

How you can help Our Community House of Hope

The OCHH vision will become a reality with everyone's participation. *Here is how YOU can help:*

- **Send in a donation**
- **Tell your friends and family about Our Community House of Hope and ask them to support us**
- **Ask your place of work to support OCHH**
- **Invite OCHH speakers to your church or service club**

There is a reason we are called Our Community House of Hope. This is the house the community will build. This is the house the community supports.

As we work toward opening our doors, we invite you to join us on the journey. Please open your hearts so we can open the doors to Our Community House of Hope!

Calendar

January 21st, 2009:
Our Community House of Hope's Annual Meeting "A Community Meeting and Potluck" 7PM at Westlake Westminster Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. **Please RSVP 805-377-1907.**

Your Health Connection will feature an article about OCHH in their November Issue: YHC is a new local magazine dedicated to promoting health and well being, visit www.yhcmagazine.com.

OCHH Wish List: Stamps, Copy Paper, Envelopes. Computer Software program (Non-profit organization). Please contact Teresa Wolf at teresa@ourhouseofhope.org or **805-377-1907.**

Our Community House of Hope Newsletter

A Loving Alternative for End-of-Life Care

Serving Conejo Valley, Simi Valley, Moorpark, Camarillo, Calabasas and Malibu FREE OF CHARGE

Our Community House of Hope Vision

There are no affordable end-of-life homes to serve the isolated and low-income population in all of Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Each month at least 50 people in Ventura County die alone because they are without resources to pay for care giving. In 2008, over 1,000 Ventura County residents will have unmet end-of-life care needs, including an adequate place and/or caregiver, due to lack of financial resources.

A compassionate alternative for end-of-life care will provide a safe, dignified environment for the terminally ill who are no longer able to care for themselves, and who lack the financial resources or social support network. All OCHH Services will be Free of Charge to residents and families. We will provide: Personal care in a loving, peaceful, homelike environment during the last 3 months of life; emotional, spiritual, and social support for the patient and family; and medical hospice agencies will oversee each resident's medical needs.

Our vision is to build a replicable social model end-of-life care home in our community and lead the way for others to be established throughout California. OCHH will also function as an education center for students from various universities and community based programs.



OCHH's immediate plan is to open in a rented four-bed home, and begin operating by 2009. This home will serve 160 end-of-life patients annually. Our future plan is to build a free-standing, eight-bed, end-of-life residential care home and education center that will serve 360 end-of-life patients annually.

Our committee consists of doctors, nurses, other health-care professionals, and community leaders who have a common vision for helping people during their final days.

Our goal is to see this House of Hope become a reality in our community. We believe that everyone deserves to die with dignity and peace.



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Our Community House of Hope is a California non-profit 501c (3) organization.

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A Loving Alternative for End-of-Life Care

Letter from the President...



From left to right: Kathy Newhouse, Judy Rabin, Ellen Henahan, Ruth Klein Turrow, Teresa Wolf, Jean Heister, Petty Hayes.

Hello everyone!

I just wanted to update you on the wonderful Dinner Event we had at Patty and Larry Haye's home in September. I feel it was a wonderfully successful evening, in many ways.

Everyone of our 80 plus guests were just so happy to be in the beautiful setting overlooking Lake Sherwood and the Westlake area. We were all glad to come and enjoy the beauty, the company and the yummy food (Sharky's helped us out!). Thank you so much Patty and Larry!!

We had a brief program of speakers. Debbie Mcquade came from Sarah House to paint the glowing work they do there. She was perfect in her passion and love for the end-of-life work that she has done for almost 20 years at Sarah House. She helped our

audience comprehend what our goal is with OCHH. Debbie is an angel. Thank you Debbie!

Chaya Turrow, our Miss Teen Ventura County, gave her remarks eloquently. We love her enthusiasm and commitment to OCHH! She inspires every one. Thank you, Chaya!

Then Hank Heister spoke about our mission and our goals. He put our project into focus for those who had not heard of us. He urged them to come together as a community to get this much needed house opened next year. Thank you Hank!

By the end of our program, as I looked upon the faces there, I saw tears, smiles, and an overwhelming desire to be involved in something so needed and so wonderful. We received \$1,700 in donations! I was so impressed with the caliber of these wonderful friends.

As they began to file out the door; the warmth, the embraces and the gratitude for this vision they now had was evident. And I was again so grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community of people.

Thank you each, who helped in some way make the night so wonderful. And for those of you who could not attend, we missed you and look forward to seeing you soon.

And circle November 14th, 7PM as our "Designs of Hope" Fund-raiser—We will need all of your help! Thank you, everyone!

Love,
Teresa Wolf
(805) 377-1907
teresa@ourhouseofhope.org

Education Corner

One of the cornerstones of OCHH is the commitment to education. Our end-of life-care home will provide a setting to teach students from multiple disciplines. In each newsletter we will look at different issues that pertain to end-of-life care. In this issue: *what is an end-of-life care home?*

Many people are surprised to find out that hospice benefits will not provide 24 hour care as death approaches. Without family or financial resources to pay for a caregiver individuals are often at a loss for services. This gap in care is where OCHH comes in. Our Community House of Hope will provide the around the clock care.

Local hospice agencies are telling us the 50 individuals a month need the care OCHH will provide. Reasons vary from an elderly widow without family or financial resources to a young man with small children at home who's spouse must continue working and earning benefits and salary. Sometimes a family is simply overwhelmed by the experience of caring for a terminally ill family member.

While the local hospice agencies will provide a variety of essential services to the terminally ill and will oversee the plan of care, the day to day care of the patients will be done by the staff at OCHH. This House of Hope will be their final home. Our staff will be there to care restore hope in their final days.

People to know...

Each edition of the newsletter will feature a special individual that has been instrumental in the journey to build Our Community House of Hope. This month we want you to meet Chaya Turrow.

Chaya is Miss Ventura County's 2008 Outstanding Teen. She is sixteen years old and a student at Moorpark High School. Her platform in the Miss Ventura County's Outstanding Teen was to promote the vision of Our Community House of Hope. Chaya is living up to her commitment, beginning with her hosting a day of "Kicking it up with Jazz and Joe" where she raised an initial \$1,500 for OCHH. In November 2007, Chaya raised another \$700 through a Christmas (Avon) Plush Puppy fundraiser. She then donated the 80 plush puppies to Los Robles Medical Center and St. John's Hospital for their pediatric and oncology patients. Chaya facilitated opening the doors for the future collaboration between OCHH and our local hospitals. Chaya has been working non-stop on the vision. She has continued to host several events that have inspired fundraising for OCHH and bring awareness of OCHH to the local communities. She has also been a fixture and spokesperson (and usually the only teenager) at many of OCHH's events...even speaking before the City Council for OCHH awareness.

Chaya has been involved in supporting hospice programs for over five years, beginning by earning her Girl Scout Bronze Award with a service project to make over 75 Comfort Care blankets for hospice patients. Because of her diligence in community service and being one of the voices for OCHH, this year alone she has been recognized as Moorpark's "Youth of the Year", Ventura County's Scholarship Association's "Out-



Teresa Wolf and Chaya Turrow

standing Community Service" award, Kohl's Department Store's Southern California Regional "Kid's Who Care" scholarship winner, and the Miss California's Teen recognition for "Out-standing Community Service".

In addition to her work with Our Community House of Hope, Chaya is a second degree Black Belt in the Tang Soo Do karate practice, involved in Moorpark High School as a member of two bands, the tennis team, Leadership and academic excellence programs, and is working towards her Gold Award in Girl Scouts.

In Chaya's words, "I will continue to be a spokesperson and fundraiser until we have successfully provided a peaceful and loving home for the terminally ill in our community. I am only 16 years old and hope that my efforts will encourage many to join the bandwagon and help open the doors for OCHH. I know I CAN make a difference- will you join me?"

Message from the Editor

Our first newsletter is a wonderful opportunity to stay in touch with everyone that supports our project, and a chance to share our vision with people new to Our Community House of Hope. Our mission to provide a loving home to isolated or low income individuals needing care in their final days. We are committed to providing compassionate, dignified, quality care at no cost to our residents and their families.

It has been a busy year. Teresa was profiled in the 805 Magazine, on radio and cable TV. The Ventura County Star featured Our Community House of Hope on the front page. We hosted community dinners to share our vision with friends. We are hosting our first silent auction and dinner on November 14th. *We are continuing to grow and gain in momentum!*