

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
FY 2015 - 2016



Photos by Nadia Tyson

# mission

Step Up envisions that all individuals, families, and communities affected by mental illness will have the opportunity to experience recovery and a sense of belonging, and that permanent supportive housing will be available to everyone who needs it.

Step Up delivers compassionate support to people experiencing serious mental illness to help them recover, stabilize, and integrate into the community. Through dynamic partnerships, we provide positive social and learning environments, vocational training, permanent supportive housing opportunities, and recovery services to empower individuals to cultivate lives of hope and dignity. We exercise innovative leadership and advocacy to increase public understanding, support and acceptance of all people living with mental illness.

## Toward achievement of its mission, Step Up delivers:

- Comprehensive support services and programs leading to self-sufficiency, harm-reduction and recovery for individuals with mental illness.
- Meaningful opportunities for members and their families to achieve self-determined goals, experience community, and support advocacy to reduce discrimination.
- Exemplary permanent supportive housing, associated services, and infrastructure that are member-focused, outcomes-based, economically and environmentally sustainable, aligned with the Housing First model, and developed through longstanding, trusted partnerships.

## The Housing First Model:

- Immediate access to permanent supportive housing, with no housing readiness requirement
- Consumer choice and self determination
- Recovery orientation
- Individualized and client driven supports
- Social and community integration



“Our vision is to make Los Angeles an ideal place for veterans.”

- Robert McDonald,  
Secretary of Veteran Affairs



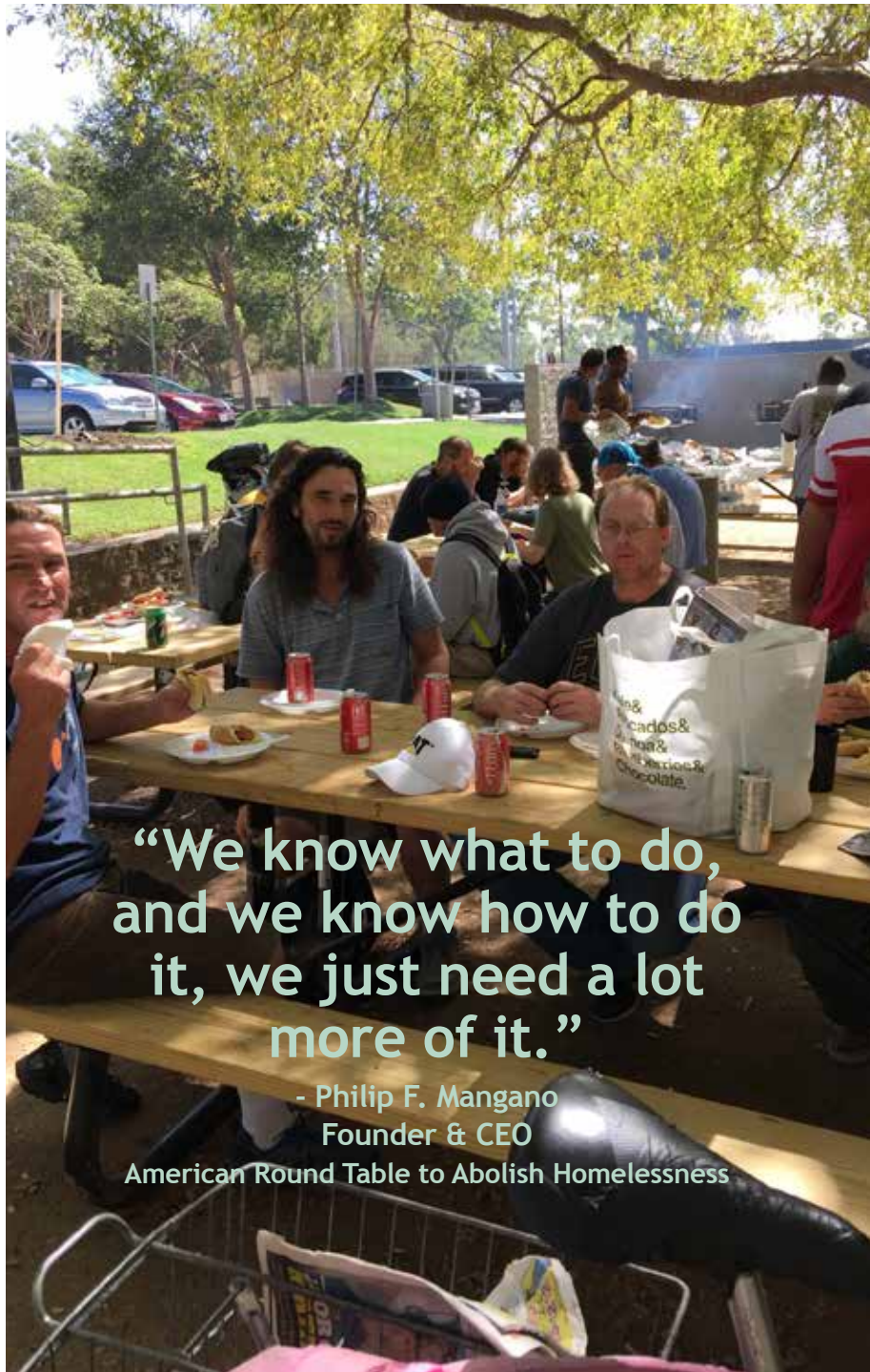
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“We know what to do,  
and we know how to do  
it, we just need a lot  
more of it.”

- Philip F. Mangano  
Founder & CEO

American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness

**Permanent Supportive Housing:** Serious mental health issues are at the root of chronic homelessness for many. The permanent supportive housing of Step Up and Daniel’s Place brings the stability and inclusion that leads to recovery for adults and transitional aged youth (18-28 years of age) experiencing mental health issues. Step Up and Daniel’s Place operate 200 units of innovative, community-based supportive housing in Santa Monica and Hollywood, as well as linkage to numerous scattered sites units in the greater Los Angeles area. Each SRO home unit is flexible, voluntary, and tenant-centered, in the least restrictive and most integrated setting to help individuals move from the streets to home. Step Up and Daniel’s Place are also involved in national efforts to create the upfront working capital to scale this successful “Housing First” model so that this promising solution can work for all individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and mental health issues.

**Vocational Training and Employment:** Productivity is an important aspect of quality of life. Step Up and Daniel’s Place offer coaching and mentoring opportunities including pre-vocational training, techniques for job interviews, work adjustment, employment preparation, and job placement. Hands-on experiences in paid positions include word processing, data entry, facilities maintenance, receptionist duties, clerical support, food service, restaurant kitchen operations, and retail associate work. Over 175 members participate in these supported employment training and placement programs, with 80 individuals employed, and 31 individuals enrolled in an educational program of some type. Participants work as employees of Step Up and Daniel’s Place with supported supervision and guidance. Step Up’s vocational philosophy parallels its housing philosophy - there are no failures. All participants desiring meaningful, community-competitive employment will be assisted in achieving that goal.

**Supportive Services:** Member-driven support programs and services reduce harm, prevent relapse, and foster recovery. The professional staff and peer advocates of Step Up and Daniel’s Place provide support and empowerment for members to achieve their self-determined goals through services coordination, life skills coaching, psychiatrists for medication support, and transportation. New members are connected to a Peer Advocate for a “buddy-system” and receive one-on-one peer attention. Many opportunities for a sense of belonging and the embrace of community include: Sixty weekly peer support groups with topics as diverse as learning how to tell one’s story, computer basics, managing medications, yoga, money management, and a variety of art opportunities; “Brainstorm”, a creative writing group, gives expression to the experience of mental health issues; the Art Heals Gallery, a permanent space to exhibit member artists’ work; and a Computer Learning Center. Over 40,000 individual meals are provided annually, and over 1200 members are assisted. Step Up and Daniel’s Place members meet weekly in Member Advisory Groups providing feedback and problem-solving. Two members serve on Step Up’s Board of Directors, and participate in establishing and supporting the agency’s vision for the future and advocacy to end stigma and discrimination. Additionally, a Step Up and Daniel’s Place Parent Support Group provides experience, strength, and hope for family members.

# A message from the President & CEO

Recovery from mental health issues IS POSSIBLE and Step Up is leading the way in Los Angeles! Because of your investment in Step Up's mission:

- Eighty two US veterans formerly experiencing chronic homelessness are now stably housed and working towards their self-determined goals.
- Two hundred persons, including transitional aged youth (TAY), are now living in Step Up's diverse permanent supportive housing communities.
- A rich array of effective mental health programs and services are offered to over 1300 individuals, 300 of whom are transitional aged youth.
- Step Up on Colorado opened, ending homelessness for 32 Santa Monica neighbors.

But there is still much to be done! Won't you please join the Welcome Home! Campaign, along with the Annual supporters listed in these pages. Please consider renewing, or even upgrading, your investment to the next level! Your continued support ensures more individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and mental health issues will have access to permanent supportive housing, vocational opportunities, and social connectedness.

I invite you to come for a tour of any of our sites, to see for yourself the vibrant communities, dedicated staff, and a proven method for supporting recovery and wellness for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Thank you so much for your continued support. Together, we can end homelessness and move more people experiencing mental health issues into a compassionate environment in which to recover and thrive.

Best wishes to you and yours,



# annual giving



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Special thanks to the 115 donors who,  
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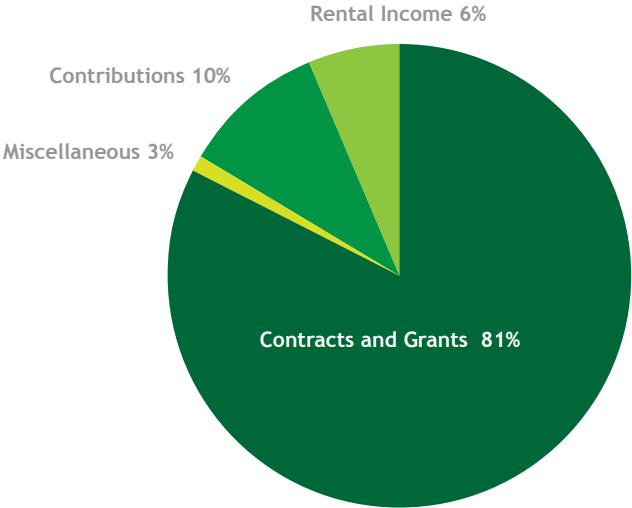
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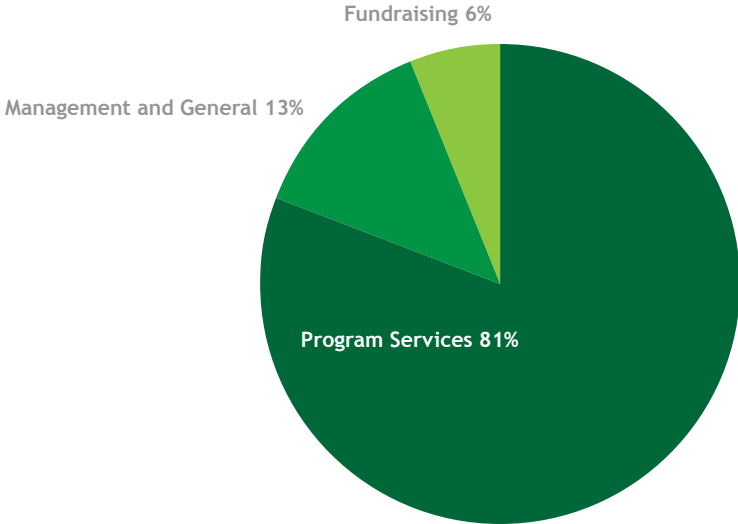
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## Functional Expenses



## FY15-16 Financials

### Public Support and Revenue

- Contracts and Grants - \$ 8,904,694
- Private Contributions \$1,151,238
- Rental Income \$686,537
- Miscellaneous \$217,680
- Housing Grant - \$4,300
- Equity in income in limited partnerships \$1,222

### Functional Expenses

- Program Services \$8,896,436
- Management and General \$1,472,777
- Fundraising \$615,469

## Looking ahead...



## Future Goals:

Complete the work of Step Up's 2015 Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action to scale 400 units of permanent supportive housing for Veterans experiencing homelessness and pursue the viability of replicating and scaling that model for non-Veteran populations as well as in other key cities.

Increase opportunities for members to participate in supportive employment, including job training, work experience, and community resource development.

Continue a leadership role in exploring innovative solutions and partnerships enabling Step Up to scale permanent supportive housing and employment resources and opportunities for the individuals it serves.

Become a recognized voice promoting effective state and federal policies and legislation impacting people experiencing serious mental health issues and chronic homelessness.

Build successful working alliances with leading organizations in the mental health field and with associated constituent groups, including the disabled, Veteran, and older person communities.

Continue to expand the Step Up solution to other Southern California communities with a goal to build significant capacity in those communities. Explore expansion into areas outside Southern California, as well as other states as it aligns with its mission and key partnerships.

Explore expansion of Step Up's Veteran housing initiative to other vulnerable populations and as well as implementation of the model within other geographic regions.



## Step Up

1328 Second St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
(310) 576-1308  
development@stepuponsecond.org



Daniel's  
Places

Daniel's Village | 2624 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica  
Step Up on Fifth | 1548 Fifth Street, Santa Monica  
Step Up On Colorado | 520 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica  
Step Up on Vine | 1057 N. Vine Street, Hollywood  
Michael's Village | 7160 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood  
The Tammy | 1146 Tamarind Avenue, Hollywood

The 2015-2016 Annual Report is dedicated to the individuals, families, and communities served by Step Up and Daniel's Places.



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[www.stepuponsecond.org](http://www.stepuponsecond.org)