



For immediate release

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## Community Working Group Welcomes New Board Members

**PALO ALTO, CA — February 19, 2015** — Community Working Group (CWG), a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to providing affordable homes and supportive services for extremely low-income and homeless individuals and families, announced today that two more accomplished leaders have joined the CWG Board of Directors.

Julie Lythcott-Haims, a local writer and former dean of freshmen at Stanford University, joined the CWG board in October. Lythcott-Haims is the recipient of Stanford's Lloyd W. Dinklespiel Award for exceptional contributions to undergraduate education. A graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School, Lythcott-Haims serves on the boards of Foundation for a College Education, Challenge Success, and Global Citizen Year. She is also a member of the advisory board for Palo Alto Partners in Education, the national advisory board of the Haas Center for Public Service, and the international advisory board of the Universidad de Monterrey in Mexico. "The opportunity to work with people I admired to address the fundamental needs of an overlooked portion of our population was compelling," she said.

Gail Price, a community volunteer and former executive director of the American Institute of Architects, Santa Clara Valley, joined the CWG board in December. A former Palo Alto city council member and longtime Palo Alto school board member, Price has been a city planner in Sunnyvale and Maryland, and a transportation planner with the Valley Transportation Authority.

### Board of Directors

**John Barton, *President*,**  
Architect

Bruce Heister, *Vice President,*  
*Treasurer/CFO,* Senior  
International Business  
Executive (Retired)

Litsie Indergand, Secretary,  
UUCPA/PIA

Don Anderson  
Stanford University

Pastor Paul Bains  
Police Chaplain,  
Community Advocate

Don Barr  
Stanford University

**Julie Lythcott-Haims**  
Former University Dean,  
Author

Gail A. Price  
Community Volunteer

Jeff Rensch  
Community Volunteer

**Harvey Schloss**  
Retired

**Tom Wasow**  
Stanford University

**Robert Williams**  
Attorney, financial advisor

(more)

Price is a former member of the VTA Board of Directors and currently serves on the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Board.

She has been honored for her community work by Peninsula Interfaith Action and the Palo Alto Educators' Association. A strong proponent of urban planning and design, affordable housing, smart growth, and strategic planning, Price is committed to education, social justice and mental health, and believes that "strong inclusive communities have a responsibility to expand social services and affordable housing in order to save and transform lives."

"We are gratified that these accomplished community leaders have chosen to take on the challenge of working for affordable housing and services for individuals and families who are homeless and at risk of becoming homeless in our community," said CWG Board President John Barton. "Our work has never been more important: the improving Bay Area economy has caused housing demand and costs to skyrocket — but at the same time most low- and medium-wage earners have not seen accordant wage increases. The result is that more people than ever are on the brink of homelessness."

CWG board members run the 17-year-old nonprofit organization; the agency has no in-house staff. The board is responsible for identifying and building partnerships with other community groups and agencies to develop and operate affordable homes and provide beneficial services, as well as raising funds to maintain and run CWG's three affordable home complexes in Palo Alto: its flagship project, the Opportunity Center; 801 Alma Family Housing; and Alma Garden. The Opportunity Center includes 88 affordable apartments and efficiencies, along with a wide range of rehabilitative services for families and individuals; 801 Alma provides 50 affordable homes, as well as support services, for low-income working families; and Alma Garden, a former market-rate complex that CWG bought and renovated, is home to 10 very low-income households.

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*Community Working Group is a Palo Alto-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency that brings people together to respond with compassion and common sense to homelessness and poverty in the Mid-Peninsula. CWG, the creator of the Opportunity Center, works with community partners to provide affordable homes and support services to families and individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. [www.communityworkinggroup.org](http://www.communityworkinggroup.org)*