

# SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER



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## A LIFETIME OF ADVOCACY

San Francisco SafeHouse would like to wish a Happy 85th Birthday to the Reverend Glenda Hope. This amazing woman has been an inspiration and leader in the non-profit field and an advocate for marginalized and vulnerable communities for the last 61 years! Not only was she a founder of San Francisco Network Ministries, San Francisco SafeHouse, the Tenderloin AIDS Network, and the Cayuga Connectors, but she has spent a lifetime advocating on a national, state and local level for justice and change. For her work, she has received three honorary doctorates, was named a “Unsung Hero of Compassion” by the Dalai Lama, and dubbed the “Saint of the Tenderloin” for her advocacy and work with unhoused people in San Francisco.

Even in retirement, she continues to raise her voice and spends her days organizing with her community. For example, upon retirement she focused her energy on ensuring that elders in her community were connected to resources that allowed them to remain in their homes as they aged. Additionally, at the age of 84, she organized a weekly Black Lives Matter vigil on the corner of Geneva Avenue. She even continues to fundraise for SafeHouse, raising more than \$5,500 with her online FaceBook fundraiser, and encouraging her friends and community to do the same.

When asked what she wanted people to understand about her work, she stated “I just want to be an example that ordinary people can make a difference and do great things for the community.” She urges everyone “to pick what you are passionate about and find ways to make a difference.” San Francisco SafeHouse would not be here if not for a small woman with a big idea, so a huge thank you and happy birthday to our co-founder the Reverend Glenda Hope.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

BY TONI EBY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are excited to update you on the amazing things happening at SafeHouse right now, and how your support has helped us weather an unusually hard year. Your continued support this past year ensured that SafeHouse women continued to receive educational support, internships, mental health services, basic needs, and most importantly the technology needed to navigate a world that increasingly became focused online. This included ensuring that we had laptops for women in our housing programs for telehealth appointments,

# NEW TEAM MEMBERS

SafeHouse would like to feature some new extraordinary members to our team. They bring expertise, and commitment, and are a joy to work with everyday. It is an honor to introduce you to our new staff:

## ARASH AHMADI

FINANCIAL COORDINATOR

Educated in Tehran, Davis, and San Francisco, and trained in Mathematics and Data Science, Arash Ahmadi has worked for San Francisco SafeHouse as a Financial Coordinator since February 2021.



completing work or school requirements, and contacting family that they were physically separated from due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also meant ensuring that we had phones available for unhoused women who needed to access services remotely at the Hope Center. We were amazed and awed by the way our community stepped up during this difficult time to ensure that women experiencing homelessness and sexual exploitation had all the tools necessary to participate meaningfully in the community.

Prior to joining SafeHouse, he worked as a controller, accountant, and math tutor of various organizations in the Bay Area.

Having grown up in Iran, he witnessed how the women's liberation movement has striven to obtain equal rights and has fought against the oppression of the global patriarchy. Therefore, he has a deep understanding and respect towards women and the protection of their rights.

# CRYSTAL MILLÁN

VPSW HOUSING  
COORDINATOR

Crystal Millán started her journey with direct service work by working with migrant womxn, many who were queer and trans asylum seekers. She has collaborated for the last several years with Mujeres Unidas Y Activas as well as other local grassroots organizations and mutual aid efforts like Mission Meals Coalition and Join The Movement.

With a background in fundraising and community organizing, she was able to co-found a support network that helps to financially empower trans asylum seekers in the Bay Area called VisibiliT in 2018. When she is not working, she enjoys cooking, dancing and spending time in the company of her friends and family.



# CANDACE CHRISTIAN

HOUSE PROGRAM MANAGER

For the past ten years Candace has worked in the field of Social Services and Mental Health in various counties throughout the Bay Area. Candace attended California State University of the East Bay where she received her Bachelors in Sociology with the option in Social Services. Candace also received her master's from Grand Canyon University in Mental Health and Wellbeing with a concentration in Family Dynamics. As a survivor, Candace understands the trials and tribulations that come with the various traumas which has led Candace to have a passion to support individuals in navigating through their trauma in order to live a successful life. Candace has had the opportunity to work as an advocate for women who have experienced DV and sexual assault while remodeling and developing emergency safehouses in Solano County. Candace has facilitated various trauma informed groups on how to build self-esteem, self-empowerment, harm reduction and vocational services.

Candace joined SF SafeHouse not only to support individuals with navigating through their trauma but also to help manage a team in learning how to work with trauma. Additionally, she seeks to be an asset in developing new ways that will contribute to a continuous streamline of support within the DV and Sexual Assault population. Candace strongly believes that if you can change your thoughts, you can change your mind, which can lead into you changing your life that is why in Candace's spare time she enjoys feeding the unhoused, traveling, and hanging out with family and friends.

# OUR INCREDIBLE PARTNERS



While every year SafeHouse develops amazing partnerships with other organizations that help serve our community, this year we would like to highlight Urban Angels and Project Glimmer as two outstanding partnerships that have been particularly supportive of SafeHouse by donating clothing and hygiene products for unhoused womxn.

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## URBAN ANGELS

In 2020, Urban Angels SF's Angel Corp volunteers delivered over 15,000 meals. Additionally, their pandemic response provided over 10,000 face masks, 6,000 bottles of hand sanitizers, 9,000 bottles of water, and delivered clothing to over 3,000 of their neighbors facing homelessness. This helped slow the spread of the disease and saved lives.

Beyond helping their neighbors facing homelessness cope with the pandemic, they managed to bring joy! Their School Supply Drive for elementary school children living in SF's family shelters provided 240 new backpacks filled with supplies and a 30-unit electronic device charging station for learning devices. In their Toy Drive, Urban Angels made the holidays special for 350 children when they received new toys. A small but important way to show these children they are loved and valued despite their hard circumstances.

Urban Angels has supported SF SafeHouse by donating thousands of articles of clothing on a monthly basis, and recently donated over 900 pairs of new underwear.

Together we can continue to make a difference in the lives of people facing homelessness to give them dignity and comfort in the midst of a difficult situation.





## PROJECT GLIMMER

Project Glimmer is on a mission to build self-confidence in adolescent girls. It's impossible to underestimate the role self-confidence plays in shaping a girl's life. Confidence is what fuels her early ambition and vision for her future. It empowers her to use her voice, both defending her values and standing up to criticism. It allows her to develop sound judgment and make good decisions. It gives her the courage to own her story—no matter how challenging the circumstances—and recognize her worth, as a girl.

But confidence doesn't grow on its own, nor does it spontaneously appear, especially when living in an environment, poverty, uncertainty, or fear—environments that too often squander the futures of too many of our girls.

Confidence needs to be nurtured and that nurturing needs to start early, which is why Project Glimmer was founded—our girls in San Francisco were being forgotten by their community during the holidays, and they wanted to change that.

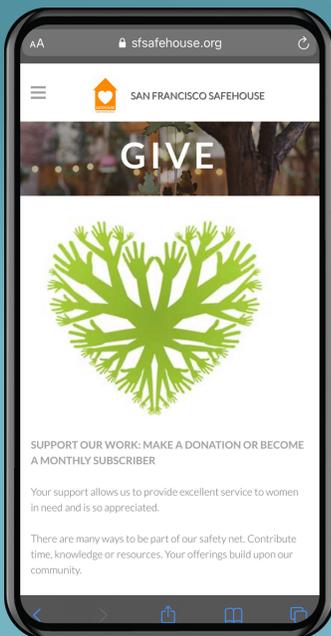
The last ten years have been nothing short of extraordinary, Project Glimmer is exceeding all its hopes and expectations. They have grown from a single holiday gift drive for forgotten teenage girls to a nationwide platform of programs that inspires a girl's ambition, connects her with a network of peers and mentors, and supplements some of her most basic personal needs. Their 1,000 community partners have enabled them to reach more than 700,000 girls in all 50 states, while helping them transform what was once an historically-fragmented community into a highly operational eco-system of corporations, philanthropists, and volunteers donating their products, resources, time, and talent.

Project Glimmer helps girls to envision and realize an empowered future. This is the work they do every single day — and they couldn't do it without you. Project Glimmer donates beauty products and hygiene goods to SafeHouse, and helps ensure that our constituents receive the care they need.





# HOW CAN YOU HELP?



- Make a donation at <https://www.sfsafehouse.org>.
- Send a gift card for Home Depot, Amazon, Costco
- Go to [safehouse.org](https://www.safehouse.org) and click on Wish List. You will find everything from PJ's to cookware to toothbrushes.
- Have an item on the list or something else you wish to donate? Send us an email to [info@sfsafehouse.org](mailto:info@sfsafehouse.org) or [kaylena@sfsafehouse.org](mailto:kaylena@sfsafehouse.org).
- Organize a Facebook fundraiser for SafeHouse.
- You can also support our mission by joining in us on social media channels.



We have several ways to get involved and help SF SafeHouse! Whether you would like to volunteer your trade or expertise, or make a monetary donation, you can help



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