



HIPhousing

A Place to Call Home

HIP Housing Happenings—Spring 2009

HIP Housing's Home Sharing Program Leads the Nation



From left to right: Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Laura Fanucchi, Associate Director of HIP Housing, at the press conference held at HIP Housing's office to announce Congresswoman Speier's Oversight Panel federal funding recommendations.

Home Sharing has become the new trend in the nation. Innovative, affordable, and utilizing existing resources, home sharing enables people to find a place to call home that they had not considered before. Thirty years since opening our home sharing doors, today more than ever people are turning to home sharing

Home Sharing facilitates a "match" between someone having a room available to rent with someone who is looking for a place to live. But this isn't a "boarding house" situation. As Alec Keit, Home Sharing client points out, "Its not a room to rent but a home to share." The average match lasts 22 months, and the average rent is less than \$600, but in some cases the renter pays little or no rent, and instead provides services (light cooking, running errands, cleaning, etc.) in lieu of rent.

HIP Housing's Home Sharing Program remains a leader in the nation. It is one of the largest programs, with its own specially designed database, and has one of the highest match rates of nearly 300 matches a year. With the downturn in the economy, this year we have seen a 27% increase in number of persons matched. This is due in large part to the 39% increase in the number of people who are opening their homes to rent out a room. Home sharing is a solution that benefits both parties. Our staff has also trained others across the nation and even the world, including Australia, London and Japan, to start their own programs.

In recent months, HIP Housing's Home Sharing Program has gained national media attention, including an interview on Katie Couric's Dateline, to our clients being interviewed on Oprah to share their home sharing experience, followed by an ABC KGO news segment. In each case, home sharing is viewed as a solution. Most recently, HIP Housing's proposal to expand its Home Sharing was named by Congresswoman Jackie Speier's Oversight Panel as their #1 choice for federal funding recommendations.

HIP Housing has always offered innovative programs, and now that home sharing is in the spotlight, we are proud to be part of a trend that is helping people. If you think home sharing is the solution for you, now is the time to open your home and open your heart.



A Message from the Executive Director

Bruce Hamilton

Home Sharing is an age old concept that is suddenly gaining in popularity. Blame the economy for this upsurge. For 30 years HIP Housing has been matching people up to live together – producing win/win matches that benefit the people matched and the community. The idea is a simple one – humanize the landlord/tenant relationship by calling the parties “providers” and “seekers”, match people with common interests and compatible life styles and define their contract not as a lease but as a “living together agreement.” Usually the result is that a person who was living alone has acquired some security, companionship and income and a person who needed a place to live has found good housing at a modest price.

In recent years many who might have taken advantage of the Home Sharing Program have used the internet and Craig's List instead. But those who do miss out on the very valuable services our dedicated staff members provide: a comprehensive screening process including acquiring detailed intake information,

conducting background checks, reviewing references and facilitating match making conferences and home visits.

You know you have made it if you are profiled on “Oprah.” Our Home Sharing Program was recently touted as one viable alternate to foreclosure. Though nonprofits are facing financial challenges, HIP Housing has in fact been recommended by Congresswoman Jackie Speier for possible federal funding to expand the Home Sharing Program, and we will also be applying for additional funds from the County Department of Housing once Stimulus Housing Funds are received.

Home Sharing is a win/win proposition enabling people to stay in their homes longer than they otherwise could and providing people in need of decent and affordable housing with a place to live. And here at HIP Housing, thanks to your ongoing support, we win too. We win because there is great satisfaction in facilitating Home Sharing Matches and thereby serving as a part of the solution to our nation's critical housing problem.

Mission Statement

HIP Housing's mission is to invest in human potential by improving the housing and lives of people in our community.

Human Investment Project

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Thank You from a Client


The key to the success of HIP Housing's Home Sharing Program is its dedicated and compassionate staff that takes great care in their clients' well-being and goes to lengths to ensure that they receive the resources they need.

Dear Laura & Home Sharing Staff,

Thank you so much. How overwhelming it can be when you feel trapped in a housing situation that is not healthy and feeling that with limited income you don't have a choice. What a big deal it is to take that first step in contacting HIP Housing, and then being unsure if you're doing the right thing - it's scary making changes!! And then the positive difference it makes in talking to and meeting with HIP Housing staff who are empathetic, kind and helpful.

The process of overcoming initial reticence in making follow-up calls to people you don't know, taking public transportation to places you've not been to before, and the growing confidence in realizing that you have a support team at HIP Housing who will continue to work with you in finding the Home Sharing match that enables you to make a positive change in your living conditions and in your life. Again, thank you for all your help!

Warm regards,

Sara, Home Sharing Client 



Home Sharing clients from left to right: Lori's daughter and Lori Medina, Alec Keit, and seated is Laurie Keit.

The Keits and Medinas were interviewed on the Oprah Show about their Home Sharing experience. To hear their story and see the video segment, attend HIP Housing's Annual Luncheon on June 12th, 2009 at Hotel Sofitel in Redwood City. See back of newsletter for more details.

Home Sharing

The Home Sharing Program is a one-on-one service linking people who have a home to share with those seeking a home. Each person has a private room and shares common living areas.

Home Equity Conversion

The Home Equity Conversion Program provides objective information and counseling on ways seniors can turn their accumulated home value into spendable cash so they can remain independent in their homes.

Self-Sufficiency

The Self-Sufficiency Program enables low-income families to transition from government assistance. Participants receive subsidized rents or a housing scholarship while they complete an education or job training program and find employment with an adequate income to support their families.

Property Development

Through Property Development, HIP Housing expands the pool of affordable housing for low-income persons and families in San Mateo County by developing new and acquiring and rehabilitating existing housing.



Elementary students from South Hillsborough conducted their annual One Warm Coat drive to benefit Self-Sufficiency families.

Community Support



Twelve community members join HIP Housing's newly formed Advisory Committee to assist in fundraising efforts. Pictured: Back row, Bruce Bean (Board Member). Front row from left to right, Deborah Griffith, Veronica Faussner, Emmanuel Obel, Diana Landi (Board Member), Carol DePond, and Greg Galli (Board Member). Not pictured: Alan Canas, John Conover, T. Jack Foster, Diana Kayiatos and John Ward.

Making a Difference

Diana Landi from Borel Private Bank & Trust and HIP Housing Board Member (left) and Louise Della Maggiora, HIP Housing President, presents one of the twelve winners of HIP Housing's Calendar Contest with a special prize. The prizes were sponsored by Borel Private Bank & Trust.



Laura Fanucchi has been appointed Associate Director of HIP Housing. Laura has been with HIP Housing for 17 years. She began her career with HIP Housing as a Home Sharing Counselor, then Director of Home Sharing, and most recently Director of Programs. Congratulations Laura on your most deserving new position as Associate Director.



AT&T's, Randy Okamura (pictured bottom row), presents HIP Housing with a grant of \$10,000 for its Self-Sufficiency Program. Pictured back row from left to right: Carolyn Moore, Self-Sufficiency Program Director, Bruce Hamilton, Executive Director, and Regina Martin, Case Manager.



Community Support



On April 25th, Rebuilding Together Peninsula and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati came to HIP Housing's first built Shared House in Redwood City to revitalize its ground floor. Nearly 30 volunteers participated by painting a mural in the children's playroom, repurposing a walk-in closet into a study area, painting the walls, building furniture and creating a garden area with herbs and flowers. Pictured from left to right are Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati employees: Evie Kaefer, Lisa Nguyen, Crystal Gaudette and Caroline Wilson.

Making a Difference

Rudolph & Sletten employees and ▶ longtime HIP Housing volunteers, Shari Edwards (left) and Michelle Luster (right), present Bruce Hamilton, Executive Director with a \$7,100 check from Rudolph & Sletten's Leo Jansing Fund. Shari and Michelle have both been very active in HIP Housing projects for nearly 10 years.



On April 14th, Congresswoman Jackie Speier (front center) held a press conference at HIP Housing's office to announce the recommendations of her Oversight Panel for federal funds. Pictured below are some of the members of the Oversight Panel. From left to right: Rod Hsiao, Marland Townsend, Ed Everett, Gene Mullin and Lawrence Lessig.



◀ HIP Housing has new friends from Japan. From left to right: Kazuyo, Mamiko, Toro and Taca came from Tokyo to study our Home Sharing Program. Taca and Mamiko have been working with Associate Director Laura Fanucchi, in duplicating the Home Sharing Program in Japan called Sharesumu which received two grants to help start their pilot project.



Thank you...

...for Investing in HIP Housing's Programs (Includes Luncheon Sponsors to date)

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During their Rebuilding Together Day, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati employees, Nicole Chessari and Brainer Ngirngesechei spent the day painting the living and dining room at HIP Housing's Redwood City house.

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Emi Goldstone and PJ Bean help a child wrap her gifts at the Holiday Store.



Linda Studebaker, owner of Tribeca in Burlingame donates furniture for HIP Housing's Shared Houses.

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Rebuilding Together Construction Captain, Ken Rhoads, hangs up a chalkboard in the playroom. Ken did extensive work to prepare for the big makeover day, including building a desk for the new study room.



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HIP Housing's Annual Luncheon - June 12th

Save the Date! HIP Housing's Annual Luncheon is on **Friday, June 12th** at Hotel Sofitel in Redwood City. **Tickets are \$75 per person.** Proceeds go towards HIP Housing's programs.

Come join us as we celebrate the success of program participants and Home Sharing Program's 30th anniversary. The event will be led by **Assemblyman Jerry Hill.**

Keynote Speaker, Michelle Kennedy Hogan, is an award winning author and journalist. Her first book, "Without a Net: Middle Class and Homeless (With Kids) in America," was published in 2005. With humor and honesty, Michelle will talk about the decisions she made that led her to living in her car with three children - all under the age of five at the time.

Don't miss HIP Housing's biggest event of the year! For more information, contact Judy Fong at 650.348.6660.



Don't Miss

HIP Housing's Annual Luncheon

Friday, June 12th
Annual Luncheon
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Hotel Sofitel, Redwood City

Live Auction

- #1 Board Dinner for 10 & a case of wine
- #2 A Year of Dining Out
- #3 Culinary Class for Six at Atherton Appliances & a case of wine

For more information, call Judy Fong at 650.348.6660.