



Crisis House Connector

July 2019 Newsletter



Thank You, Dan Bacal!

Dan Bacal, Esq. has been a dedicated volunteer with Crisis House for more than thirty years. In fact, he became involved with Crisis House in his very early days as a San Diegan. It was in 1980 that Dan moved to San Diego where he became an associate with Jacoby & Meyers for approximately two years. Before leaving that firm, he headed up their personal injury department in San Diego.

Since 1982, Mr. Bacal has been a sole practitioner with offices in El Cajon and San Diego. His practice has concentrated on personal injury and criminal defense litigation. Mr. Bacal also sits as a judge pro tem in the El Cajon Municipal Court.

Dan has worn many hats for our organization. In the early days, he helped run a legal clinic and provided pro-bono advice for clients in crisis. He has been a Board Member more than once and for multiple terms. He even served as Board President from 1988-1990. He has often provided the agency's leadership with invaluable advice. In his most recent role as Board Secretary Dan served for five years. We are so grateful for his service. Dedicated volunteers like Dan are what make strong communities.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and all of our clients thank you, Dan!



East County Housing Connections

In 2017, Crisis House was funded by the City of El Cajon to start a rapid re-housing program for men, women, and children experiencing homelessness, called El Cajon Housing Connections. With this funding from El Cajon, Crisis House became the only rapid rehousing provider for the general homeless in our region. The City's contract funds a Housing Navigator and provides rental assistance.

The initial goal was for El Cajon Housing Connections to find permanent housing for 25 households by June 2018, using the Housing First approach, Crisis House exceeded those expectations, finding homes for 33 households (56 people including 20 children) and staying well under the project budget.

The City of El Cajon renewed El Cajon Housing Connections, and the program continues to demonstrate ongoing success in moving people from the street into permanent rapid re-housing.

Based on this successful program, Crisis House applied for funding from the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) through the Regional Task Force on the Homeless to expand the program. Whereas El Cajon Housing Connection requires that housing assistance funds be limited to people experiencing homelessness in El Cajon, the proposed expansion would include the entire East County Region.

The expansion was approved! In June, Crisis House was awarded \$300,000 to operate East County Housing Connection for one year. With this money, we will expand the number of rapid rehousing beds in the region. We have allocated funds for rental subsidies and outreach. Additional staff positions include a Housing Navigator/Case Manager, a full-time Outreach Coordinator, and a part-time Outreach Coordinator.

Crisis house will continue to provide rapid re-housing to the existing 20 households in El Cajon and add 20 more households from the region.

The program will be person-centered, responding to the individual needs of each participant and their family members with the goal of getting them housed as quickly as possible.

We are incredibly excited to be bringing more permanent housing options to those experiencing homelessness in East County. We continue to look for new and unique ways to end homelessness in our community. We remain committed to our mission to, "respond immediately to stop the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness and connect families and individuals to crucial resources that

empower them to renew their lives."



Prepare to Party!

Did you know that in 2020 Crisis House will be celebrating 50 years in East County? It's true! We are writing because we want you to celebrate this milestone with us. But first, we wanted to tell you a little bit about what the organization does for our community.

As you may know, in 2018, all of the cities (El Cajon, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, and Santee) declared a shelter crisis. These cities recognized and supported Crisis House as the designated Coordinated Entry site for the region. They also advocated for an expanded partnership with Crisis House to house people as quickly as possible and divert people from imminent homelessness whenever possible. **We offer a solution to the region's problem of homelessness.** We believe that this support from the cities and the services that we offer set us apart in East County. In East County we:

1. are the Coordinated Entry Site for any person experiencing homelessness,
2. host Project Homeless Connect – East County every year in April,
3. coordinate the WeAllCount Point-In-Time Count for El Cajon in January,
4. administer El Cajon Housing Connections and East County Housing Connections, and
5. continue to be the only walk-in Emergency Resource Center serving the homeless in East County.

As it relates to specifically to domestic violence, Crisis House has one of the largest domestic violence housing programs in the county. Each year, there are 182 households, including over 381 children that are placed in safe and abuse-free homes through these programs.

We are writing to request your participation in our Hearts of Gold Gala. On February 09, 2020, Crisis House will celebrate 50 years at the University Club in downtown San Diego. We would love for you to consider becoming a sponsor. Before and during the event, we would be honored to incorporate your name/logo in our event materials and acknowledge your participation in some unique ways. We are proud to announce that Bill Howe Plumbing, Heating & Air, Restoration & Flood Services has already committed to a \$5,000, "Heart of Bronze," sponsorship! We hope that you will receive our sponsorship request and consider joining us in building up our programs to increase our capacity to serve and save the lives of others.

At Crisis House, we believe everyone deserves to live in a safe, affordable, and abuse-free home. We provide nearly 5,000 people with over 18,000 units of service each year. During that same period, we end homelessness for more than 500 people. Many of these are mothers and children who were made homeless because of domestic violence.

An investment in sponsorship is an investment in our mission. Click [here](#) to view our sponsorship opportunities!



[Donate](#)

STAY CONNECTED

