



Your IMPACT!

How volunteers change the future
for individuals experiencing mental health issues through
supportive housing, vocational training & placement, and a sense of belonging.

...leading the way to life in recovery!



April 2017
National
Volunteer
Week is
April 23-29!

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP



Step Up Board member Peter Scholze at home with his family, at work, and volunteering.

Former Board Chair Peter Scholze has been a Board Member at Step Up on Second for nine years, currently serving on both the Finance and Executive committees. A resident of Santa Monica, he is passionate about assisting its most vulnerable citizens. "I immediately connected with Step Up's mission and the people involved. I am so proud to be working with such a well-run and well respected nonprofit," Peter said.

Professionally, Peter is a Principal, Financial Advisor at AB Bernstein and provides guidance to families and foundations on how to manage their investments. Charitable planning is a main focus area for him and his clients.

Tod Lipka expressed his appreciation for Scholze: "Peter's leadership inspires others to find their role to contribute; his zest and enthusiasm have been instrumental to Step Up's continued ability to thrive and grow significantly in serving those with mental health issues."

VOLUNTEER CAPACITY BUILDING



After 25 years at a major studio, Rani Cherkoori (left) made a life changing decision to devote her time creating and promoting a better world, which led her to volunteer with Step Up's Community Development office in September 2016.

"I was lucky to find

Tod Lipka at SUOS. He connected me to the fundraising team and I am grateful for the knowledge I have gained while here."

Rani volunteers two days a week assisting on various projects from grant writing, to outreach, and research development. "I feel privileged to be a part of the Development team's efforts and the noble mission of Step Up," says Cherkoori. "I am convinced the future of Step Up is going to be filled with even greater accomplishments in the days ahead."

Santa Monica:

Step Up (310) 394-6889

Daniel's Place (310) 392-5855

Transitional Aged Youth (18-28 years)

Hollywood/West Hollywood:

General Information (323) 380-7590 x1330

Beverly Hills:

Street Outreach Team (310) 901-3020

San Bernardino:

Field Services (909) 963-5355

VOLUNTEER ENRICHMENT



Jason and Lindsay Blakely. Jason is a professor of Political Science at Pepperdine University and Lindsay is the Los Angeles Bureau Chief for Inc. magazine.

For the past two years, Daniel's Place (DP), a drop-in center for transitional age youth experiencing homelessness, has been home to *Speak Out*, a monthly writing workshop. Volunteers Lindsay and Jason Blakely brought the group to DP to encourage writing and expression through the art of poetry. "We simply wanted to share the beauty of poetry with our neighbors."

At each workshop, two poems with a similar theme from two different authors are read and discussed. The members then write something of their own on the same theme, expressing themselves in any form they like: a tweet, a rap, a poem, or a letter. "We're always so impressed by their on-the-spot free-styling, creativity, and willingness to be vulnerable," says Lindsay. "What struck us the most is that they respond to the beauty as much as we do. We're all inspired to take the risk to create something and share it. In this workshop we are all the same."