

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE TRI-VALLEY

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ANNUAL REPORT 2017



CONTENTS

- 2 – Message from Kim Risedorph, President
- 3 – Mission and Programs
- 4 – Our Approach
- 5 – Our Impact
- 6 – Impact Stories 1 and 2
- 7 – Impact Story 3
- 8 – Challenges
- 9 – Organizational Partnerships
- 10 – Financial Resources & Management
- 11 – Looking Forward and Executive Leadership
- 12 – Donate & Volunteer and Donor Thanks

Message from Kim Risedorph, President & Chief Operating Officer

Dear Friends,

Partners for Change is celebrating our second year in the Tri-Valley. We exist to help those in need achieve stability by addressing common root causes of poverty. In this annual report we will describe our holistic approach and our successes.



**Rev. Kim Risedorph,
Partners for Change**

I work in a community where we offer hot meals, a shower, and laundry facilities to people who do not have access to these daily basics. And I distinctly remember wondering: by offering these services, do we ever keep some people dependent on them? If a person is motivated, and free from addictions, can we do more? Can we work together to provide a hand up, rather than a hand out?

That's when I began searching for a poverty alleviation approach. The key ingredients of our Partners for Change program are a community meal together each week, a curriculum that challenges us to set realistic goals, and a partnership between trained mentors and program participants. We walk alongside our participants (called Change Leaders) for two years. We have adopted an effective method that truly changes lives.

On a personal level, Partners for Change is one of the most meaningful ministries I've ever participated in. I'm grateful that Partners for Change works. We have helped individuals and families gain financial stability. What's amazed me is how ALL of us in the program are changed---volunteers and Change Leaders. When we share a meal together (made possible by Open Heart Kitchen) and hear each others' stories, we move beyond stereotypes and judgements. We have built a community of mutual respect, support and care. And I invite you to support this effort through volunteering with us, or making a donation. Together, we can address hunger and poverty in our community.

Thank you!

Rev. DR. Kim Risedorph

*Our local chapter is 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 2018, we look forward to further 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 well-being, 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

Gail

Gail entered our program upon the recommendation of our partners at the school system. Her life was full of hardship, and she was having difficulty holding things together for herself and her son, who was struggling to graduate from high school. After losing her housing, she found herself staying at a friend's home in South San Francisco while her son stayed with friends in the Tri-Valley to maintain his residency and finish his last year of school. Gail delivered a heartfelt message at our first graduation ceremony that touched all attending. With the support of her partnership, Gail was able to obtain a new job (two hours away) and housing through a contact within the program. Quickly, the stresses of life, including the distance from her son, the commute, and the ever-present fear of her 15 year-old car breaking down (which it eventually did), caused her to hit a breaking point. Gail tumbled back into addiction. An intervention led by the partnership enabled her to locate rehabilitation services, and Gail took full advantage. Though it was hard, she made the decision to move

hundreds of miles away for rehabilitation while her son finished his schooling. While away, the Allies in Gail's group worked hard to assist her son, often tutoring him 3-4 hours per day 5 days a week, so that he could graduate on time. After several months of hard work by all involved, he did just that. Gail finished her recovery program and made the tough decision to stay permanently where she had built a life of good habits and supportive influences. Today, her son is employed and living on his own. Gail is well on her way to the life she envisioned when first entering our program. She has full-time employment, a place that she rents, and best of all her sobriety. She just celebrated a year of clean living. She remains in contact with the program and offered that she is proud to have taken on coping skills to manage life's ups and downs with healthy options. She attributes her newfound stability to the commitment of her partnership and her own tireless dedication to achieve her full potential.

Impact Story 2

Stuart

Stuart was one of our first participants. 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. He had been living in his car for fourteen months when he began Partners for Change. Stuart's kindly manner and strong motivation to work and improve himself were evident early on. This motivation led him to secure housing in a transitional group home operated by a local church. Because making the

changes necessary to lift oneself out of poverty is rarely linear, he faced a number of setbacks. An injury required him to have surgery, which led to substantial weight gain (after he had lost 40 pounds, which was one of his goals in the program), his car broke down, he lost one of his three part-time jobs. Not one to shy away from challenge, Stuart persisted and maintained steady progress in our program. Today, Stuart is living so many of the goals he set for himself. He enjoys a full-time job making a living wage and was recently promoted. He has a reliable late-model car, and he has left the transitional housing in favor of a rental closer to his work place. As he refocuses on his weight loss journey, we are working with him to tackle another health issue that has gone unattended for far too long and are making progress in developing a treatment program with a local doctor. Beyond all of his achievements, he has this to say about the friendships he has forged with his partnership_____.

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.

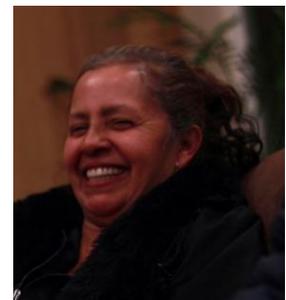
Challenges

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

Since our inception, each of our Change Leaders has faced some degree of housing instability. From 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.



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. 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.

In 2018, we intend to strengthen our relationship and partnership efforts with the Livermore Housing Authority in order to publicize Partners for Change among its low-income clientele.

Outreach in 2017	
Rotary Club of Livermore	Livermore Valley Unified School District
Asbury United Methodist Church	Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance
Open Heart Kitchen	

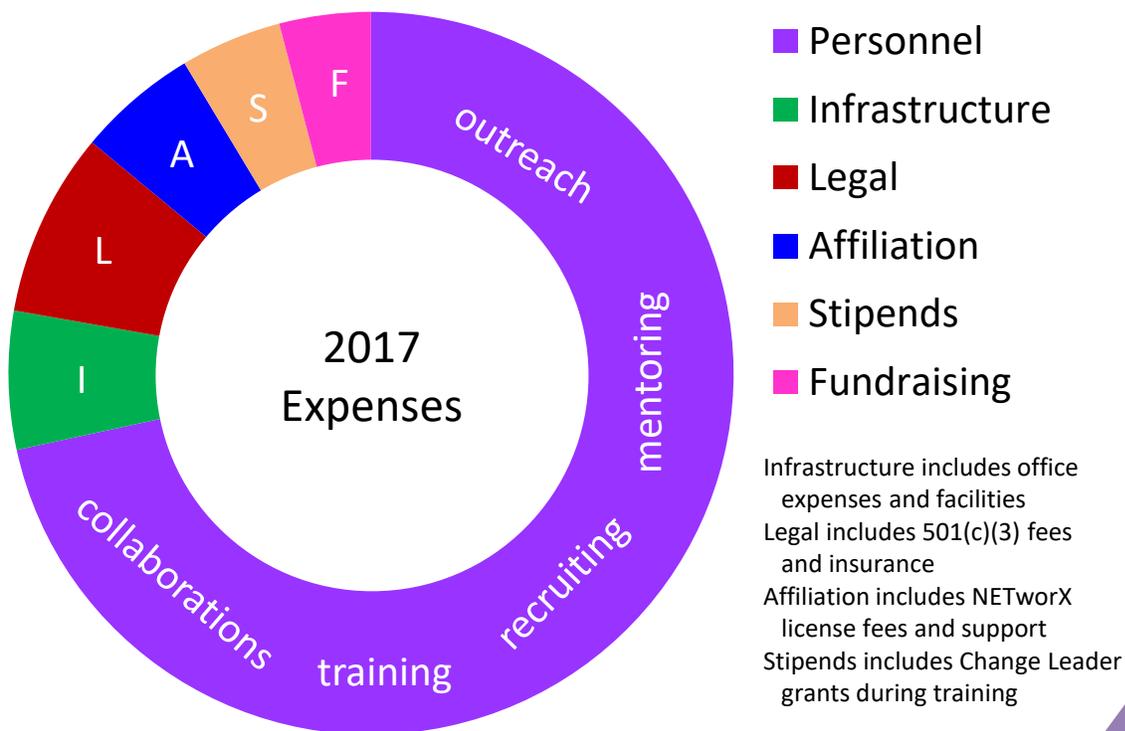


Financial Resources & Management

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 2017 were \$94,569 and \$83,706, respectively. All our receipts came from donations, as outlined on the next page. The following chart shows the breakdown of our expenses. Our largest expense is for the personnel who provide the training, counseling, and outreach that are the essence of our program.



In addition to these financials, we received substantial in-kind contributions from Open Heart Kitchen for weekly meals for ~35 people per week. Also, Asbury UMC provided administrative support, and both Asbury and the United Christian Church supplied an office and their facility for a nominal rent.

Looking Forward

In 2018, we intend to conduct one training session and strengthen our children's training program. We will explore the possibility of a Spanish-based program. To broaden our financial base, we will pursue grants from various organizations and agencies. Due to the increasing amount of time dedicated by our Executive Director to coaching, our new part-time staff member will focus on training. We will also be adding several new members to our Board of Directors, and interested parties are welcome to apply. Jeff Atherton left the Board at the end of 2017 due to heavy work and family responsibilities, and Kim Risedorph will be leaving midyear 2018 due to pastoral reassignment to San Ramon United Methodist Church. In addition, our weekly meetings will be moving to Livermore High School.

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 by credit card at our website www.pfctv.org.

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

Or donate through smile.amazon.com/81-4326240

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 2017 Donors

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

\$5,000 or more

Asbury United Methodist Church
Alan and Mary Burnham
Dori & Larry Ellis
Jean King
Lynn & Joan Seppala
Heising-Simons Foundation*

\$1000-\$4999

Anonymous
Austin Verive & Shana Peete
Esther Clark
Jacqueline and Peter Poulsen
Jean & David Braun
Jeffrey & Cynthia Atherton

Laurance & Joyce Suter
Linnea Cook & Pieter Dykema
Patrick & Madeline McMenamin
Paul Lerwick
Richard Hayes
Robert & Jacqueline Hoffman
Thomas & Judy Rognlien

\$500 - \$999

William and Jane Nebo
Hindu Community & Cultural Center
Lynnewood United Methodist Church

*corporate matching

Up to \$499

Ann & Thomas Felter
Brian & Susan Mayall
Charles Howe and Priscilla Morelli
Christian & Catherine Chukwuma
Doug & Mary Ellen Huey
Illyasha Peete
Jack and Nancy Marling
James & Lindsey Murray
Karen & David Furst
Laura Bennett
Mark and Maria Triska
Richard & Sharmyn Crawford
Wayne and Jacquelyn Shotts
Livermore Cyclery



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