



PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

TRI - VALLEY

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**PARTNERS
IS...**

sharing a ride



sharing your
time



sharing a meal



sharing your
goals



sharing
support
of new
friends



sharing your
story



sharing
success



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Message from
Kathy LaPoint-Collup
BOARD CHAIR

Dear Supporters,

Partners for Change is excited to have completed our third year of service in the Tri-Valley! With your help, we have made great strides in aiding program participants in securing employment, transportation, and housing — strengthening our community one person, one family at a time.

By staying connected with our 33 graduates, we continue to see the tremendous value the program has added to their lives. Participants have celebrated promotions, found affordable housing options, and encouraged their children, as they excel in school. They report a continued benefit from the life skills course and the friendships formed while in our care. Regularly, our mentors stop me to share stories about how much they have gained from their involvement in the program.

I invite you to share your time, talent, and treasure by joining me as we empower our neighbors with a hand up toward financial stability.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy LaPoint-Collup". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kathy LaPoint-Collup

Welcome to Partners for Change

“Change leaders” and their mentor “allies” meet weekly for a meal and discussion, learning and checking in on goals that have been set.

WHAT CAUSES POVERTY?

For those who are precariously perched on the edge of financial stability, one car accident, hospital stay, or lost job may be catastrophic. With no middle class safety net, people struggling with poverty often have nowhere to turn, and the seemingly minor setbacks can lead to joblessness, homelessness, and isolation.

At Partners for Change we strive to **prevent** these setbacks — one person,

one family, at a time. We invite them to join our program, and then provide that necessary safety net, as they make the changes needed to lift themselves out of poverty and into a life of self-sufficiency.

Partners for Change is not a quick fix. The commitment is 18 months, checking in on Tuesday nights over a meal. The meal sets the foundation for getting to know each other. Following dinner a life skills course is offered that defines abundance in all areas of life and explores avenues that lead to long term



planning and better decision making, among other topics. At the completion of this 4-month course, each client is assigned 2 to 4 volunteer mentors from the community to support, encourage, and build trusting relationships. With the help of these mentors, the client sets goals for 3, 6, 12, and 18 months. Making life changes frequently includes challenging obstacles, but with the support of the Partners for Change community and its mentors who listen and encourage, we offer our clients a chance to reach their goals and lift themselves out of poverty for good.

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE IS A HAND UP, not a handout.



OUR 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.

2018 PROGRAM STATS



Continuing Participants Served **7**

New Participants Accepted into Program **6**

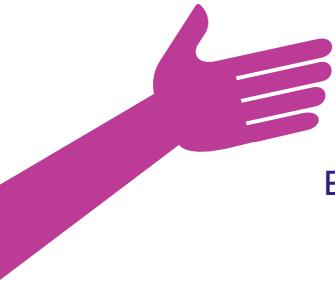
Gained Employment **6**

Graduated from Life Skills Training Class **4**

Gained Housing **2**

Excused from Program **1**

Moved on to Favorable Arrangements
Prior to Graduation **0**



Challenges

HOUSING INSTABILITY/ HOMELESSNESS

In the San Francisco Bay Area, housing costs are among the highest in the nation, and availability severely is limited. Notwithstanding those facts, we have helped two homeless people secure housing just this session. We continue to learn and assess what works best for this geographic area and fine tune our selection process and the assistance we offer accordingly.

Partners for Change welcomes the opportunity to team up with others to help us better serve our clients for whom housing remains a basic need and great challenge.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

In the past, addiction emerged as a serious issue for some participants. In 2018, we updated our screening process for admission into the program in an effort to ensure that our participants were in the best position to benefit from our services and that our volunteers were equipped with the tools they needed to better ensure overall success. Additionally, a volunteer panel composed of past and present mentors and volunteers armed with an understanding of the program, its challenges, and its potential conducted interviews in an effort to detect substance abuse issues and allow us to re-route applicants to treatment programs, when applicable. In the future, we hope to include graduates on this panel.



TERRI JOINED Partners for Change at the suggestion of the school counselor. Her 12-year-old daughter often acted out at school and at home. The police had been summoned to their apartment so many times they were on the brink of eviction.

FOR THE FIRST FEW MONTHS at Partners, Terri cried through every meeting. She was overwhelmed with her problems and felt hopeless. When she was assigned mentors she was reluctant to let them into her life, but after a few months of build-

ing trust and letting go of fear, she began to open up and allow her mentors to help. Terri set short-term and long-term goals and with the support of her mentors made a plan to get her life back on track.

THE GOALS Terri set at Partners for Change included arranging for her oldest daughter to spend the summer with a relative, which then turned into a positive long-term arrangement. Another of Terri's goals was to re-enter the work force, but her poor reading skills

were an obstacle. Her mentors helped with online applications and practicing for interviews and obtaining appropriate clothes. It took some time but she was recently offered a job at a local retailer, which means Terri will be a working woman for the first time in 14 years! Her two youngest children are happy and getting good grades in school. Terri continues to attend our weekly meetings and has set new goals and we are happy to report we haven't seen her cry in a long time.

THE Zarco FAMILY

The five children of the **ZARCO FAMILY** are always smiling! Ages 4 to 12, they attend the weekly meetings with their parents and light up the room with their energy. The family learned about Partners for Change at the elementary school and were interested in our life skills course. Diego works part-time for a small landscaping company and Dulce pedals the kids to school every day on her bike, as they do not own a car. Their apartment is small and cramped and they were looking for guidance to help them learn how to pull themselves out of poverty.

AFTER COMPLETING the four-month life skills course, Diego and Dulce were each given four mentors. With their help they are setting goals for the next 3, 6, 12, and 18 months. These include getting driver's licenses, starting a business, and learning better

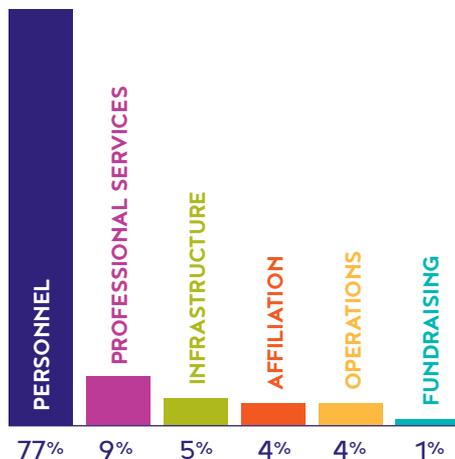
English. One of the assigned mentors is a school teacher with knowledge of all the opportunities that are available to the children. Another is an English literacy tutor who has provided help with their reading skills. The mentors have become trusted friends (and occasionally even baby sitters!) that Dulce and Diego can turn to for help, as they strive to make a better life for their children.

Diego's English has improved through our weekly meetings and he is happy with the effect this has had at his job. The two oldest children recently attended a week-long school camp on a scholarship that Diego's mentor found. Dulce is teaching piano lessons in exchange for tutoring for her children. These are only a few of the goals that Partners for Change has helped the Zarco family reach, and they are just beginning their journey.



FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

● Personnel	\$65,227
● Professional Services	\$7,740
● Infrastructure	\$4,367
● Affiliation	\$3,500
● Operations	\$3,406
● Fundraising	\$962
	\$85,202



Organizational Partnerships

Our close relationship with a number of organizations in the Tri-Valley has proven critical to our success. The Livermore Valley Unified School District and its Child Welfare and Attendance Specialists have remained excellent client referral sources of participants who are, to date, best suited to benefit from our services. We are excited about their ability to provide contacts for Spanish-speaking Change Leaders and Allies.

We are partnering with CAPE Head Start to immediately further the support their program offers for families with young children. As approximately 65% of the people they serve are Spanish speakers,

through this partnership we foresee their participation in future Spanish language sessions of our program as early as 2020.

Also in 2019, we intend to explore connecting with low income housing providers in the area in order to publicize Partners for Change's program with an eye on providing resources for affordable housing.

We foresee participation in future Spanish language sessions of our program as early as 2020.



IMPACT STORY

Joe, Rachel AND Killian

WHEN WE FIRST MET JOE, he was undergoing chemo for his extremely painful skin condition that prevented him from being able to work. Rachel was unemployed due to anxiety, and Killian frequently missed school. They were living with Rachel's mom and often didn't have enough money to pay their share of the rent.

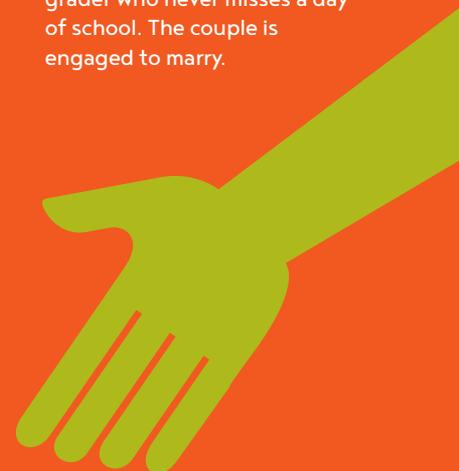
ONCE JOE & RACHEL JOINED Partners for Change they were each assigned three mentors. Joe and his mentors prioritized getting him medical help. Working together to fill out insurance forms, identify the best doctor, and get him admitted into a new drug study where he was required to bathe

in ten eight hours a day for six months, Joe's skin eventually cleared leaving him pain free and able to feel confident in public. A mentor helped him renew his driver's license and then find a job. Working at a local nursery and making enough money to cover expenses helped Joe to regain his self-respect.

RACHEL PRIORITIZED quitting smoking. Her mentors helped her to make a plan to quit and were there to support her through the hard times. Rachel has not smoked in two years! Her second priority was to get her driver's license for the first time. Her anxiety led to many delays, but with the

help of her mentors she is now a licensed driver! Her current goal is to enroll in Las Positas College in the fall with plans of becoming a nurse.

WITHIN A YEAR, Joe's job led to a better, full-time position. Rachel's health has improved, and Killian is a happy second grader who never misses a day of school. The couple is engaged to marry.



Her mentors helped her make a plan ...
and were there to support her through the hard times.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Reverend
Kathy La Point-Collup
BOARD CHAIR



Arturo (Art) Rosas
BOARD VICE-CHAIR



Nan Osborne
BOARD PRESIDENT



Joe Clark
BOARD CFO



Sheria Johnson
BOARD MEMBER



Jake Kazakevich
BOARD SECRETARY



We Need Your Help

The generosity of individual donors who believe in the value of this program has been the engine behind all we have accomplished. We are a lean operation that has relied on over 100 volunteers who donate their time to serve as Allies, food preparers, childcare, to offer rides, and so much more.

EVERY DONATION MATTERS

You can donate using a credit card
ONLINE pfctv.org
OR CALL (925) 583-1635

or by check

MAIL TO:
Partners for Change Tri-Valley
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

VOLUNTEER AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In addition to financial contributions, we welcome help in other ways including becoming an Ally, a childcare provider, a resource for safe and affordable housing, a resource to connect us with clients and mentors. And, you could do your part by sharing this annual report with others.

pfctv.org



**PARTNERS
FOR CHANGE**
TRI - VALLEY

Ending poverty one household at a time.



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