

Our Community
**House of
Hope**

A Loving Alternative for End-of-Life Care



Annual Report

February 1, 2011

Serving Ventura and Northwestern Los Angeles Counties



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DEDICATION



Cynthia Lord Pace

September 8, 1955-August 2, 2010

Cynthia Pace was a devoted friend and supporter of our Community House of Hope since its early beginnings in 2005.

Cynthia and Garry Pace have lived and raised their family in the Conejo Valley for more than 25 years. A devoted wife and loving mother to their eight children, Cynthia was dedicated to her family in every way. She was closely involved in every aspect of her children's education and was their greatest fan at recitals and sporting events.

Cynthia was a woman with many talents. As a gifted pianist and music composer, she always shared her gift of music with others. Her beautiful piano solos lifted the hearts of all who heard them and she made the world a more beautiful place for so many through her music. Cynthia's hope was that with her music, she could bring comfort and peace to those at the future House of Hope.

Cynthia was always looking for ways to give of herself to others. Her faith and selfless service brought her great joy. She never wanted to be recognized for her charitable acts—she just wanted to make a difference in the life of someone in need.

Cynthia was a survivor of a serious illness and understood the hardships that accompany this trial. When I first shared the vision for OCHH she was immediately drawn in by the growing need of the terminally ill patients who have no final home to go to. Her desire to help OCHH was great. At one OCHH Fundraising Event, Cynthia purchased a silent auction item with a generous donation. She seemed so pleased to have acquired this beautiful vase. But the very next month she gave the vase back to me as a gift with a note that said, "I hope this will find a special place in the House of Hope when it opens."

Cynthia's wish to help OCHH has continued even after her death. Through her family and friends many generous donations to OCHH have been made in her memory. We thank you dear Cynthia.



Fourth Annual Meeting

February 1, 2011

7:00 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Agenda

Welcome & President's Report

Teresa Wolf

Introduction of 2011 Board of Directors

Jean Heister

Teresa Wolf, President; Ruth Klein, Treasurer; Kerrin Turrow, Secretary; Bonnie Olson; Amyra Braha; Ellen Henahan; Patty Hayes; Hank Heister; John Horton, M.D.; Peter Wolf

Speakers

- Kerrin Turrow – OCHH Board Member
 - OCHH Goes to Washington DC
- Ellen Henahan R.N., Buena Vista Hospice, OCHH Board Member
 - Hospicia Los Angeles (Hospice House in Peru)
- Glenys Bough – Director of Volunteers, Buena Vista Hospice
 - Growing Need for House of Hope and the European Model

Goals for 2011

- Open the first House of Hope in rented property
 - Locate property – Ellen Henahan
- Recruit and hire and Executive Director
 - Apply for grant to hire this position – Sherry O'Kelly

Events 2011

- Many Mansions Bowls of Hope—Painting party
- February 2 - Senior Congress 8am-2:30pm St. Max's Catholic Church
- February 16th - California Pizza Kitchen Event (Ellen Henahan)
- April 16 - "One Day-A Play about Hope"—Performance at CSU Northridge (Ruth Klein)
- OCHH Annual Fundraising Gala Event - Fall (Sept. or Oct.) Canyon Club—Music Event (Kerrin Turrow, Patty Hayes)

Next General Committee Meeting—April 2011



President's Letter - 2010 Accomplishments

In retrospect, 2010 was a year of hard work and steady progress for OCHH. Even in these times of economic turmoil, OCHH board members, committee members, and supporters have remained true and are putting more effort, more time and more heart into seeing this project become reality. I have been so inspired by the tenacity of our devoted volunteers and supporters. We have continued our growth through donations and in community partnering. We have engaged some strong new community partners such as Habitat for Humanity and continue to receive support from our long time Many Mansion friends. As OCHH becomes a growing community presence, our optimism and our collective energy continues to move us closer to our goal of opening our doors in 2011.

2010 Overview of Events:

- February - OCHH Board finalizes Strategic Plan 2010-2013
- March - OCHH partners with Design program from California State University Northridge
- May - Chaya Turrow is honored in Washington D.C., for her involvement with OCHH, with the Prudential Spirit of Community Award
- June - OCHH presents "One Day—A Play About Hope" at California Lutheran University
- October - OCHH presents first Community Education Event (Grief) Amyra Braha-speaker
- November - End of year fundraising letter raises more than \$20,000 in donations
- December - OCHH Board of Directors adds two new members- Patty Hayes and Ellen Henahan

2011 Goals Include:

- Begin operation of OCHH in rented property
- Achieve goal of raising projected six months operation budget (\$250,000)
- Continue to implement Strategic Plan to mobilize committee work on year's goals
- Continue raising Community Awareness
- Apply for Grants to hire an Executive Director
- Continue Board development - Begin Advisory board
- Continue to nurture partnering relationships with community organizations
- Host community events
 1. March - Community Educational Event
 2. April 16, 2011 - "One Day-A Play about Hope" at CA State Northridge Univ.
 3. September/October—OCHH Signature Fundraising Music Event—Canyon Club

With your continuing belief in OCHH we have traveled a long way to this point. We now stand so close to beginning to care for the increasing numbers of needy dying. You are an absolutely essential part in this compassionate and most needed home. We thank you for all of your work and hope you will continue to join us in this most exciting leg of the journey—caring for that first resident looking to us for HOPE.

Please join us,

With Gratitude,

Teresa

Teresa Wolf
President



A Loving Alternative for End-of-Life Care

Vision and Mission

VISION

Our vision is to be a replicable social model home and educational center for end-of-life care.

MISSION

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

Strategic Plan Overview

Board Governance

The future of Our Community House of Hope is dependent upon a strong, committed and visionary board.

Critical Issue: We must create a larger, more diversely experienced board; a board training and development program, a policies and procedures manual; a board cultivation and selection process; and expand fundraising expertise.

Strategy Statement: We will develop and implement a strategy and a structure for selecting new board members; and establish an Advisory Board of key members in our community locally, regionally and nationally.

- Develop our Board Committee structure
- Expand the OCHH board to 12 members by end of 2010, adding four new members to include new expertise (financial, legal, marketing)
- Add four (4) additional Board Members each year until there are 24 plus the Chair
- Develop a prominent Advisory Board

Fundraising

A comprehensive fundraising plan will raise and ensure the capital needed to operate Our Community House of Hope.

Critical Issue: We need to raise \$300K in the next 12 months and continue to raise \$600K in operating funds in each year following.

Strategy Statement: We will develop a fundraising plan and strategies to increase visibility, membership and capital, and identify key fundraising leadership.

- Contract or hire a fundraiser to develop and implement a plan to raise necessary capital
- Develop a fundraising plan to raise \$300K in the next 12 months

Marketing

A comprehensive marketing plan to develop community relationships and partnerships, and increase visibility in the community.

Critical Issue: We need a comprehensive marketing and public relations plan.

Strategy Statement: We will develop a comprehensive marketing and public relations plan with strategies to increase visibility, membership, community partnerships, and to identify key marketing leadership.

- Develop marketing/public relations committee
- Create a marketing plan to include:
 - Quarterly Newsletter
 - Event marketing
 - Annual Calendar
- Develop communications plan
- PR packet/Media kit
- Speakers' Bureau
- Develop strong Internet presence
- Develop Relationships with faith community, medical and hospice community, hospitals, community leadership, and other non-profit organizations.

OCHH Operations/Facilities

A successful and well-managed end-of-life care home is reflected in its commitment to high quality care, a peaceful environment, detail and thoroughness of its day-to-day operations, staffing, and environmental friendliness.

Critical Issue: We need an Operations/Facilities plan to achieve our short-term and long-term goals of licensing, operations, staffing, and building.

Strategy Statement: We will develop an Operations/Facilities plan that will provide a blueprint for licensure, operations, and staffing.

- Develop a budget for a 3-4 bed leased facility.
- Find and secure rental space for operating with 3-4 beds, including FF&E (furniture, fixtures and equipment). Develop long-range goals and plans for: community education, bereavement program, operational endowment, and administrative succession.
- Obtain appropriate Licensing/Policies & Procedures
- Hire an Executive Director, House Manager and Staff

CORE Values

Our Community House of Hope holds the following core principles as fundamental in supporting those in need:

- Provide loving service to patients and those who love them
 - Honor and respect all individuals



A Loving Alternative for End-of-Life Care

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.

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.



**Spirit of Community Award
OCHH Goes to Washington DC
Chaya Turrow**

I have been a friend of Our Community House of Hope since its inception in 2005. I was 13 years old then, and witness to some of the experiences my mother had as a Hospice Volunteer. Occasionally, I would accompany her on outings with a hospice “friend” and her children. I was glad to become a friend to the children of this special woman that my mother had become so close to. When my Girl Scout troop began to plan the project for our Bronze Award, it was my idea to create Comfort Care blankets and donate them to Hospice of Conejo. We lovingly cut and tied over 80 of these blankets, including a box of Girl Scout cookies in each one. The night we delivered the blankets at the tree-lighting ceremony, we bundled up my mom’s friend and brought her with us. She was so ill then, having suffered brain cancer for over seven years, that she could not walk and we wheeled her in with her children in tow. I was happy to be able to give her the first blanket, which she immediately asked to be wrapped around her shoulders. At that moment I knew how lucky I was to have a healthy family and it broke my heart less than two months later when this beautiful woman died and her 7 and 11 year old children were left motherless.

I planned the very first fundraiser for OCHH in 2007. At our “Kicking it Up with Jazz & Joe” event, we combined two of my favorite activities, karate and jazz music, into an event to raise seed money for OCHH. We raised \$1500 for OCHH on that Sunday afternoon and the following week at a committee meeting Teresa Wolf challenged the committee by saying, “If a 15 year old girl can raise \$1500, surely this committee can raise money too.” Within a week or so, the committee had raised almost \$20,000.

During High School, I had many opportunities to support OCHH as our Teen Spokesperson. The vision of OCHH was my platform as Ventura County’s Outstanding Teen and it helped me get in to be able to talk about OCHH at hospitals, city council meetings, and community events. My volunteer work continued and, last May, I was honored by the National Secondary School Principal’s Association as the top winner of the “Spirit of Community” award for all of California, in addition to an even more exclusive award, the “White House Service Award” from President Obama.

To receive this award, I was invited to Washington DC for an amazing four day weekend, completely full of awards presentations, sightseeing tours of Washington DC, and even meetings with our US Senators. Of course, I first had to get to Washington DC, which was quite a feat in itself, since the same day I was to arrive in DC I had a required Karate test (I received my 3rd degree black belt in May), a band concert, and my Senior Prom! Miraculously, I was able to participate in all events, taking a Red Eye flight after the Prom. Even though my plane was delayed and diverted, I was able to make it just in time to be picked up by my mother (who’d gone ahead of me to ensure everything was in order) and rushed to a photo-shoot in front of the US Capitol building along with the winners from other states.

After an afternoon of sightseeing and getting to know the students from other states, we returned to our hotel to prepare for the evening’s award ceremony, which turned out to be awe-inspiring. The event was held at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. The museum was closed to the public and only this group of teens and their parents, along with invited dignitaries, were allowed. We had dinner served in the Museum’s exhibit area, dinosaurs and all! During the Awards ceremony we

had two main keynote speakers, Olympian Gold Medalist Seth Westcott, and, imagine this...former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The speech Condoleezza Rice gave to us was the most inspirational speech I have ever had the opportunity to hear*. After she spoke, each award recipient was invited to meet Ms. Rice personally, and to tell her briefly about the projects they had been involved with. Condoleezza Rice has heard about OCHH!



Over the next couple days I (with my mom in tow) were lead though wonderful experiences in providing community service, luncheons with dignitaries, and a lot more photo shoots. At night on Monday, we took a dinner cruise on the Potomac. I had the opportunity to visit the offices of California's US Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein. I had private meetings with their chiefs of staff since both Senators were in session and were unavailable to meet (they did provide us with passes to watch the proceedings from the Rotunda). In each of these meetings I was able to tell these influential people about the vision of OCHH. Senator Feinstein's legislative assistant, Olyvia Rodriguez, was familiar with Conejo Valley and very interested in our project. OCHH was brought before a national audience in Washington, DC.

Before heading back to the airport, we had a little bit of time to wrap up and visit the Capitol building and a few more monuments, leaving us with a tremendous first impression and an ongoing desire to return. After what was truly the experience of a lifetime, we were off to the airport (to return to school and three AP tests).

The Spirit of Community Award was the highlight of an incredible senior year. Based on my community service and leadership work, I was accepted (and am now attending) UCLA as a freshman. I received multiple local and county scholarships and was recognized with the southern region's top distinguished Ralph Bunche community service scholarship. I also received the region's Kohl's "Kids Who Care" award. Upon entering UCLA, I have vowed to continue to support and work for OCHH while also participating as one of the chairs on the community service committee for my sorority and providing time as a leader on the community service panel for the Alumni Scholarship Association. On January 2, 2011, I was honored in a ceremony attended by over 90 people from the local community and county in receiving the Girl Scouts Gold Award (equivalent to the Boy Scouts Eagle Scout award).

While I cannot make the OCHH Annual Meeting in person (I have three midterms that week), I want everyone to know that I am there in spirit and am doing my best to share our vision wherever life takes me.

*If you have interest in receiving a DVD of Condoleezza Rice's speech to us in Washington DC, please send an email to me or my mother and we will be happy to get you a copy. chaya.turrow@ucla.edu or kturrow@ixiacom.com



**FINANCIAL REPORT
SUMMARY**

Statement of Support, Revenues and Expenses – Cash Basis
Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2010

Revenue and Support:	
November Letter	\$17,455
Donations	16,804
Interest Earned	169
Total Revenue and Support	\$34,428
Operating Expenses	
Stationary, Printing & Postage	\$2,574
CLU Event	655
Training	590
Web Hosting	507
Legal and Professional Fees	476
Misc. Expenses	220
Bank & Pay Pal Fees	59
Total Operating Expenses	\$5,081
Net Income	\$29,347

ASSET ACCOUNTS as of December 31, 2010

Operating Accounts	\$77,955
Certificates of Deposit	30,532
Total	\$108,487



A Loving Alternative for End-of-Life Care

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

[Patty Hayes](#): Patty has been a hospice volunteer for over 30 years and with OCHH since its inception. She holds a Master's degree in Spiritual Psychology and a BA in Child Development. Her background includes Social Work in Child Welfare, teaching pre school, and marketing experience with an educational publisher. She's been involved with her children's activities and philanthropic organizations for many years. patty@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

[Ellen Henahan RN](#): Ellen has over 25 years of nursing experience primarily in oncology. She is currently working as a hospice nurse and is a community educator on hospice and end of life care. Ellen has volunteered with many local non-profits and has been a volunteer with Our Community House of Hope for over three years. ellen@ourhouseofhope.org

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

[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

[Kerrin Turrow](#): Kerrin is a Human Resources and Administration executive. She brings over 21 years experience in Organizational Development, Compensation & Benefits programs, Policies and Procedures development, Workplace Safety, Staffing and Employee Relations. Kerrin has been a hospice volunteer for ten years. 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

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



For more information...

Teresa Wolf

info@ourhouseofhope.org

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

www.ourhouseofhope.org