

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE TRI-VALLEY

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ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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Message from Alan Burnham, Board Chair

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present this first annual report for Partners for Change Tri-Valley, a new organization for helping those in need to achieve financial independence by addressing common root causes of poverty and homelessness. I hope the successes reported here convince you that we have adopted an effective method.

I had wondered for several years what might be done besides symptomatic treatments to address homelessness and poverty. Our family has supported and volunteered for various relief efforts, but soup kitchens and emergency shelter are not a permanent solution for those who have the ability and desire to reverse their misfortune.

About three years ago, I was introduced to a new approach.* It provides mentorship and connections to resources and opportunities for selected individuals who can provide the other factors needed for success, such as ability and character. There is a screening program to assure that those going through the program have both the ability and motivation to do so. Those selected are called “Change Leaders”, because they must have the desire to lead themselves into a more stable and productive life. One motto for this approach is “a hand up, not a hand out.”

I feel that I have been blessed. As I reflect on my life, my success is due to several factors: opportunity, ability, hard work, and help from others when it counted, be they parents, teachers, or other mentors. Partners for Change Tri-Valley provides the opportunity for me to give back and provide the missing success factors to qualified individuals and families who have not been so fortunate. In return, all of us who participate are warmed and inspired by our experiences with the Change Leaders. We hope that you, too, will be inspired to support this effort.

Thank you!



Alan Burnham, Board Chair
Partners for Change

*We are affiliated with NETworX USA through the Capital Cities C.I.R.C.L.E.S. Initiative in Reno, NV.

Mission

To empower people to chart their own course out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency by creating partnerships with members of our community who mentor them on their journey, and to educate citizens and public officials about our experiences in addressing the root causes of poverty and homelessness.

Programs

Adult Program

Our program consists of a combination of life-skills training and mentorship through partnerships. Each partnership consists of an individual or family working to overcome poverty—known as Change Leaders—with two to four community participants—known as Allies—who befriend the individual or family and mentor them on their journey to self-sufficiency. With the help of these Allies, each Change Leader sets goals that are unique to their own needs and circumstances that will lead to developing the emotional, financial, intellectual, and spiritual resources necessary for self-sufficiency and family stability. From similar programs around the country, it takes typically 18-24 months for the individuals or families to work their way out of poverty. It is expected that when a family becomes self-sufficient, they will in turn practice reciprocity by getting involved in the community and supporting new families on their journey through the program.

Helping Change Leaders find stability is the goal of Partners for Change. When participants achieve stability along with fundamental constructive changes in outlook and connection with the community due to inclusion in our program, we have done our job.

Children’s Program

During the weekly meetings, we provide on-site care and supervision for ages 0-18 years with a focus on fun, cooperative learning, and mutual respect. In 2017, we look forward to implementing the newly developed children’s curriculum, which mirrors the adult curriculum.



Our Approach

Life-Skills Training

One or two facilitators guide participants through the curriculum and original content, introducing discussion topics and activities to challenge Change Leaders and Allies alike to explore how their belief systems and patterns of response were formed. Each participant commits to attending and being prepared to explore the ideas presented and contribute to the conversation.

The activities are aimed at taking stock of the present, accepting the past, and planning and pursuing a hopeful future. In the Life Survey, participants take a snapshot of their lives, noting whether they are merely surviving, vulnerable, or thriving in areas including health, relationships, emotional wellbeing, childcare, transportation, and finances. This activity, done multiple times during the program, grounds us in the present and highlights changes over time in life's circumstances that may have been too subtle to notice day by day.

One training module in the curriculum is devoted to Trauma. In that section, we aid participants in seeing any relationship between trauma and poverty in their pasts. In other sessions, Change Leaders learn about setting SMART goals to better ensure success in the pursuit of self-sufficiency. SMART stands for Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely. Learning this core skill of "project management" is a key for overcoming habits that might have kept an otherwise capable person from thriving. Participants are urged to dream big and to create vision boards.

New & Good

Often, we tend to focus on the problems in our life. The Partners for Change approach is to focus on the positive. This teaches us to be in charge of where to put our attention. It also levels differences across class, age, race, and other lines by introducing people through their experiences and not by their role within the program, which helps build relationships. After a shared dinner, which helps develop a sense of community, we gather in a large circle and one by one introduce ourselves by first name and share something new and good in our lives. This sets the tone for the meeting and offers a way for people who may not have ever spoken to connect.

Our Impact

2016 Change Leader Statistics	
Accepted into Program	21
Graduated from Life Skills training class	19
Moved on to favorable arrangements prior to graduation	6
Gained housing	9
Gained employment	8
Excused from program	3

During this process, approximately 160 unique individuals participated in our weekly Wednesday meeting, including 36 Allies and 25 volunteers helping with childcare, rides, food service and cleanup. An estimated 5,000 volunteer hours supported the program in 2016. Although our focus has been on changing the lives of our Change Leaders, our Allies have also been touched, enriched, and changed by interaction with the Change Leaders.



We Have Made Real Differences In Real People's Lives

Impact Story 1

Dana and Adam

Dana and Adam began session 1 along with their 11-year old child. Adam had been recently released from prison and was motivated to make his reentry to the community a successful one. Dana had been working hard at multiple part-time jobs since losing her full-time job when the furniture store where she had worked for years closed. The family was fractured, with Adam living in a different home than Dana and their son. With the help and support of Partners for Change, not only was this couple able to improve their relationship by using communication, goal setting, and budgeting methods recommended in the curriculum, they were able to secure affordable housing where they could live together as a family. Dana was hired by another furniture company on a full-time basis. The family relocated to an area outside of the Tri-Valley within their budget and closer to their places of employment and family support systems. Although they are no longer attending our meetings, we remain in contact and recently received these updates.

Dana and Adam:

“Just checking in and happy to hear the class is still [going] strong and doing good. We are doing what the Lord is asking us to do—speaking at high schools in the Tri-Valley on behalf of our success stories. We are thankful every day to have crawled out of poverty into a strong healthy family. We thank Partners for Change. Give thanks to all.”

Adam added:

“We miss you and are all doing great. We will be speaking at a local high school for City

Serve about our homelessness and Dan's incarceration. We have spoken at the City Serve prayer breakfast, and we spoke to Valley Christian School seniors. I'm very happy to say we are giving back as much as we can thanks to your life skill classes. It helped a lot and you were such an influence in our life. Keep doing what you're doing, because it really helps and changes people's lives. Don't ever think twice about it. We appreciate everything you've done for us and you continue to do for everybody, and we hope to make it back to one of your classes soon.”

Impact Story 2

Jan

Jan (not her real name) entered the program in Session 1 exhausted and frustrated due to the fact that despite her best efforts, she was unable to make a good living and support herself in the town she had called home for decades. She was unsure if Partners for Change was intended for someone in her situation, as she owned a home and enjoyed relative financial stability, although she carefully watched every penny and had whittled down the luxuries in her life. She had even gotten rid of her cell phone. Jan was brave enough to give Partners for Change a try, and through the activities in the curriculum, namely budgeting, goal setting, and communication

exercises, she was able to realize that it was no longer possible for her to maintain her lifestyle, though quite modest, in the pricey Tri-Valley. Our program helped to highlight the need for her to make immediate changes for her cognitive and financial wellbeing. Upon graduation, she placed her home on the market, and it sold in within a few days—much quicker than anticipated. We supported her as she made the tough decision to reach out to family in another city for a lifeline. Her family welcomed her into their home in order to allow Jan a soft landing spot while she planned the next phase of her future. Though Jan no longer attends Partners for Change due to the move, she remains in contact with the program and with the friends she gained here. She tells us that she is happy and positive that she made the right decision to ensure her financial stability and emotional security.

Impact Story 3

Stuart

Stuart's journey with Partners for Change began in Session 1. He was living in his car, where he had resided for fourteen months. Though he possesses many marketable skills in a number of manual trades and is a trained chef, a back injury had hampered his ability to work. Without income, he lived on the streets. Stuart's kindly manner and strong motivation to work and improve himself were evident early on. On his own initiative and with our support, he was able to secure housing in a transitional group home operated by a local church. This was a blessing because there are few resources for working-aged men without a criminal record, mental illness, or substance abuse issues in the Tri-Valley. Once in the transitional group home, he made getting a job and improving his health his top priorities. Within a month, we helped him get a job working in a local restaurant and through exercise and dieting (all on his own though made possible by the donation of a gym membership by another church), he lost 40 pounds.

Stuart was excited about his future once again. It was then that life threw him some curve balls. The part-time position with the restaurant ended, and while volunteering with the first church, he tweaked his knee, which required surgery to repair. As he recovered, Stuart gained back some of the weight he had once lost. Additionally, his truck broke down

for the last time. Being truly resilient, this was not a deterrent for Stuart to keep moving forward. As soon as his knee recovered, he got not one or two, but THREE part-time jobs. One is as a chef for a local specialty food company. The other two were rooted in community service: a monitor with the Homeless Refuge, a no cost shelter from the elements and as the Site Supervisor of a local no-cost, hot meal provider. We marvel at the ways he has found to utilize his skill set and honor his passion for serving others.

Though he is grateful for the success he has attained so far, he remains challenged to find full-time work with benefits that will allow him to afford housing when his stay at the transitional group home ends in a couple of months. He is also beginning to focus on his health and weight loss goals once again. Stuart has said: "There have been no low points in working with Partners for Change—only positivity and moving forward. It was helpful to set realistic and achievable goals. I had a four-month setback on my weight loss after hurting my knee, but the group was positive, which kept me positive. I have enjoyed receiving the steps on how to deal with certain situations as well as building blocks to improve myself and find and keep a job. One day I want to return to Partners as an Ally to give back to the program that has helped me so much."

Challenges

Substance Abuse

Addiction emerged as a serious issue for some participants. While we screen for substance abuse at the outset of a new session, the system is hardly infallible. Partners for Change prides itself in dealing with the whole person. Rather than exclude people for whom addiction emerged as a struggle, we offered assistance in finding professional treatment and counseling to address the issue head on. When cleared by the professional, we offer the participant the opportunity to continue in the program.

Housing Instability/Homelessness

Upon starting the program, all of the Change Leaders from Sessions 1 and 2 were homeless or facing some degree of housing instability. At the outset, we were more accepting of homeless clients than similar programs across the country. Even though our program is not designed for the chronically homeless, housing is very costly and limited in availability in the San Francisco Bay Area. Consequently, we think we would miss important opportunities to assist some who could benefit from our services if we required all to have stable housing. Given our success with some who were homeless, we believe our program can make a major difference for some homeless. We continue to learn and assess what works best for this geographic area and will fine tune our selection process accordingly.



Our Halloween Party

Organizational Partnerships

We have developed a close relationship with a number of organizations in the Tri-Valley, which have proven critical to our success. The Livermore Valley Unified School District and its Child Welfare Attendance Specialists have been excellent referral sources for Change Leader candidates who are, to date, best suited to benefit from our services. As the relationship grows stronger, they are able to recognize who among their clientele possess the criteria required to participate in Partners for Change and refer them to our program. They referred one family to our program for Session 1 and four families for Session 2. We continue to foster the relationship and look forward to even greater numbers of referrals.

City Serve of the Tri-Valley has been a key organizational partnership as well. Their provision of access to wraparound services for people in need has led us to find support through participant referrals as well as resources for our participants. City Serve referred one family to us for Session 1, and it provided low-income housing information and job referrals for our participants in Sessions 1 and 2. City Serve's leader, Gloria Gregory, is also interested in providing Ally referrals in the future. She has considered starting another Partners for Change in the Tri-Valley that uses the non-secular model available through NETworX, USA. We continue our conversations about supporting that effort when the time arises.

In 2017, we intend to make efforts to connect with the Livermore Housing Authority in order to publicize Partners for Change among its low-income clientele.

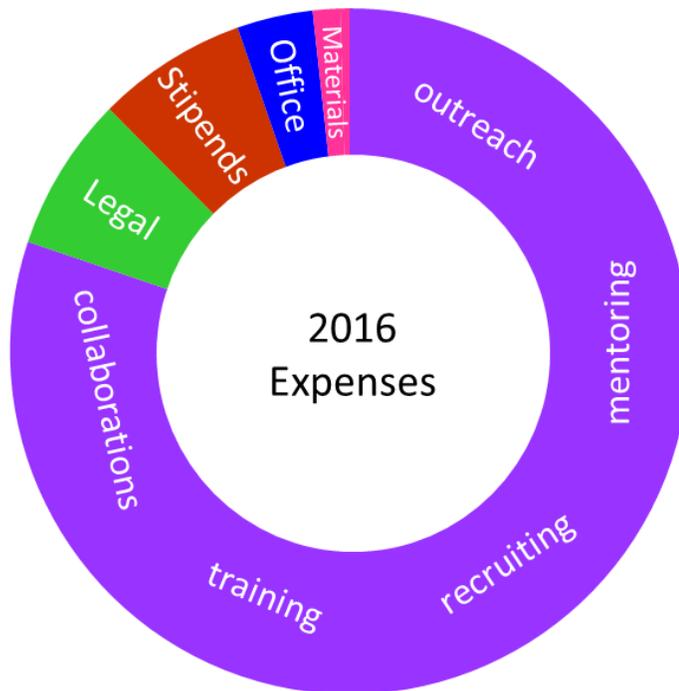
Outreach in 2016	
Livermore Valley Rotary Club	Livermore Valley Unified School District
Livermore Lions Club	Tri-Valley Anti-Poverty Collaborative
Sons in Retirement	San Ramon Valley United Methodist
WINGS group at St. Raymond's	Livermore Valley Winegrowers Assn
Congregation Beth Emek	Asbury United Methodist Church
Crosswinds Church	Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance
Cedar Grove Church	Trinity Center Walnut Creek
Open Heart Kitchen	Lynnewood United Methodist Church
Unitarian Universalist Church	Pleasanton Needs/Services Meeting
Marilyn Avenue School	

Financial Resources & Management

Partners for Change Tri-Valley was started in late 2015 under the auspices of Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore, which handled our donations and expenditures in 2015 and 2016. We were incorporated in late 2016, obtained our IRS 501(c)3 status in early 2017, and set up our own accounting system for 2017 and beyond.

Financial Details

Our total receipts and expenditures in 2016 were \$52,480 and \$53,070, respectively. With the exception of a \$500 grant for children’s teaching materials from the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley, all our receipts came from donations. The following chart shows the breakdown of our expenses. The legal expenses were associated with our incorporation process, and the stipends are a weekly minor incentive to our Change Leaders during their training classes.



In addition to these financials, we received substantial in-kind contributions from Open Heart Kitchen for weekly meals for ~35 people per week. Also, Doug and Mary Ellen Huey provided dining supplies, Asbury UMC provided copy machine and printing support, Jacky Poulsen paid for our membership to the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, Richard Hayes provided the financial software and office supplies, and the United Christian Church supplied their facility for a nominal rent.

Looking Forward

In 2017, we will conduct two training sessions and introduce a new children's training program. Our new 501(c)3 status will expand our ability to apply for grants from various organizations and agencies. Our desire for 2018 is to hire an additional part-time staff member to assist with training. In the long term, we hope to create or help create training sessions in the Pleasanton-Dublin and other areas to expand our geographical impact and to minimize travel distances for both Change Leaders and Allies.

Executive Leadership



Alan Burnham
Board Chair and CEO



Rev. Kim Risedorph
President and COO



Richard Hayes
Treasurer and CFO



L. Jeffrey Atherton
Board Vice Chair



Jacky Poulsen
Secretary



Shana Peete
Executive Director

We Need Your Help

Partners for Change Tri-Valley exists because of the generosity of individual donors who strongly believe in the value of this program. Although we expect to obtain more grant funding from organizations in the future, we expect our primary source of funding will continue to be from individuals. In addition, most of the person hours needed to execute our program come from volunteers via Allies, food servers, childcare, rides, and other miscellaneous tasks.

Every Donation Matters

You can donate using a credit card either by visiting our website www.pfctv.org or by calling (925) 583-1635.

You can donate by mailing a check to: *Partners for Change Tri-Valley, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550.*

Volunteer and Help Make a Difference

Not everyone can make a financial contribution. We have other ways you can help, include becoming an Ally, a childcare provider, a ride provider, or a food server.



Thanks to All of Our 2016 Individual Donors

We wouldn't be able to carry out this important work without you.

\$5,000 or more

Anonymous
Asbury United Methodist Church
Unitarian Universalist Church
Alan and Mary Burnham

\$1000 - \$4,999

Anonymous
Lynnewood Methodist Church

\$500 - \$999

3 Anonymous
Austin Verive

Up to \$499

16 Anonymous
Asbury United Methodist Women
Laura Bennett
Lisa Jo Brown
Gail Bryan
Emily Burnham
Allison Eberley
Kirby Fong
Tony Gnecco
Tomeka Hart
Yvonne Hunt
Richard Hayes

Bob and Anna Lim
Art Molvik
Jacky Poulsen
Kim Pittman-Caffey
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