



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!



September 2018



Foundation Spotlight: The Weingart Foundation

The Weingart Foundation has been a long-standing collaborator with Step Up and has contributed almost \$2 million dollars in grants and program related investments throughout the years.

"The Weingart Foundation has been a partner of the highest caliber that has been instrumental in building our organizational capacity. This support allowed us to expand into San Bernardino County, an entirely new geographic area. As of today, we've housed 144 individuals, who were chronically homeless struggling with mental illness, from the streets of San Bernardino County, including one individual who had been homeless for 40 years," said CEO Tod Lipka.

Armida C. (right) moves into her new San Bernardino home thanks to funding provided by the Weingart Foundation.



PERMANENT SUPPORT HOUSING

The #1 requested supportive service...



Staff in front of a Step Up vehicle in the Inland Empire.

In the Inland Empire, staff serves the community with a fleet of 15 vehicles consisting of 11 fuel efficient Priuses, two SUVs and two vans. Step Up staff travels

across 27,408 square miles across the two counties (in comparison, L.A. County spans 4,751 sq. miles) to outreach and engage individuals experiencing homelessness with mental and/or physical health conditions. Larger vehicles are used for transporting members with personal belongings for move-ins and driving multiple members to group sessions. This important service also connects members to community resources and doctor appointments.

All vehicles are handicapped accessible and accommodate members with physical limitations. Staff is able to use the fleet to make home visits for service coordination in a convenient and fuel efficient way.

Ultimately, the vehicles provide members with a dependable traveling option to accomplish and maintain their treatment so they can be successful in meeting their self-directed goals.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

Mutuality, safety, and respect...



International Occupational Therapists learn about the services provided by Step Up.

On July 20th, 25 occupational therapy students and their professor from USC visited Step Up on Vine to learn about the services Step Up provides. Shelley Levin, Clinical Supervisor, gave an overview of how and why Los Angeles has such an immense problem with homelessness. The students were from 12 different countries including: South Korea, Chile, Japan, and China. A student from Palestine was particularly interested because they don't have

individuals experiencing homelessness where she's from.

Occupational Therapy (OT) is a form of therapy for those recuperating from physical illness or mental health conditions and it encourages rehabilitation through the performance of activities required in daily life. Recently, Step Up's OT intern Elissa Taylor, helped some of Step Up's members return to meaningful activities in their lives.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING & PLACEMENT

Productivity and social connectedness...



Education Specialist Alvaro Aguila conducting a workshop at Step Up on Vine.

Alvaro Aguila, Step Up's Education Specialist, helps Transitional Age Youth members (ages 18-28) with educational services. Aguila connects members to special programs at Los Angeles City College and Santa Monica College for additional support. Once the member requests to go back to school for

their GED, B.A., or to learn a trade, their service coordinator refers them to Aguila, who supports each member through the application process, including financial aid. To ensure success, Aguila meets with members once a week for tutoring and homework help.

Since June 2017, Aguila has placed over 20 members in education programs and has 45 members in his active caseload. Aguila says, "I am happy to help Step Up's vocational services. I believe all our members can enrich their lives through education." Aguila's position is funded by a grant through the California Community Foundation's Donor Advised Funds.

We need YOU to stand with US as a sustaining donor!



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Your consistent support in 2018 will ensure supportive services for the most vulnerable in our community.