



**2017 Year in Review**



**SafeHouse 2017  
Board Member List**

**Betsy Dodd**  
*Board President*

**James Fagler**  
*Secretary*

**Nick Andrade**  
*Treasurer*

**Sr. Rosina Conrotto**  
**Doreen Der-McLeod**

**Sheila Harris**

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**Carola Shepard**

**Susan Wong**



Dear Friends of SafeHouse,

**In 2018, San Francisco SafeHouse will celebrate its 20th Anniversary.**

For 20 years, SafeHouse has attended to some of the most invisible and forgotten people in our city – women who are homeless victims of sexual exploitation. I am honored to lead this amazing organization.

This past year, we have worked with some of the most vulnerable but also the strongest survivors. SafeHouse women are healing and moving on. They are becoming independent, reuniting with their families, and reclaiming their dignity. Along with staff, they have fought against injustice. We all marched alongside our sisters at the Women's March in January. Our staff have spoken to legislators about the importance of being inclusive. In the face of the current political climate, SafeHouse women are advocating for equity, justice, and freedom.

**Next year, we will be launching a new initiative – the HOPE Center.** This center, aptly named after our Founder, Rev. Glenda Hope, will provide a community space in the Tenderloin where women can come for services and get help. The HOPE Center will be a place of healing for women.

Sincerely,

**Jessica Li**  
Executive Director



# An Interview with SafeHouse's Founders

## Can you tell me a little bit about yourself, and who influenced you to do this work?

**Sister Rosina:** I have been a Sister of the Presentation for 58 years having answered a call to serve God as a religious woman. But, if you mean other than God, I think the inspiration came from my fifth grade teacher Sister Bernardine. She exuded such joy and reverence that as an 11-year-old girl, I wanted to be like her when I grew up. I attended kindergarten through eighth grade at St. Mary School in Gilroy. After elementary school I attended Gilroy High and after graduation went to San Jose State for two years. In 1959, I entered the novitiate of the Sisters of the Presentation and during that time I was a student at the University of San Francisco. Initially, I was a teacher teaching grades five through seven and then high school Freshmen and Juniors. While teaching high school students I attended the University of Santa Clara where I earned my Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology and headed the Guidance Department at Presentation High School in San Francisco.

**Rev. Glenda:** God also called me to do this work, but I would say that the primary human influence for me was a Sunday school teacher in the Southern Baptist Church. Her name was Jewel Belle, and she made a huge impression on me. I came to San Francisco in 1967 to go to seminary and she came to visit. I said to her "you planted the seeds of the radical Gospel in me" and she just smiled. When I was sixteen, I went to see the pastor and told him I wanted to be baptized again because I didn't know what I was doing the first time. The pastor said "no I don't think that is it, I think that God is calling you to a church vocation." At the time I disagreed, and went to college to be a physical education teacher, but I tore up both my knees. It was during this time at college that I switched from Baptist to Presbyterian. When my senior year of college rolled around, I came to believe that God was indeed calling me to a church vocation. I went to the Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond Virginia, and got a Master's Degree in English Bible. While in seminary, I became involved in the civil rights movement, a

life changing experience. It didn't occur to me during that time that I could dream of being a pastor, so I served on two college campuses as a Campus Christian Life Worker, then did a year's training program as a hospital chaplain. Then I did what I vowed I would never do, I spent five years as Director of Christian Education in a big church in Atlanta. That was when I realized how powerless and voiceless I was because I was not ordained. I couldn't do weddings, funerals, preach, or administer the sacrament; so when the Presbyterian Church started ordaining women in 1965, I went back to school in 1967 and received a Masters of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Just as my time in



San Francisco was ending, and I was planning to go back home to the South, I met and in six weeks married a Professor at San Francisco State University. I had just been arrested for a sit in, in support of some imprisoned soldiers and Scott was supporting the third world student strike at San Francisco State University. We met on a blind date and it was love at first sight. I was ordained at Old First Presbyterian in 1970 after three churches turned me down because I was female. I was there for three years as the Assistant Pastor, but resigned from there because my job was to draw young adults into the church and I became convinced

we weren't going to be able to do that the traditional way. I believed that we had to go out to the young people, so with eight people we started a house church and San Francisco Network Ministries was born.

## Why did you choose to found a women's program?

**Rev. Glenda:** I had been in the Tenderloin for twenty-five years and the whole time the women on the street consistently broke my heart. Such hopelessness and desperation. During that time a woman who was formerly prostituted asked me to help her start an outreach program in the Tenderloin. We acted as the fiscal agent initially and I helped her form a Board. However, she was just not healed

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enough and not ready to start a program, and eventually the program collapsed. On the other hand, because of the outreach we were doing, I got the idea and insight for the need for a residential program for women. So a little time went by and another woman came to me who wanted to offer support groups for women wanting to get out of prostitution. But she hadn't quite decided what she wanted to do, and suddenly gave up and that collapsed as well. Again, I learned some things from that and it reinforced the idea that a residential program was needed. I started talking about this with the San Francisco Network Ministries Board, and then I heard about Genesis House in Chicago and I knew about the Mary Magdalen project in LA. So the idea was there. Suddenly, I had to do five memorial services for murdered prostituted women in the San Francisco and the vision just took off from there.

**Sister Rosina:** One day in March of 1997 Glenda invited me to join her for lunch. During our visit she told me that she had conducted several memorials in the Tenderloin for prostituted women who had been murdered and that she felt called to start a safe house for women. She asked me if the Sisters of the Presentation would be interested in helping with such a venture. I told her that the first thing I would have to do was to present the idea to our Sisters. I invited Glenda to come and be a speaker at one of our Congregational meeting days and after that the Sisters spent several months at several meetings to discern the feasibility of our joining Glenda in establishing a safe house. Interestingly, around this time we discovered some writings from our founder, Nano Nagle, in which she stated that one of the things that she wanted to do was to "establish safe havens for girl and boy prostitutes in County Cork", Ireland. Clearly, this invitation from Glenda was a call to fulfill the dream of our founder. So during the celebration of the Feast of the Presentation on November 21, 1997, we formally announced the establishment of SafeHouse and its door opened in January of 1998.

**Rev. Glenda:** By that time we had already acquired the title to the property. We had formed an intensive planning committee of eleven women and one man which started meeting in February of 1997 and we had the building by May. It was just that quick Ada Chan called me and said there is a building that was owned by a non-profit that was dissolving and asked me if we wanted it. I told her no we were not ready. That night on the TV there was news that the discovered bodies of two prostituted women had been discovered in Contra Costa County. I immediately called the architect on the committee and said "let's look at the building." We put the bid proposal together in four days including the plan for programing and financing. I was really surprised when the selection committee called to say we were selected. I then went back to the city and asked for an immediate \$9,500 for remodeling and you know what they gave it to us!

## SafeHouse opened its doors almost 20 years ago in 1998, what are you most proud of?

**Rev. Glenda:** I am most proud of the graduates. Sometimes they don't get it the first time, but I think that healing is cumulative. I remember going to visit the program in Chicago and meeting a woman there who I really connected with. She is now a court advocate. She was just exuberant and outgoing and when I mentioned that I was going to LA, she said "you tell Ms. Ann Hayman that I'm going to make it this time." When I relayed this to the Executive Director of the Mary Magdalen Project, she was amazed and said that the woman had been there "almost twenty years ago." So sometimes they don't make it the first time, but eventually many do. I have so much admiration for the women who have made it out of such dark times.

**Sister Rosina:** I believe that I and the Sisters of the Presentation are most proud that we were involved in this project from its beginning. It is so exciting to see the growth and evolvment over the years, and to know that we were part of building something that is stable and growing. I am also so proud of our graduates. It is wonderful to see how focused and committed they are and to hear what they are doing now.

## What legacy do you want to leave behind for the future women of SafeHouse?

**Rev. Glenda:** Well first off, I'm leaving my house and more. I do believe that we ought to have second stage housing in San Francisco. I think eighteen months works for some people, but some people need more time than that. I don't think it would need staff on site, but staff should be available. I think it needs to be affordable, which is why I am leaving my house to SafeHouse. I also love that SafeHouse is a pretty and an attractive place to live. The women have always commented that it is a nice place to live. A lot of places that serve the poor are shabby, and we didn't want that for them. This is the beginning of us saying "we value you, you deserve beauty, and you are worthy." Our surroundings have such an influence on us.

**Sister Rosina:** I think that one of the biggest challenges that our women face is finding safe affordable housing when they leave SafeHouse. As Sisters of the Presentation, we don't have a lot of material things to leave behind. The legacy I hope we can leave behind is to highlight the goodness that happens here; to heighten our awareness, and the awareness of the public, of the dignity of women at SafeHouse and the possibility they have of growth and fulfilling God's dream for them; helping them realize how important, loved and beautiful they are. In closing, I think the staff exudes a presence that SafeHouse is a safe place to be, and the interactions I have seen between staff and residents has always been one of respect.

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# SafeHouse Throughout the Years

By Sharon, Residential Counselor



**a**s a staff person who has been part of this organization for a long time, it's a pleasant walk down memory lane to look back over my last 19 years as a member of the SafeHouse team. Well actually, I had to really think about it for a bit, as it has been a very long time and at my age, going back that far is not always easy. First let me say, it has been an honor and a pleasure being a part of such a wonderful organization for all these years and I look forward to being of service for many more. As a woman, a former sex worker, and recovering crack cocaine user myself, I found that SafeHouse was where I wanted and needed to be from the first day I started working here. I have worked with both male and female populations, but because women are such an underserved population, I have always desired to work solely with women.

So, I was hired on August 5th of 1998. However, I had a family tragedy on the night that I was officially scheduled to work my first shift. I was afraid that I would be terminated because I was unable to show up for my first day. However, SafeHouse supported me through that difficult time. Through the years, I have watched SafeHouse grow and change. Originally, the Residential Counselors only worked 19 hours a week and there was a live-in person who stayed overnight. In 1998, things were still coming together because the program was in its first year. At that time, there was a Director and a Case Manager who worked during day, and of course, Glenda came in a couple of times a week. She came in once a week just to do money management with all the ladies, and then she also attended the house meeting on Wednesday evenings and met with

staff afterwards. **Sometimes I wondered how Glenda found the time, but somehow, she always made the time for SafeHouse.**

One of the things that has always made SafeHouse close to my heart is the fact that women have the opportunity to start the process of healing in a safe place. There is no judgment as to where you come from, and women are met where they are at in life. Originally, for a woman to enter SafeHouse, she had to meet some very specific criteria, in which she had to be a sex worker and have a substance abuse issue. Both were required to be eligible. On the other hand, severe mental illness was one of the criterias for denial, because we did not have mental health staff and it was thought that a higher level of care was needed.

Once a woman was admitted into SafeHouse, she was on a 30-day blackout period, which ultimately meant she could not leave the house unless she had someone (another client) with her. There were no phone calls (except to let family know she was safe and/or to talk to their children), and there was also no computer use either for the first 30 days. She would not be admitted if she was on methadone or narcotic medications. If she had a cell phone, it had to be surrendered to staff once she entered. During her stay at SafeHouse, it was mandatory for her to attend and complete an outpatient drug treatment program and attend a minimum of three twelve step meetings per week. SafeHouse ladies had to complete certain criteria to move up in the phases. This hasn't changed much over the years but some things have been removed. For example,

*One of the things that has always made SafeHouse close to my heart is the fact that women have the opportunity to start the process of healing in a safe place.*

you were not allowed to have a cell phone at all during your stay, unless you were working and/or needed it for work, and you had to turn it in once you came home from work.

This is what has changed over the years: the buddy system no longer exists, and the ladies are free to go out as soon as they arrive to begin their process of healing. The program is now tailored specifically for

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each woman, rather than the same thing for all across the board. Women can be on methadone (and have weekly take homes) and narcotic medications are all kept in a lock box. We now have two Case Managers, a Program Director, an Executive Director & an Operations Manager. The ladies receive more specialized care based on their individual needs, and they have a say in planning services. They have a voice in the house, and if something is not working, it is replaced with something that does work for the women.

I have watched the population change quite a bit over the years. There are still substance abuse issues but it has become so much more than that. Many women are also coming in who are escaping from trafficked situations, an abusive spouse or a significant other. They often have severe trauma and mental health issues. As the population has changed over the years, so has the way in which SafeHouse operates in order to meet the needs of the clients we serve. We have expanded our definition of women to include all

women, both cis-gendered and trans-gendered. In the last few years, we have been able to increase our services to include a language line for monolingual non-English speakers.

Working at SafeHouse has taught me how to be even more compassionate, more selfless, and patient with people as a whole. I have had to change over the years and be willing to look at my own faults and shortcomings in order to have the capacity to serve others in a productive manner. I have also learned that taking myself out of the equation, because it's not personal, helps me better serve others as well. I have enjoyed my years at SafeHouse because I love that there is somewhere specifically for us as women to go to get gender specific services and feel safe in the process. **The greatest part of working at SafeHouse is watching the women grow, change, find their own voice and become the person they were meant to be.** I can't put a price on that, and I look forward to many more years of service!

## THE PROBLEM

**100%** of SafeHouse women are survivors of some form of **sexual exploitation**, for many the exploitation started when they were children

**100%** of SafeHouse women were **homeless** or marginally housed prior to coming to SafeHouse

# James Fagler



*James (Jim) Fagler has been a licensed architect since 1987, and has a long history of supporting San Francisco SafeHouse. He was initially connected with our founder Reverend Glenda Hope through Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. They connected again when he was working at Asian Neighborhood Design, and she was seeking to develop low income housing at 555 Ellis Street. Working as the main architect on that project solidified the connection and when Rev. Glenda wanted to open SafeHouse in 1997, she asked Jim to look over the building and safety codes and to make sure that it was viable building for the program. Furthermore, he has served as Secretary on the SafeHouse Board of Directors for the last several years. In addition to lending financial support, Jim continues to provide free architectural advice and time to the SafeHouse staff.*

**What attracted to you to the mission of SafeHouse?** My father died when I was young and I was raised by my mom, so I have always had a great respect for women. Also, I am currently surrounded by women, and have always worked with women. As an architect, I do very little custom or market rate work, it is all low income or non-profit, so it was natural fit to become involved with SafeHouse. I have always had an interest in low income supportive housing, and working with SafeHouse allows me to do my small part to help the world.

**Why do you think it is important for men to support women's programs?** I think when men support women's programs, it raises awareness of women's issues that other men often don't see. For me personally, it is important to have more awareness of the issues that women face and to be a little bit of the standard bearer for men in general. Also, it has always been important for me to leverage my privilege to help underserved communities. I do this not only

in my effort to support women's programs, but I have also been heavily involved in the Asian community, and I do a lot of projects in Chinatown.

**What upcoming SafeHouse program are you most excited about?** I am most excited to check on the progress for second stage housing. I really like that idea and am excited about giving women the opportunity to move to the second stage and find stability.

**You donate a lot of your time why?** Within SafeHouse's mission there is a unique slice of people issues. It is not just homelessness in general: it is immigration, criminalization, and violence against women. In addition, there are a lot of different needs, which includes addiction treatment and mental health. I am very cognizant of the fact that these women have not had an easy life, and I like to do whatever I can to help. Also, as an architect, I am a very results orientated person, and I feel that SafeHouse gets results.

## SafeHouse survivors report experiencing multiple types of violence:

**70% are survivors of domestic violence**

**60% are survivors of sexual assault**

**20% are survivors of hate crimes**

## A Second Chance at Life

Lucille\*  
SafeHouse Graduate

When I was younger, me and my mom fought a lot. I was head strong and stubborn and I thought I knew what I was doing. I met the man who would turn me out at fifteen years old, and shortly thereafter he started me in commercial sex work at a hotel in Las Vegas. This was just the beginning, and he went on to take me to various cities throughout the country for the purpose of sex work. This continued even after I was arrested in Los Angeles and sent to Juvenile Hall, as he came to get me shortly after I got out of jail. By the time I turned eighteen I had already been a member of a gang for two years and was heavily involved in drugs and the sex trade. We eventually made our way to San Francisco, however, this went on for twelve years before I was finally able to get away from him.

I met my son's father in 2010 and I think this was a major turning point for me even if I didn't realize it at the time. He didn't do drugs, and he dealt with my drug abuse for two years before he finally said enough was enough. He told me I had to get clean or he was leaving me. I think during this time I was screaming out for help, but I just didn't know how to get it.

I came to SafeHouse in February of 2012, and two weeks later I found out I was pregnant. Initially I was scared, and made an abortion appointment with Kristen, my Case Manager. However, on the day that I was supposed to get the abortion, the father of baby did not show. I could not go through with the abortion alone, and right then and there decided I was having the baby. **At that point, I had a choice to make: I was either going to keep doing what I was doing, or I was going to be a good mom. That was a time when I was at my most fragile and most vulnerable in early recovery.** I knew I couldn't make these decisions alone and I didn't have my family for support, so **SafeHouse really stepped up and became my family.** There were also a few other concerns. I knew that SafeHouse wasn't licensed to have children on site, so I wasn't sure what was going to happen. However, Reverend Glenda and my Case Manager Kristen sat down with me to go over my options and

it was decided that I would stay at SafeHouse until the baby was born. Kristen went above and beyond the call of duty and was so supportive in trying to find me a place to live after the birth of my son. She finally found me a treatment program for mothers and children, and the only reason I didn't go was because my mom finally agreed to let me come home with my child.

As of today, it has been six years that I have been clean and sober. That doesn't mean I haven't faced hardships in my life, as shortly after my son was born, I found out



he was severely autistic. However, due to the positive support from my family and friends, I have kept myself on the straight and narrow and learned to be a good mother for my son. It is a very traumatic experience to watch your child go through something and not be able to help him. **But these days, I am his biggest advocate, and I think SafeHouse prepared me for that. I learned how to stay positive and how to grow up.** When I first

came to SafeHouse, I was still very much a child that hadn't grown up yet.

After leaving SafeHouse and having my son, I continued to work hard on building a future and started the Welfare to Work program. I had a lot of opportunities, and ended up working for five years as a manager for Goodwill. The great thing about Goodwill is that even when I need to move out of state, I was able to transfer my job. My son's father hasn't always been in his life, so for the most part, I am a single mother. However, he was able to help me purchase my first home and we are closing on the purchase this month. I was in an accident so I have been out of work for a short time; however, this has given me the time to really focus on my son and get him into behavioral therapy. Today, I am still in touch with several of the women that I bonded with through the program. I truly believe that SafeHouse gave me a second chance and saved my life.

\*Lucille's name has been changed to protect the confidentiality of the survivor

# Keeping SafeHouse Beautiful

By Toni Eby  
Operations Manager

At SafeHouse, we talk a lot about how invested we are in making sure that SafeHouse is a safe and welcoming environment. While this is always an ongoing process, this year we seem to have made a lot of progress in building improvements. This includes a series of building updates and layout changes to ensure that we are using SafeHouse's building to the utmost benefit of our residents. We were able to add two new spaces to the building, remodel the entire back yard, and update some of the rooms by painting them and changing out some of the fixtures.

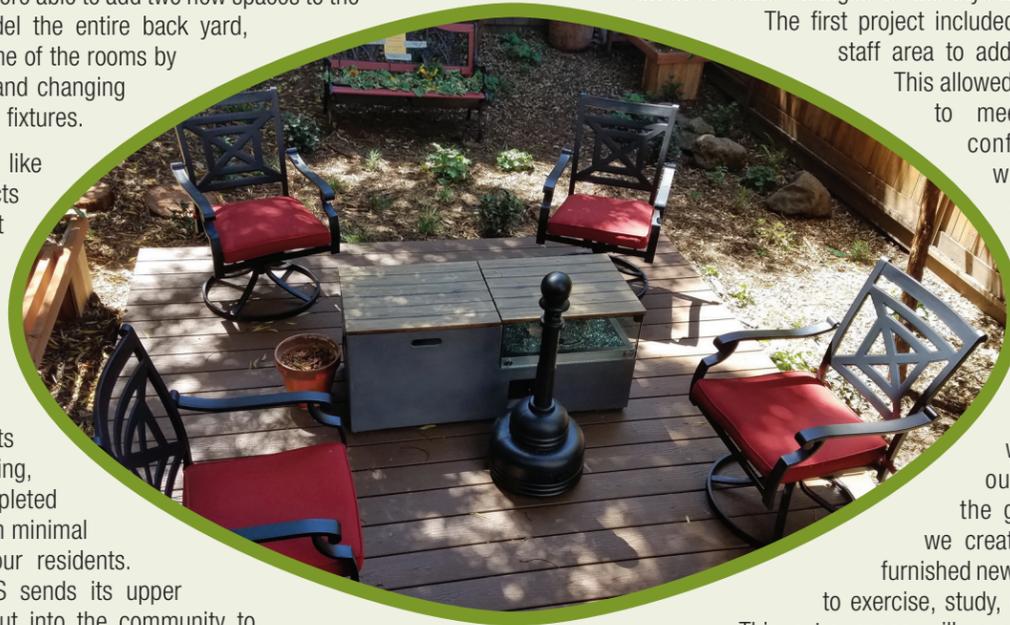
This may seem like a lot of projects in such a short amount of time, but we have had a lot of help along the way. While some of these projects seemed daunting, they were completed quickly and with minimal disruption to our residents. Each year, UPS sends its upper management out into the community to complete service projects. While the volunteers are different each time, they always come ready to work hard and learn about our organization. Our partnership with UPS is one of the many ways that we continue to keep SafeHouse beautiful.

In addition to UPS, we also partnered with Rebuilding Together to update our kitchen cabinets and remodel our backyard. This was truly an uplifting experience, as Rebuilding Together designated

our site as a SHEBuilds project, and all 30 volunteers were women builders. The finished project was simply amazing, and the new backyard is now in constant use by our residents. You often see them sitting back there with a book or a friend enjoying nature.

The last two projects were both major construction projects, and involved some changes to the layout of the building. The first project included remodeling the staff area to add an extra office. This allowed additional space to meet with clients confidentially, as well as conduct SafeHouse business. The final project of the year is a new multi-purpose space for the residents. We were able to build out a portion of the garage in which we created a large fully furnished new space for clients to exercise, study, or just hang out. This extra space will open up community living areas and allow clients additional options to find some quite space to themselves.

We at SafeHouse are committed to keeping our building a safe and welcoming environment for both current and future residents. The projects this year helped contribute to keeping SafeHouse a beautiful nurturing space for years to come.



## THE HOPE

Of the women currently at SafeHouse

- 50%** are gainfully employed
- 30%** are pursuing educational goals
- 10%** are seeking vocational training
- 10%** are giving back to their communities through volunteer opportunities
- 100%** are grateful for the opportunity to heal

# SafeHouse's Annual Healing Retreats

By: Kristen Moore, Program Director

Our annual community retreat is always a dynamic and powerful experience. Each summer, SafeHouse women and staff of SafeHouse spend a weekend together at Walker Creek Ranch in West Marin and this focused time together allows for deeper connection and collaboration. New this year, we organized the retreat on a shared leadership model. In years past, staff organized and facilitated all of the content on retreat. During the early stages of retreat planning, however, one staff member raised the idea of asking the women if any of them were interested in leading or co-facilitating groups. Immediately, there was consensus from our team that this felt like a natural step, especially in line with our goal of empowering the women to have ownership over SafeHouse and our activities. When given the opportunity, several SafeHouse women stepped up and volunteered to lead groups and activities.

One woman chose to lead an art group where participants partnered up and drew portraits of each other. The catch? The artist was never allowed to look at the paper while drawing. The result? Some very creative portraits and a whole lot of fun! Says Maggie\* who designed the activity, "I really just wanted to give people a chance to laugh together. It was so great to see people having fun and everyone was really into it. It felt really good." After sharing the hilarious results with the group, everyone was asked to turn the page over and write three things they thought were beautiful about their partner. Maggie\* gave each person the opportunity to share what they had written, and the positive energy in the room surged as people heard feedback

around what others admire and see in them. Her activity served to both connect people in a fun and engaging way and also to bolster self-esteem and highlight the strength and beauty in the room.

As Maggie's activity demonstrates, we have a wealth of wisdom, knowledge and creativity in our community. Throughout the weekend, both SafeHouse women and staff brought their particular gifts to the work we were doing. Kristin, one of our Residential Counselors, who is also a yoga instructor, led us through gentle yoga movement designed to put us in better communication with our bodies. She says, "I truly believe that yoga can stabilize, heal, and ultimately transform the body, mind and spirit!" Adding body work to our retreat promotes health and healing and gives participants an opportunity to explore other ways of healing.

In addition to our structured programming, staff and SafeHouse women enjoyed the opportunity to hike, sit quietly in nature, and swim in the lake. All of the women have limited financial means and limited access to green space outside of San Francisco. While sitting by the lake, one woman put it best: "I feel peaceful. It's so calm here, it just gets inside of me." It is our hope that we can bring that peace back to the house along with the other experiences taken from retreat-- the effects last long after leaving and continue to strengthen our community all year round.

\*Names have been changed to protect the safety and confidentiality of SafeHouse women.



## Donor Spotlight



### Custom Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association of Northern California (CBFANC)

*CBFANC is a member association that consists of customs brokers and freight forwarders that have come together to further the growth of trade and use their collective voice to advocate with various local government agencies around trade and security issues. They are dedicated to educational initiatives that ensure that member agencies are able to provide their customers with professional and speedy services. CBFANC and many of its members have been longtime supporters of SafeHouse and often hold fundraisers and events benefiting our women. Their generous support funds programs and services that range from mental health services to educational services. These very important funds allow our women the opportunity to grow and heal.*

#### What are some of CBFANC's charitable interests?

We want to give back to the community. Helping others in need where it will have the most positive impact. Being able to see where our donate funds are applied.

#### How did CBFANC become involved in SafeHouse?

We were introduced many years ago by one of our most respected and influential people in our industry, Jeanne Burns. It didn't take much to convince us that SafeHouse was a worthy cause seeing women turn their lives around. Ever since then, we have highlighted SF SafeHouse as our main charity and have raised several thousands of dollars towards the program.

#### Can you talk a little bit about past fundraisers that have benefited SafeHouse?

For years CBFANC organized a golf tournament to raise funds for SF SafeHouse. This allows us to bring people together for a fun day at the same time benefit our charity. There was one year that we didn't have a charity event but that didn't stop us from donating. Our association still made a donation to support the women of SF SafeHouse. And this year we had a dinner event (in place of our golf tournament) featuring our State Representative Jackie Speier who is also very passionate about helping women in need to raise money for SF SafeHouse.

#### Why does CBFANC continue to give to support SF SafeHouse?

CBFANC continues to support SF Safehouse because we believe it's a good program.

## What Does Inclusivity Look Like?

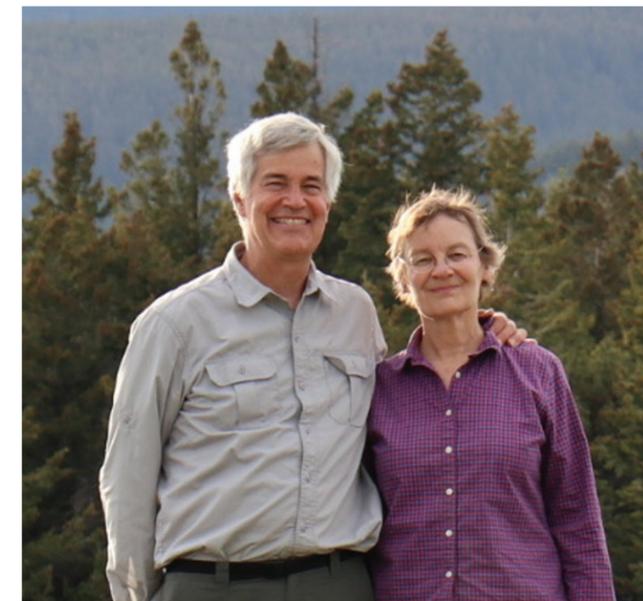
By Betsy Dodd, Board President

The board and staff have defined the five core values of SafeHouse. They are safety, non-judgmental, inclusivity, compassion, and whole-person care. Inclusivity is explained:

*All of the women SafeHouse serves have been marginalized. As a result, we strive to be an inclusive and diverse organization. We create a place where all women can choose to be their whole and authentic selves without fear of oppression. We acknowledge the privileges that we hold and as a community, we rise above the fear and hate to create a warm and loving environment.*

So how is SafeHouse doing on inclusivity? What do diversity and inclusivity look like at SafeHouse?

So far this year, among our 16 residents, inclusivity looks like a vibrant mix of ethnicities: Latina, Asian, African-American, Caucasian, and mixed-race. It looks like native English speakers and English learners, and immigrants both documented and undocumented. Inclusivity looks like women with various sexual orientations: straight and lesbian. It looks like women young and not-so-young, from their 20s up through their 50s. Inclusivity looks like some disabled women, some previously incarcerated women, some women working to stay sober and drug-free. It looks like all these women living together, learning from each other, and supporting each other as they work to escape their common challenges of homelessness and sexual exploitation.



Betsy and Jim Dodd

At a time when divisiveness, exclusion, and fear of the "other" are on the rise, the welcoming community at SafeHouse gives us comfort and hope. SafeHouse is a flourishing example of the power of acceptance and non-judgment, where women seemingly so different in so many ways can come together and heal together. We feel fortunate and blessed to be part of the embracing and affirming work that goes on every day at SafeHouse.



# Building Futures

By: Janice  
Case Manager

The women who walk through the doors of San Francisco SafeHouse have not lived easy lives. Everyone who arrives here is homeless and escaping some form of sexual exploitation. Many of them have experienced multiple traumas such as: incarceration, domestic abuse, assault, discrimination and addiction. Sometimes the trauma began as children, and the road to recovery is long and difficult. They come to SafeHouse, with their guard up, not knowing what to truly expect. The first thing I do is sit down with them to find out what their short term and long-term goals are. I want to know what their dreams and aspirations are and what they hope to achieve while at SafeHouse. In addition, I find out what their immediate needs look like and then together, we come up with plan to achieve their goals. After I make a treatment plan with them, the first thing I make sure they know is that I'm on their team and they are in control of their own destiny. This year, I've had the honor of watching quite a few of these women accomplish some pretty amazing milestones.

One woman, a foreign national, wanted more than anything to return to home country. After years of being in the United States, dealing with the legal system, she wanted to be reunified with her family. Survivors of human trafficking are often criminalized and it was a long hard process to disentangle her from the United States legal system. To accomplish this, we reached out to partner agencies and were able to connect her with a pro bono attorney. The amazing thing is she didn't just wait around until everything was cleared up. Instead, she steadily worked toward her goals of learning English and restoring her health and fitness. While in our program, she educated

us about culture and inspired everyone around her with her resilience and persistence. I am happy to report that she is now reunited with her family in her home country.

Another client, who traveled to San Francisco in the need of hope has reported that she finally feels at peace with herself. She left a domestic violence situation and was sexually exploited. At SafeHouse, she was able to receive medical services that she really needed. Since arriving at SafeHouse, she has been steadily working at a job where she is able to be a mentor to other women and give back to the community. The growth she has shown has been an inspiration to everyone around her. Every day, she continues to steadily work towards a better future.

These are just two examples of some amazing achievements that are currently happening at SafeHouse. So many of the women here have gained employment throughout this year. We also have some currently in school – whether it be to get their GED, attend college, or to learn English. Furthermore, we have also been able to continue to connect the women with many outside resources and services this past year. Those services ranged from legal, health, mental health, housing, groups, immigration services, and many more. We believe that everyone coming through the doors of SafeHouse has the potential to do amazing things if only given the opportunity. It is our job to make sure they are presented with these opportunities and have the support necessary to succeed.



## THE FUTURE

Of the women who graduate from SafeHouse

**100%**  
move into a stable form of **long term housing**

**95%**  
are employed, going to **college** or have a **steady income**

## How Can You Help?

- Make a donation at <http://www.sfsafehouse.org>
- Send a gift card for Home Depot, Amazon or Costco
- E-mail us about the volunteer opportunities at [info@sfsafehouse.org](mailto:info@sfsafehouse.org)
- Go to Amazon.com. Click on Wish List. Search for San Francisco SafeHouse. You will find everything from TV's to cookware to toothbrushes.
- Have an item on the list or something else you wish to donate? Call or write [info@sfsafehouse.org](mailto:info@sfsafehouse.org).

SafeHouse accepts very gently used, high quality donations of furniture and household items. We are also always looking for professional volunteers with skills in facility maintenance such as plumbing and electrical or general contractors.

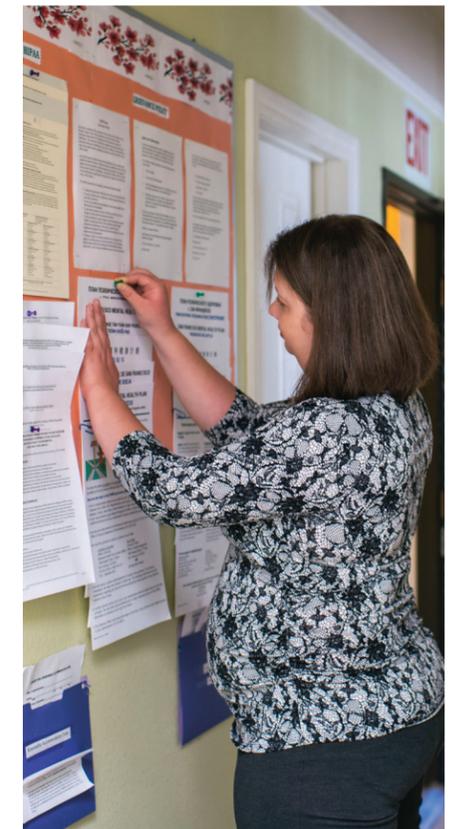
[www.sfsafehouse.org](http://www.sfsafehouse.org)



SafeHouse woman painting at Annual Healing Retreat at Walker Creek Ranch



SafeHouse women finding peace at the Annual Healing Retreat



Toni Eby, Operations Manager, posting SafeHouse's incoming donations for women



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