

*Our Community*  
**House of  
Hope**

*A Loving Alternative for End-of-Life Care*



*Annual Report*

*January 26, 2010*

*Serving Ventura and Northwestern Los Angeles Counties*



*A Loving Alternative for End-of-Life Care*

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## DEDICATION

### **Robin Josephson**

February 16, 1955-July 17, 2009



In 1983, Robin, a young nurse, decided to travel to Saudi to work in a hospital there. She loved the adventures she experienced there for 17 years. But in 2002 she became ill with advanced breast cancer. She decided to leave Saudi and return to her home in California to receive treatment at the City of Hope.

Robin returned home alone, ill, and financially devastated. She also had no medical insurance because she had been out of the country so long. Her sister arranged for her to receive excellent treatment from the City of Hope. At first the doctors told her she would only live about six months. But with Robin's characteristic strength, courage and determination she fought her cancer for seven years.

Karen, Robin's sister, cared for Robin on her own for six years until in 2008 Robin became so seriously disabled and ill that Karen could no longer physically care for her alone. They began having the medical Hospice nursing agency help them in their home. With this loving team of Hospice workers, Robin felt some peace and Karen felt supported. But after Robin experienced a stroke, Karen could not physically care for Robin in their small apartment. Thankfully, Sarah House in Santa Barbara was able to offer Robin a room in their lovely hospice house. Living at Sarah House for her last seven months, Robin said she found the greatest source of peace she had ever known.

Robin and I met in 2003 through the volunteer hospice I worked for. We became close friends and I was privileged to walk with her through her six year journey. I often talked with her about the dream to build a House of Hope in Thousand Oaks. She wanted to help with this dream so badly. She even allowed a film crew and photographer to journal her experiences at Sarah House so that we could use it to help promote OCHH. At first, she wanted to work as a nurse in this House of Hope, then, she wanted to be the very first patient in the house. Unfortunately she wasn't able to see our dream home open.

On our last visit together, only four days before her death, I asked Robin what else I could do to help her. She looked into my eyes and then asked me, "Teresa, what else can I do to help you?" I quickly responded, "Please, Robin, continue to be our angel on this hospice house project." She simply replied, "I will."



Teresa Wolf



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**Third Annual Meeting**

**January 26, 2010**

**7:00 PM**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

**Agenda**

Welcome & President's Report

Introduction of 2010 Board of Directors

Financial Report

Speakers:

John Horton, M.D. – Internal Medicine, Westlake Village

Overview of OCHH

Amyra Braha, MA, FT – Spiritual Care and Bereavement Counselor

OCHH Strategic Plan

Paula Marie Jones, MA – Music Therapist, Buena Vista Hospice

Goals for 2010 - Events

June 5, 2010—“Sarah House: One Day” Play—CLU—Teresa Wolf

Fall 2010—Eichler Home Tour - Ruth Klein

Next General Committee Meeting—March 23, 2010



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## President's Letter - 2009 Accomplishments

The steady progress that OCHH has made in 2009 is a direct reflection of the strong and passionate people who continue to push this project ahead, in spite of the personal sacrifices of time and energy. With this talented and tenacious group at its foundation, OCHH intends to open its doors by the end of 2010.

### 2009 Overview of Events:

- February - OCHH committee goes to Sarah House to catch the "vision"
- April- **OCHH Spring Newsletter goes out to a growing mailing list of 500 people**
- May - Designs of Hope Event (Partnering with Architectural students from Moorpark College)
- July - Capital Campaign letter
- September - Partnered with CSUN Interior Design Students on design projects for future OCHH Home
- Summer to Present - OCHH Board develops Strategic Plan for 2010
- November - OCHH Winter Newsletter brings outpouring of donations

The OCHH Board of Directors has made it a high priority to grow, develop and train the Board. Two new members were added; Amyra Braha and Hank Heister. Together this hard working Board made major strides in the development of a Strategic Plan, including an update of our Mission and Vision statements. In addition, we have committed to following a path toward making OCHH an environmentally progressive project.

### 2010 OCHH Goals include:

- Begin operation of OCHH in rented property by the end of 2010
  - Achieve goal of raising projected six months operating budget (\$250,000)
  - Implement new Strategic Plan to mobilize committee work on year's goals; and to update the Business plan and website
  - Continue raising Community Awareness through: Media, Speakers Bureau, educational and cultural events
  - Create and execute a Marketing plan to include approaches to: Corporate sponsors, political arena, health care organizations, service clubs and churches.
  - Continue to nurture partnering relationships with community organizations
- 
- Host two major fundraising events and one educational event

- June 5—Sarah House; One Day Play
- September—Educational event
- October--Home Tour and Lecture

With your help we can realize our dream of opening OCHH. I know that 2010 will be a year to remember. With your help we can make this a real home this year. The time for this project to begin operation is now, the need is growing daily. Recently, our Board was posed with this question: If initial operating funds were not an issue, would you be ready to open the doors of Our Community House of Hope? The answer is, Yes, we ARE!

Thank you all for your continuing support and efforts to bring this HOUSE of HOPE into reality.

Sincerely,

*Teresa*

Teresa Wolf  
President



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## **Vision and Mission**

### ***VISION***

***Our vision is to be a loving end-of-life care home, providing compassionate, dignified, quality care for people in need of such a home in their final days, and to be a replicable social model for all communities.***

### ***MISSION***

***Our mission is to create and operate a loving end-of-life care home for people in our community in need of such a home; to provide quality care and access to hospice services at no cost to our residents and their families; and to establish an educational center for end-of-life care issues.***



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## **OUR COMMUNITY HOUSE OF HOPE OVERVIEW**

Our Community Hospice House (OCHH) is a nonprofit organization located in the Ventura and Northwestern Los Angeles counties. We are planning to build a free-standing, eight bed hospice house to serve the terminally ill who are in need of a proper place and care in the last three months of their lives. With this long-term goal in mind, we hope to open the doors of a rented facility and start serving patients by the end of 2010. All of our services will be free to our patients and their families. We will also function as an educational center for students interested in end-of-life care from various schools, universities and community programs. OCHH will be a model for future local or national hospice houses.

### **The Organization**

OCHH was founded in fall of 2005 by a group of healthcare professionals and community leaders who came together, all with the common vision of helping the terminally ill in their communities. Each of these founding members have had personal and professional experience with death and dying that has changed them and made them aware of the need to help the many alone and suffering people who need a compassionate caring home as they face their last days. The members of the OCHH committee are community leaders who are committed and motivated to make this hospice house a reality.

OCHH will provide a beautiful, serene home setting for members of the community who are terminally ill and are in the final three months of their life. At OCHH they and their loved ones will be provided compassionate, quality care. OCHH will provide these services at no cost to the patient or their family.

OCHH will also provide an educational opportunity to those seeking training in end of life issues. We will liaison with educational programs throughout Southern California.

OCHH programs will be funded by donations, memorials, fundraising, state and federal grants, foundations, national hospice organizations, community churches, services clubs, individuals and corporate sponsors.

OCHH will have a board of directors, an executive director, paid staff members at the actual hospice house, and an advisory committee to help manage the operations.

## **Services**

OCHH will provide a variety of services to its patients and families such as:

1. Compassionate, quality care provided by a well trained staff in a peaceful, homelike environment
2. Alternative healing modalities offered to enhance quality of days
3. Medical advisor and other professionals, students, and volunteers to assist patient and family
4. Spiritual and emotional care for patient and family, chapel available
5. Bereavement support after a death for family
6. Each patient will be followed by an outside medical hospice nursing agency for the best palliative care

Volunteer opportunities for community members, students, churches, and service clubs will be available.

## **Legal Entity**

OCHH is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt not-for-profit organization under the Dharma Foundation. OCHH will be licensed in the State of California as a Residential Care Facility for the Chronically Ill (RCFCI). The department of social services will be the licensing agency.



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**FINANCIAL REPORT  
SUMMARY**

**Asset Accounts at December 31, 2009**

Operating Accounts	\$ 42,676
Certificates of Deposit	<u>30,362</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>\$ 73,038</u></u>

**Statement of Support, Revenues and Expenses – Cash Basis  
Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2009**

**Revenue and Support:**

Donations		\$20,854
Designs of Hope - Receipts	\$17,770	
Designs of Hope - Expenses	(\$9,534)	
Designs of Hope - Net Receipts		\$8,236
Capital Campaign		\$4,825
Other Events/Promotions - Receipts	\$1,459	
Other Events/Promotions - Expenses	(\$1,471)	
Other Events/Promotions - Net Receipts		(\$12)
Interest Earned		<u>\$362</u>
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>		<u>\$34,265</u>

**Operating Expenses:**

Stationery & Printing		\$8,111
Web Hosting		\$190
Office Expense and Supplies		\$762
Bank & PayPal Fees		\$175
Misc. Expenses		<u>\$455</u>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<u>\$9,693</u>

<b>Net Income</b>		<u><u>\$24,572</u></u>
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## **Board of Directors**

[Amyra Braha](#): Amyra is a spiritual care and bereavement counselor working in hospice and in private practice. She has held a variety of positions in the field of educational media; most recently as the Director of Project Development for the Getty Museum's Art Access system. She brings extensive experience in board development, having served on a number of non-profit boards both in the US and Canada, including her tenure as Assistant to the President for Volunteer Leadership at California Lutheran University, where she was responsible for board cultivation, development, planning, and training. [amyra@ourhouseofhope.org](mailto:amyra@ourhouseofhope.org)

[Hank Heister](#): Hank is an entrepreneur and successful business owner. He has been a nutritional researcher and health coach for over 25 years. He has owned and operated several successful marketing businesses in the wellness field and created several multi-million dollar sales organizations. Hank is a student of social media marketing and current business trends. [hank@ourhouseofhope.org](mailto:hank@ourhouseofhope.org)

[John Horton MD](#): John is a family practice physician and a past co-director of a medical hospice. [john@ourhouseofhope.org](mailto:john@ourhouseofhope.org)

[Ruth Falkenberg Klein](#): Ruth has been a nurse specializing in cancer care and all aspects of end-of-life care in Denmark. She currently works as a case manager for a local non-profit hospice and is the co-founder of OCHH. [ruth@ourhouseofhope.org](mailto:ruth@ourhouseofhope.org)

[Bonnie Olson](#): Bonnie is the owner/manager of a medical hospice. She manages several hundred hospice patients/families each year as well as eighty-plus staff members. [bonnie@ourhouseofhope.org](mailto:bonnie@ourhouseofhope.org)

[Kerrin Turrow](#): Kerrin is a Human Resources and Administration executive. She brings over 20 years experience in Organizational Development, Compensation & Benefits programs, Policies and Procedures development, Workplace Safety, Staffing and Employee Relations. [kerrin@ourhouseofhope.org](mailto:kerrin@ourhouseofhope.org)

[Peter Wolf](#): Peter is an inventor, entrepreneur and successful business owner. He graduated from the University of Illinois where he majored in Physics and Mathematics. Sixteen U.S. patents involving computer printers and innovative business methods have been issued to Peter. He worked as the Director of Engineering for a \$600 million dollar corporation and has independently launched two successful businesses. [peter@ourhouseofhope.org](mailto:peter@ourhouseofhope.org)

[Teresa Wolf RN](#): Teresa has raised a family and worked in Thousand Oaks for 29 years. In her position as Family Services Coordinator for a local non-profit for eleven years with many who needed an alternative care in their final days. Four years ago she recognized this growing need and co-founded OCHH. Serving as Board President, she has helped to establish OCHH as a successful non-profit organization. [teresa@ourhouseofhope.org](mailto:teresa@ourhouseofhope.org)



**For more information...**

Teresa Wolf

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

[www.ourhouseofhope.org](http://www.ourhouseofhope.org)