

## We're Taking Action!

A Message From Stephanie Klasky - Gamer | President & CEO

LA Family Housing has always recognized that it takes multiple strategies to end homelessness in people's lives. One of the most important lessons we've learned during the past 30 years, is that when we apply focus and resources to a problem, we will inevitably see results.

The 2017 Homeless Count numbers—a 23% increase in the population of people experiencing homelessness across LA County—present a challenge, but we believe the measures that voters approved over the last year will work to reduce these numbers.

When you take action, change follows and we have certainly seen that at LAFH over the last six months.

This past April our annual LAFH Awards event raised \$1.2 million as a result of 550 attendees taking action. A portion of the funds raised will help build The Campus at LA Family Housing where we will link healthcare, employment, and supportive services together with a permanent home. **We hope you are as inspired by this development as we are and that you'll take action and make a contribution to help us finish construction this year.**



US Bank presented LAFH with a \$25,000 gift at the LAFH Awards.

We've also always known that it takes a community of dedicated staff, committed supporters, and engaged volunteers to end homelessness.

We're inviting our community – YOU – to take real action and join us for our first LAFH Week. Come learn more about homelessness policy, get involved as a volunteer, and share these meaningful experiences with family, friends, coworkers and others.

Thank you so much for all that you do to serve our participants. Your support is an encouraging reminder that together we are creating solutions to prevent and end homelessness.

With gratitude,



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## TOGETHER WE ARE HELPING CHILDREN AND ADULTS FIND STABILITY

In 2016, we served **7,063** people - a **13% increase** from 2015.

The increase shows success and it also proves that **our work is needed more than ever.**

Thank you for your continued support to help us break the cycle of homelessness in people's lives.





In January, LAFH hosted the Annual Homeless Count launch.



In February, LAFH staff attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference.



In June, Emily, an LAFH tenant, advocated for affordable housing and homeless seniors at City Hall.

## You gave us more than a home

by Magali Flores Núñez



*Magali spoke about growing up in an LAFH owned building at LAFH Awards 2017. Here is her speech from that night:*

My earliest memory is living in a tiny garage. I was four. Not much older than some of the other kids you'll meet tonight. My two parents, my four brothers and sisters...and me. We all squeezed in to a space that was probably not more than 500 square ft.

It got so cold at night that we slept with winter coats on. Most of the clothes we had were either hand-me-downs from neighbors or passed on to us. We didn't go out for meals or go to Disneyland or do anything like that. It didn't even occur to us.

From the moment my parents came to this country, they worked hard, respected everyone and loved their family. They had all the ingredients it took to turn the American dream into reality. And yet, like so many others, my parents struggled while earning

minimum wage. It wasn't enough to just want it and work hard for a better life.

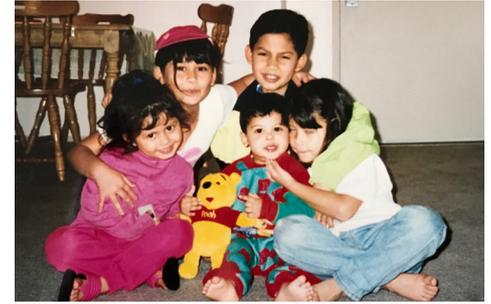
I vividly remember the night my mom sat us all down and told us that she had found an apartment that our family could finally afford. I remember opening the front door and running through our new home, counting the bedrooms together—there were three—and two bathrooms. It might as well have been a castle.

It turns out that this apartment building—named Vanowen Gardens—was owned by LA Family Housing and that this opportunity changed our family's path forever. It was at Vanowen Gardens where I got my first book and developed my love for reading. It was at Vanowen Gardens where my mom felt safe enough to trust her neighbor with caring for my young brother so she could go back to work. My mom was able to walk two minutes to a bus stop that took her straight to her job. The location also allowed her to easily pick us up from school, walk to the grocery store, and for us to enjoy our neighborhood park. These things might sound simple, but they were anything but.

We went from surviving to stable. We went from focusing on how to stay warm at night to focusing on doing well in school. Our dreams began to turn in to plans.

This might sound crazy. Can a three bedroom apartment really change the course of a family's life? Let my family's story be the answer: yes.

Having access to an apartment our family could afford allowed us room to dream bigger, to get an education, to get better jobs, to gain financial literacy and—God willing—to one day be homeowners.



*Magali and her siblings in their apartment.*

My younger brother is on track to graduate from UC Davis. My oldest brother, a UCSB graduate, is serving in the United States Army. My two sisters and I graduated from UC Berkeley and are happily finding our way in the world. In the fall, I will enroll at Harvard University to earn my Master's in Public Health.

A home that a family can afford has the power to break the cycle of poverty and lift up beautiful people with beautiful dreams—people like my family and so many others like us.

It makes room for less worrying and more dreaming. It makes more room for dignity.

“Can a three bedroom apartment *really* change the course of a family's life?”

Most important to me is that an affordable home empowers women to earn a living and at the same time be present in their family's lives.

*This is what Vanowen Gardens provided us.*

An affordable home is the foundation, but it takes more. It takes a community. It takes you.

LAFH is grateful to receive these prestigious grants to fund our **homelessness prevention and housing stability efforts!**

**Kayne Anderson**

*Capital Advisors Foundation*

Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors Foundation supports our employment and job development, education and housing services.



CitiCommunityDevelopment.com

Citi Community Development empowers our program participants by supporting our Housing Stability Services.

550

Guests attended **LAFH Awards 2017** to help end homelessness children, families, and single adults across Los Angeles.

230

Families will move home thanks to the generosity of our event donors!

784

Businesses, foundations, and individuals sponsored **LAFH AWARDS 2017**

## WE RAISED \$1.2 MILLION TO MOVE PEOPLE HOME!



Kevin Meehan from Kali, along with several other LA chefs, donated his services to our event.



This year's Inspiration Honoree Ice Cube and our event chair Blair Rich walked the red carpet together.



Big Sugar Bakeshop created a sweet tribute to Wendy Greuel, recipient of the Sydney M. Irmas Outstanding Humanitarian Award.

## LA Family Housing 2017 *Annual* AWARDS



*Thank You*

FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION TO END HOMELESSNESS IN PEOPLE'S LIVES



Longtime LAFH supporter Cameron Boyce opened our program with a heartfelt "Thank You" to staff who work directly with vulnerable communities.



Guests enjoyed cocktails and small bites from our chefs and mixologists.



In lieu of "swag bags", guest received 500 resource bags to distribute to their homeless neighbors after the event.



Over \$300,000 was donated in our paddle raise - more than ever before!



LAFH program participant, Steven, interviewed Ice Cube, our Inspiration Honoree, on the red carpet.

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Robert J. Irmas (1951-2015)  
Sydney M. Irmas (1925-1996)  
Trudy Louis (1914-2004)  
Rev. John Simmons (1917-2013)

## IN THE NEWS

## Los Angeles Times

L.A. County  
considers  
another path on  
homelessness:  
Prevention

Kris Freed, our VP of Programs, and Alynn Gausvik, our Intake and Assessment Manager, are pioneering homelessness prevention and diversion strategies as a necessary component to effectively end homelessness. Both were recently featured on the front page of the L.A. Times!

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"It's usually cheaper to help someone stay in an apartment than to get them a new apartment. [Prevention is] better than to leave, bump around in crisis housing and get an eviction on their record."  
- Kris Freed

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LAFH advises on  
how to spend  
Measure H funds

LA Family Housing's Senior VP of Programs, John Horn, was a leading voice on the 50-person committee that has provided recommendations for how to spend the millions generated by Measure H, the County's new voter-approved revenue source to fight homelessness.

As always, we know that John will continue to advocate for the best practices that serve our most vulnerable community members.

Read more at [lafh.org](http://lafh.org)

Neighborhood  
Councils visit  
LA Family Housing

LAFH was honored to recently partner with Mayor Eric Garcetti's office, the LA City Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and the Pat Brown Institute at Cal State LA to offer a "Homelessness Civic U" presentation at our Palo Verde Apartments.

More than 20 leaders from the Neighborhood Councils that stretch across the San Fernando Valley joined us at Palo Verde on a recent Saturday morning to learn about permanent supportive housing, the Coordinated Entry System, and how we can all partner together to end homelessness in our neighborhoods.

## LA DAILY NEWS

Homeless Count  
2017: A challenge  
and an opportunity

Our CEO **Stephanie Klasky-Gamer** shared her thoughts on the recent Homeless Count numbers and how we should respond with the LA Daily News, saying:

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"There are too many variables at play in the context of one single night of counting. [But] we need to redouble our efforts to invest in our **coordinated efforts** to connect people experiencing homelessness with permanent homes, both in our region and across the county."

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# The South Campus in ACTION...

Our South Campus includes our Family Programs as well as our Bridge Housing for families and individuals and, following a significant renovation, it is buzzing with activity!

We are especially thankful to the **Lee & Luis Lainer Family Foundation** and **Diane and Michael Ziering** who were key early supporters of our South Campus Family Solutions Center rehabilitation, as well as the **Meltzer Family** and **Verbena Family Fund** for their early support of the playground project.



*We've built new rooms for team conferences and private meetings that help us respect our program participant's privacy and create the conditions for success. Our lobby is stocked with books and snacks for families dropping by.*



*We've created a new children's playground where kids can let loose while their parents work with LAFH staff.*

## We Need Your Help!

The Campus will allow us to nearly double the number of people we help each year and we are thrilled that we've secured 95% of the funding to complete the project.

Now we need your help to finish it! Every dollar that we raise will be matched by **The Audrey Irmas Foundation for Social Justice**.

Please visit [lafh.org/donate](http://lafh.org/donate) to make a contribution today, or call Ali Day at (818) 255-2710 for more information or to schedule a tour.



*The Permanent Supportive Housing apartments have been topped off!*

"It's an honor to continue a legacy that will impact thousands more families than we'd ever thought possible," - Matthew Irmas, Board Member

## ...while The North Campus is RISING



*In March, we invited the lead donors of The Campus to make their mark - literally - and sign one of the wooden beams that will help create the new apartments of The Campus.*