



IMPACT!

How your investment is changing the future for individuals experiencing mental health conditions through permanent supportive housing, vocational training & placement, and a sense of belonging.

...leading the way to life in recovery!



July 2018



STEP UP NAMED CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR



Step Up has been named California Nonprofit of the Year by State Senator Ben Allen, District 26. Step Up President & CEO Tod Lipka acknowledged, "It is an honor to be recognized as nonprofit of the year by Senator Ben Allen. Senator Allen has been a leader in Sacramento on the issues of homelessness and mental health."

Jan Masaoka, CEO of the California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits) explains, "Nonprofits make California communities stronger, yet we're often so busy that we don't toot our own horns about the work we're doing. California Nonprofits Day is an opportunity for our elected officials to recognize the good work they see nonprofits doing in their districts, and it also demonstrates the larger collective impact of nonprofits throughout California."

At left, David Tavlin, Step Up Vice President Clinical Programs, Mia Serrano, Senator Ben Allen, and Tod Lipka, Step Up President & CEO.

PERMANENT SUPPORT HOUSING

The #1 requested supportive service...



Denise K., third from left, with Step Up Staff

Denise K. has been a Step Up member for many years while experiencing homelessness for six years in Santa Monica. She has struggled with many incidents of violence and has been housed for three months in Venice. She continues to build healthy relationships with community members and peers in her new neighborhood.

She is consistently consulting with her therapist and developing new goals with her case managers.

Denise K. is focusing on reducing some impulsive behaviors, developing and implementing a routine and further healing from trauma and isolation. She has managed to work diligently with different members of her team to overcome these hurdles. While Denise K. struggles with addiction and mental health conditions, there have been many triumphs and successes. Denise K. continues to strive towards wellness and find "peace in her life" with support of family, Step Up staff and friends.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

Mutuality, safety, and respect...



says Chelsea Silverman (pictured above). Mark Phelan adds, "As a son of a disabled Vet, my goal is to empower these men and women as they re-imagine their lives. Onwards!" Thank you Step Up team!

One year ago, Building 209 on the VA Campus opened, providing housing for 54 veterans who had experienced homelessness. It has been a year of adjusting from survival mode to engaging and socializing with others. Many are appreciative to be in a place and time in their lives where they can now give back to their fellow Veterans in need. Chelsea Silverman and Mark Phelan are Step Up's onsite service coordinators who work directly with Building 209 residents.

"I've had the privilege to help them expand their goals to focus on their overall well-being as they discover or rediscover their purpose,"

VOCATIONAL TRAINING & PLACEMENT

Productivity and social connectedness...



Len Lovallo and Kimm Baersch

A fond farewell to longtime Step Up employees Kimm Baersch and Len Lovallo. Baersch joined Step Up in 2002 as its first Director of Development. Kimm always put her whole heart into supporting every aspect of Step Up's mission. Her dedication and hard work has played a key role in Step Up's

expansion. Lovallo has been with Step Up's Vocational program for 14 + years progressing from Job Coach to Director of Vocational. Len taught the value of compassionate, caring, and effective management. His unwavering support of everyone's individual success within SUOS has inspired confidence and capability in them.

Both Kimm and Len have been shining examples of what it means to embrace Step Up's core values and apply them in every thought, word, and deed to members, staff, and community partners. We will miss you both dearly and wish you the best in your future endeavors!

Step Up thanks Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club for their generous gift!



Kelly Martin, Step Up Grants Manager with Marcia Stein, Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club member.