope for the future. Neighborhoods characterized by diversity of families with respect to income, ethnicity, age and profession were essential to sustainable growth of strong communities. It was a vision shared by all present and one that provides hope in the midst of a crisis. Housing Works is grateful to participate in creating the options that provide solutions and opportunities and to all who share in the hope and the vision of building community.

Creating Housing Options

For the past two years Housing Works has sought to provide a link between apartment owners who understand the current rental housing crisis in Los Angeles and low income families searching for an affordable apartment. Through the generosity of individual property owners, Immaculate Heart Community and St. Joseph Parish, Long Beach, and in cooperation with Alexandria House, Housing Works is able to assist women and women with children with the move to permanent housing. At a time when public rent subsidy programs are impossible to access because of a multi-year waiting list or a program only provides support for 4 to 6 months, families at risk of homelessness have a greater possibility of sustaining independence with assistance from the long term housing program. Housing Works seeks to link the family with the property owner or to provide subsidy assistance until specific goals can be met that lead to greater independence that is also sustainable. Zoe and her family will be able to live in a 2 bedroom apartment; Tabia and her family continue to enjoy an affordable 2 bedroom apartment for half market rate rent. Both continue to participate in Alexandria House services that include child care, counseling, and budget planning.

Interested property owners are urged to contact Housing Works for more information on how to participate in the program. Please call 323.931.4476.



HOUSING WORKS is proud to work with and congratulates Hollywood Community Housing Corporation and Alexandria House on their partnership to rehabilitate this 16 unit building for affordable housing for low income families. The building located at 510 South Alexandria Ave., had been slated for demolition and replacement with condominiums.

Announcing the new **HOUSING WORKS** web site: www.housingworkscs.org
Special thanks to Jo Stougard for her help with the website.

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HOUSING WORKS

925 South Citrus Avenue
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HOUSING WORKS is a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit corporation

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We are proud to begin introducing you to our Board:

The Rev. Dr. Gwynne Gulbord is the current chair and is the Officer for Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles and the Interfaith Consultant to the Episcopal Church USA.

Karol Schulkin is the Director of Homeless Services for the County

of Ventura and a member of the Immaculate Heart Community

Judy Vaughan is the Founder and Director of Alexandria House which celebrates its 10th Anniversary this year.

Andrew Kerr is our Treasurer. He is Controller and Operations Manager for Crew Grading and Excavating.

HOUSING WORKS gratefully acknowledges:

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