

A Loving Alternative to End-of-Life Care

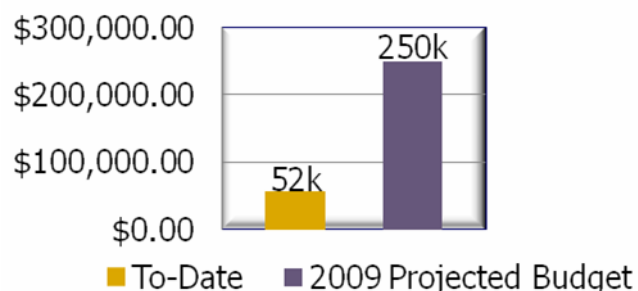
- Educate and gain support from the medical community
- Partner with organizations serving similar target populations
- Host fundraising event “Designs of Hope” in May (with Moorpark College)
- Host “Art for Hope” June event
- Host cultural event in the Fall—“One Day: Sarah House” Play
- Host “Friend-Raiser” dinners throughout the year
- Build OCHH Board of Directors

The number of those who need this home is growing daily. We have all the people and pieces coming together to begin operating. With the help of each one of you we *can* make it happen – *this year*.

Thank you for your desire and continuous work toward providing HOPE for so many of our neighbors.

Sincerely,
Teresa Wolf R.N.,
President OCHH

OCHH \$ At-a-Glance



Robin's Story (Continued from page 1)

and loving comfort care, I again witnessed the immense benefit this type of support brings. Robin and Karen felt they now had a lifeline to call upon day or night.

Karen had been caring for Robin for six years and was exhausted. As Robin declined, Karen asked me, “How am I going to do all of her care when she becomes bedbound?” My sad response had to be, “When that day comes, she will have to go to a nursing home. There are no affordable hospice care homes in this area.”

I had shared the dream of establishing Our Community House of Hope with Robin many times. My hope was that OCHH would be operating before Robin would need its services, but sadly, a few weeks ago, Robin became bedbound and was in need of the kind of full care her sister could not provide. It became impossible and dangerous for Robin to remain at home.

Now, here was one of my special friends facing the end of her life without money to hire care, or a peaceful, safe place to spend her final days. My heart ached as I witnessed this scenario with Robin, just as I had so many times before with others in our community. I decided to call our friends at Sarah House in Santa Barbara to ask if they might accept Robin as a resident. Debbie, their manager, opened her arms to welcome Robin into their special home.

At our visit I asked Robin how she felt about being at Sarah House. “Thank you so much,” she said, “for getting me into this home. I have felt more peace here than I have ever felt before. I have found peace, God, and angels here.” She added, “but I wish I could be nearer my sister and in the House of Hope. Can I transfer there when you open?” Robin continues to pray that OCHH will open its doors very soon.

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In the fall of 2008, Interior Design students from California State University, Northridge, partnered with Our Community House of Hope to create their senior design projects, "Designs of Hope." The Designs of Hope projects consisted of three-dimensional drawings, floor plans, and recommended fabrics and furniture to be used in the creation of OCHH's House of Hope. These beautiful interior designs were featured at the first OCHH Designs of Hope Gala last November. Anubhuti Thakur, Assistant Professor of Interior Design at CSUN, remarked: "I saw these students catch the vision of this community project and really put their hearts into their creations. They seemed to see how their work could really make a difference in the world."

Two of these students are now doing their post-graduate studies on homes for end-of-life care. We were so proud to be involved with the university and to have seen these young people begin to understand the real need for this type of care home. Some of the students were moved to go beyond their assignment and create beautiful pieces of art to express their deep feelings about this cause. That artwork will be the first displayed in our House of Hope.

Because the collaboration with CSUN students was so successful, OCHH is now partnering with Moorpark College architecture students as they focus their efforts on their current semester projects. They will create architectural plans for Our Community House of Hope. Recently Dr. Piquet and her Moor-

park students took a field trip to Sarah House, a unique social model, end-of-life care home in Santa Barbara, to gain some insight. Those from OCHH who accompanied the students on the tour of this beautiful home witnessed a profound shift in the students' perspectives. It became clear that they began to understand how significantly a compassionate, caring, hospice home such as Sarah House, or our own envisioned House of Hope, would ease a person's final days. On May 8, OCHH will host its second Designs of Hope Gala. This time we will be honoring the Moorpark College architecture students and their work. It will be another wonderful evening. For more information, please see the event invitation we've included above.

We sincerely appreciate the support of our local universities and colleges and are confident that in concert with our entire community, both public and private, we will be able to establish this much needed end-of-life home for the isolated and low-income members of our community.

The invitation features the OCHH logo with the tagline "Our Community House of Hope" and the event title "Designs of Hope 2009" in a cursive font. A handwritten-style note says "Please Join Us!". Below the title, it says "Help us build a dream..." next to a small house icon. The main text invites guests to the annual gala fundraising event on Friday, May 08, 2009, at 6:30pm at the Wood Ranch Golf Club. It lists ticket donations at \$75.00 per person and complimentary valet parking. Contact information for Heather Kennedy is provided, along with the organization's website.

Our Community House of Hope "Designs of Hope 2009"
Help us build a dream... 

Please Join Us!

You are invited to OCHH's Annual Gala Fundraising Event.
An evening of recognition for the Moorpark College Students "Design of Hope" projects.
Enjoy live music, entertainment, guest speakers, raffle items and a silent auction.
Join us for dinner and help us towards opening "Our Community House Of Hope"

OCHH Annual Fundraiser
Friday, May 08, 2009 at 6:30pm

Ticket Donations
\$75.00/person

Event Location Wood Ranch Golf Club
301 Wood Ranch Parkway
Simi Valley, California 93065

Valet Parking Complimentary

R.S.V.P. By April 24th

Contact Heather Kennedy (805) 498-4892 teresa@ourhouseofhope.org
Our Community House of Hope is a California non-profit 501c (3) organization
www.ourhouseofhope.org