Having Faith... Sharing our home with a family in need

By Sharon Magliano

My husband Tim and I opened our home to someone that we knew very little about. Our motivation came from two places. A defining moment came when we met an elderly woman at a church function, who throughout her life, brought strangers into her home that needed shelter. We questioned how she did that...not knowing ANYTHING about the person. She simply replied “it always worked out...HAVE FAITH, my dear.”

Simultaneously we saw the number of people who were homeless living in the parks and on the streets growing daily. How could the world’s richest country have this problem we asked ourselves and what can we do? Well, we have the room in our house...always the thought but too many uncertainties and too many unknowns.

Through a referral from a friend, we were introduced to a 31 year old mother and her 2 month old baby girl who were facing homelessness. We knew we had to help!

It was surprisingly easy at first but, over time, small issues appeared. HELP!!! We sought the assistance of Alexandria House to guide us. It was through their support that the path was paved.

Alexandria House provided free child care for Besalot so Mekides could pursue school. She began working with Lanita, her case manager, to navigate the countless applications and meetings.

We opened our home, we opened our hearts, we took a chance, and it was a beautiful experience. We gave the family beds, security, comforts, peace, and LOVE and WE ALL THRIVED. Our lives have been enriched by meeting and knowing we played a small role in their lives.

There is great potential for people to offer available space in their homes. As our friend in the beginning said: HAVE FAITH!


- Offer your guest/spare room, granny flat, vacation home to help people on their path to permanent housing.
- Alexandria House will provide the social services support.

- Consider hosting a House Gathering. Invite your friends to come and hear from those with lived experience about the housing crisis. Learn about homelessness in our community and make a commitment to take action.

To learn more, please contact Judy Vaughan
Judy@alexandriahouse.org

Alexandria House
is a not-for profit corporation
Tax ID # 95-4809755
426 South Alexandria Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 381-2649
alexandriahouse.org
Since September 1996 Alexandria House has welcomed 191 single women and families (including 274 children) to our homes. We are currently in touch with 130 (70%) of the Alexandria House Alumni. Of this number 93% remain in permanent housing.

Making an Impact
2017-2018 Service Statistics:

Individuals and Families in Residence
- Families 11
  (with a total of 27 children)
- Single women in residence 2
- Total women and children in residence 40
- Families who have moved into permanent housing (including 14 children) 5

Individuals and Families Living in the 510 Alexandria House Apartments
- Families 8
  (with a total of 8 children)
- Single women 8
- Total women and children 24

Individuals and Families Living at 9 Scattered Sites Apartments/Homes
- Families 2
  (with a total of 5 children)
- Individuals 7
- Total women and children 18

Alexandria House Alumni
- Families 74
  (with a total of 109 children)
- Individuals 21
- Total women and children 204

Individuals and Families receiving Emergency Services, including short term emergency housing until other shelter can be found.
- Families 6
  (with a total of 9 children)
- Individuals 9
- Total women and children 24

Neighborhood Programs
- After School Program 35
- Teen Program 13
- Monthly Thrift Sale (families participating) 135

In addition, staff responds to more than 1,000 calls a month from people seeking shelter and resources.

A note from Michelle Tonn

It has been over a year since I became Executive Director at Alexandria House. During this time, I have experienced a community of women who through hardships and enormous barriers have worked to provide a brighter future for their families. They do this by committing to weekly meetings with resident support staff, participating in therapy, going to classes, and working on addressing past issues so they can take the necessary steps to move into permanent housing with emotional and financial stability.

I have also been impressed by our amazing staff. Their professionalism and dedication is evident by the way they treat people with dignity and respect, by their steadfast and purposeful attention to detail, and by the way they embrace the Alexandria House mission on a daily basis.

Our Board of Directors provides guidance, oversight and support to our ongoing work. They also are instrumental in creating a strategic plan so we can maintain our excellent programs and grow to meet the needs of our community.

The volunteers and donors that support Alexandria House are truly a crucial component of our work and suffice to say, that without them, we would not be able to exist - - with them, everything is possible.

As a house of hospitality and a community center, Alexandria House continues to be a place of hope, resources, respite and activism. I'm blessed to be a part of something so important and to do it with a wonderful group of people.

Together We Rise

Part of the mission of Alexandria House is to be consciously anti-racist and committed to creating a community with the values of mutuality, dignity and respect.

Current and past residents have participated in public forums, demonstrations, the Poor People's Campaign, and have spoken at legislative visits in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Washington DC.

These fearless women have become key advocates in speaking out about the challenges and inequities they have faced. In addition to sharing the urgency and depth of the housing crisis and living without a stable home, they raise their voices to demand necessary changes to the systemic structure keeping people living in poverty.

Partners in Mission

Alexandria House is a community-based organization with an extended family of support that affirms our work and provides the monetary, material and volunteer resources that enable us to keep our doors open. We do this through generous donations from private foundations, corporate contributions and compassionate individuals.

We are grateful for the hundreds of caring and dedicated volunteers who come to Alexandria House and to all those that bring in-kind items both new and gently used for our programs, including the monthly thrift sales and give-aways. We couldn’t do this work without you. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of so many!

We have tried our very best to list all of our financial donors from foundations, clubs, corporations and organizations, and if we inadvertently left you off this list, please forgive us and know that we are truly appreciative!

Foundation and Grants

John Aaro Group Community Foundation
Alpha Chi Omega Foundation
Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors Foundation
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Clubs, Corporations and Organizations

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Nora & Partners
NGA – Needlework Guild of America,
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Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary,
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Yes! Ventures, Inc.
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Wishing Out Loud
As poverty and homelessness grow in our community, so does our need for help in providing items to our past and current residents and those who come to us with emergency needs.

Please consider giving:
• Gift cards (supermarkets, department stores, gas, clothing, shoe stores, etc.)
• Bus fare
• New linens (blankets, twin-size bedding and crib-sized sheets, pillows)
• Household goods (dishes, flatware, pots and pans, and small appliances)
• Big storage bins and tubs
• Paper-goods

Wish list items can be brought to Alexandria House Monday through Friday during regular business hours. For more information or to schedule a drop-off, please contact Michele Richards at (213) 381-2649 or michele@alexandriahouse.org.

What We Do
Alexandria House Programs and Services
• Interim or Bridge Housing for single women and women with children in our two residences with a bed capacity of 36.
• Permanent Supportive Housing at the Alexandria House Apartments or at scattered-site master-leased units.
• Supportive services for residents and past residents, including strengths-based case management, on-site counseling, childcare, financial literacy training and mentoring, life skills, employment readiness, and access to healthcare and legal services.
• Permanent housing search, move-in assistance and help with furnishing and outfitting apartments.
• After-School and Teen programs.
• Education, wellness and community-building programs and activities.
• In addition to services for residents and past residents, Alexandria House is a Community Center where neighbors are welcomed to participate in events and activities and receive services.