

OPPORTUNITY CENTER

QUICK

UPDATE

FALL 2002

The mission of the Opportunity Center is to promote human dignity both by providing for very basic needs of persons in our community, and by offering them the opportunity to find housing and a stable life. The center serves the entire community as it responds to the problem of homelessness and poverty, which affects everyone.

Architect to Unveil Opportunity Center Plans on September 19

On Thursday evening, September 19, at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, Rob Quigley Architects, the architectural firm designing the Opportunity Center, will make a public presentation of the plans for the center. When it is built, the Opportunity Center will provide space for homeless services and affordable housing. The meeting will be a chance for anyone interested in the project to ask questions and give feedback to the Community Working Group and its architects about the design and service plan. This informational meeting is taking place prior to any of the public hearings that will be held for public comment by the Palo Alto Planning Commission, Architectural Review Board and City Council. Those hearings will occur later in the fall and winter.

If you'd like more information about the details of the Opportunity Center plans, see the initial design, or would like to show support for the effort, please join us.

Public meeting to present plans for the Opportunity Center

Where: First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper Street (at Lincoln)

When: Thursday, September 19, 7pm

All are welcome

Anonymous Couple Gives \$500,000 Gift from Sale of Their Home

Although the stock market may be low at the moment, Palo Alto real estate is still very healthy. An area couple (who wish to remain anonymous) recently sold their home and decided they wanted to use some of their windfall as an investment in affordable housing and homeless services for the community they've been a part of for so many years. They contacted us in June to make an early lead gift of \$500,000 to the Opportunity Center.

"We felt that it was the right thing to do—to help people who don't have a home in our community. We hope that it will be a lasting gift to help those who need housing here," said one member of the couple. "We hope that it might encourage others to give too."

If you're interested in other creative ways to support the campaign, please contact us at: 650-562-3888.



Training for Faith Community Campaign Leaders on October 22



Jim Burklo

"The Opportunity Center could not have gotten this far without the faith community—and the help of the faith community this year is key to completing it," said The Rev. Jim Burklo, Chair of the Faith Community Campaign for the Opportunity Center. The Campaign is now seeking leaders from area churches and synagogues to "lead the charge" in their congregations in raising one-time gifts for the Center. A training on **October 22, 7-8:30pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto** is designed to equip those interested in developing a

What's the Opportunity Center?

- **Hope** for men, women and children in the midpeninsula struggling with homelessness or at risk of homelessness.
- **A building** to be constructed on Encina Avenue (just north of Town and Country Shopping center in Palo Alto) that will contain homeless services and affordable housing. The construction is to begin next summer.
- **A long-held dream**, which will be made possible by members of this community. We have received several early lead gifts toward our Capital Campaign goal of \$8 million, and are now soliciting other lead gifts.

We hope each member of our community will begin considering their gift to support the building of the Opportunity Center.

Contact Us:

We are in the midst of establishing a Capital Campaign office. In the meantime, please use the following contact information to reach Jeff Vamos, Campaign Director, or Joy Wagner, Associate Campaign Director:

Voicemail: 650-562-3888

Direct Line: 650-814-6518

Email: cwg@opportunitycenter.org

U.S. Mail: 555 Bryant Street, PMB #321
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Our Website: www.opportunitycenter.org

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Training for Faith Community Campaign Leaders...

fundraising plan in their congregation. At the training, participants will be given a "toolkit", consisting of newsletter/bulletin articles, giving prospectuses, sample pledge forms and other promotional materials to do a "mini-campaign" in their church or synagogue. They will be given training about the project and how to use various approaches to their congregations for gifts.

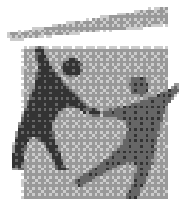
If you can't come to this training, we invite you to contact us (see below) to set up a 1 to 1 meeting to explore how your faith community can be involved.

Like to sign up to help develop a campaign in your congregation? Please come on October 22, 7-8:30pm, First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St. (at Lincoln) in Palo Alto. Please call 650-562-3888 to let us know you're coming, or if you have questions.

Does InnVision/ Urban Ministry Still Need Your Help?

We want to be sure to emphasize that InnVision/UMPA, the organization that will oversee the services in the Center, needs your support for ongoing services now more than ever. The Opportunity Center project asks only for a one-time Capital gift or pledge. InnVision/UMPA asks that you remember them each year as they continue to meet the ever-increasing demand for these critical services.

We need office help! Running a Capital Campaign takes a lot of leg-work! We are seeking persons willing to be on-call to help with mailings and other clerical tasks. Let us know by contacting Joy Wagner, Associate Campaign Director, at 650-562-3888.



555 Bryant Street, PMB #321
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Community
Working
Group

A COMMUNITY RESPONSE
TO HOMELESSNESS