



community working group

Thresholds

Developing Opportunities for Affordable Homes

Making Summer Better

Even though our weather here is temperate year-round, for families who are struggling to make ends meet summer stands out from the rest of the year anyway — because during the summer their struggles get even harder, and their children suffer as a result.

The disparity in achievement among our region's children widens during the months when school is not in session and providing daily access to healthy meals and enriching activities. Studies show that when children from low-income families return to school at the end of summer, they have fallen a full month behind their peers from higher-income families. And the loss is cumulative, widening the chasm between wealthy and poor children every school year — all due to a dearth of opportunity.

Fortunately, CWG's supporters and partners know a thing or two about creating opportunity. The children who live in our affordable homes have year-round access to programs they need for long-term learning success. Children at CWG's Opportunity Center and 801 Alma Family Housing have their own free summer camps on-site, which allow them access to

See "[President's Message](#)", page 2

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”

— *Fredrick Douglass, abolitionist and statesman*



Many parents in Silicon Valley struggle to provide basic necessities for their children, but children who live in CWG properties have safe, affordable homes, as well as extra nutrition and regular opportunities for physical activity, and learning and exploration.

Nearly 14% of Silicon Valley children lack sufficient resources for food, clothing and shelter.

— Joint Venture Silicon Valley, April 2015

Inside...

Your Gifts Help People Live Healthier, Happier Lives

Thank You to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund!

Thresholds is Now Online!

Your Gifts Help People Live Healthier, Happier Lives

Community Working Group (CWG) is not just our name; we really are a group of neighborhood folks working together to help our neighbors who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. *CWG exists and works because of the dedication and investment of community members like you!* Together we are Community Working Group!

Thank you to the more than 180 people who gave to our recent appeals! You have gotten us so close to reaching our immediate funding goal of \$75,000! Your support enables CWG to keep rents affordable for the approximately 300 women, men and children who live at our three complexes: the Opportunity Center, 801 Alma Family Housing, and Alma Garden. In addition, your gifts help us keep the Opportunity Center service centers up and running, and providing vital assistance to more than 100 people every day.

Thanks to you, children who were once without a home are housed and succeeding in



Thanks to your support, hundreds of adults and children like these CWG residents live in affordable homes and have access to vital services to help them live healthier, happier lives!

school, and parents who are struggling to provide for their families have a safety net. Individuals who formerly lived in their cars are now working toward independent, healthier lives.

We celebrate each person whom we help go from homelessness and fear to housed and healthy – and we will keep working for more, until every person in our community has a safe, stable home and opportunities for success. Our work is ongoing, so if you have not yet had a chance to contribute to our spring appeal, please do so now by returning your gift in the enclosed envelope or visiting <https://communityworkinggroup.org/donate/>.

Thank you for helping people in our community change their lives!

“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.”

— Fred Rogers (a.k.a. Mister Rogers)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

learning, exploration, and recreation. They participate in wellness activities that encourage regular physical movement and provide nutritious foods.

These programs, added to the foundation of living in a stable, affordable CWG home, help position children for better health, greater academic success, and stronger futures. Thank you for helping us provide opportunities that position our community’s children for long-term wellness and success.

Wishing you a healthy, peaceful summer,

John Barton
President, Board of Directors,
Community Working Group



Thank You to the *Palo Alto Weekly* Holiday Fund!

Thank you to the *Palo Alto Weekly* Holiday Fund for its recent gift of \$5,000 to support services for children at Community Working Group's Opportunity Center!

Approximately 30 extremely low-income children regularly use the children's services provided at the Opportunity Center. The gift from the *Palo Alto Weekly* Holiday Fund will support Opportunity Center children's programs such as the seven-week summer camp, healthy snacks and nutrition education, art and science activities for the after-school enrichment program, the year-round wellness program, and upgrades to the children's center, such as better lighting and a new television.

Children who participate in the Opportunity Center's children's programs have demonstrated significant increases in reading and writing skills, in some cases going from below grade-level to above grade-level. This year a teen who participated in the children's program for

This year an alumna of the children's programs at the Opportunity Center became the first person in her family to enroll in college!

years, ever since she moved into the Opportunity Center, enrolled in college — the first person in her family to do so!

The *Palo Alto Weekly* Holiday Fund is a community partnership between the newspaper, readers who donate to the fund, and local foundations who contribute matching funds. Thank you to all who made this gift possible — you are helping children in our community succeed!



“Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them.”

— Lady Bird Johnson, Former First Lady of the United States

“When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments — tenderness for what he is and respect for what he may become.”

— Louis Pasteur, French chemist and microbiologist

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Thresholds is Now Online!

Get your CWG news faster and greener; sign up for our email list at www.communityworkinggroup.org. Not only will you help us save paper and postage, but you will also enable us to communicate with you more efficiently — aiding in our fight against homelessness with one simple step!

After you sign up at www.communityworkinggroup.org (use the Keep in Touch button at the top of any page), we'll send you our quarterly newsletter and occasional emails with information, events and ways you can get involved in our work to combat homelessness and improve life in our community. Of course, you may unsubscribe at any time, and we will not share your contact information!



Find out how we make life better for working families, like this young CWG resident, through providing affordable homes and supportive services — in a more timely, efficient manner; sign up for our email list today!



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