

GARDEN COURT ENDOWMENT

1116 De La Vina Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

HOW YOU CAN HELP

DONATE: The Garden Court Endowment relies on financial contributions from individuals, companies and foundations. We welcome donations by phone or mail.

VOLUNTEER: Garden Court also welcomes volunteers and volunteer groups of all ages.

HAVE LUNCH WITH US: A great way to really get to know Garden Court and our wonderful residents and staff is to join us for a delicious, nutritious lunch with us in the resident dining room. Call today to arrange!

TO DONATE, VOLUNTEER OR HAVE LUNCH WITH US, please contact Chris Tucker at (805) 884-0095, 1116 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.



Christopher Tucker

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT: INTRODUCING CHRIS TUCKER

Tucker was the first executive director of Garden Court from 1999 to 2004, and then served as executive director at Hundred Palms Tuscon Assisted Living and Memory Care Community, owned and operated by Parsons Group Inc.

Before returning to Santa Barbara, Tucker most recently worked in development at Bridgepoint Education, an innovator in higher education based in San Diego. During the crisis in Haiti, Tucker took a sabbatical to volunteer with Orphans International in Haiti. In April 2012 he volunteered with SEE International to help coordinate a free cataract surgery clinic in Celaya, Mexico.

Tucker received a bachelor's degree from UCSB and a master's degree in public health from Boston University and in education from Harvard Graduate School of Education. Tucker is a current Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology, with a specialization in gerontological psychology.

Tucker served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines and served as an AmeriCorps fellow in Boston Public Senior Housing. He has participated as an exchange student to Romania with the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara Sunrise, which he has rejoined as member of the Board since moving back to Santa Barbara.

Garden Court provides service-enhanced independent living for frail, low-income Santa Barbara seniors to live independently for as long as possible. The community provides the freedom of independent living, while offering the peace of mind of community living and includes amenities such as transportation, dining and housekeeping services, and access to social services, among a variety of others. It is a public-private partnership through the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara and the Parsons Group.



GARDEN COURT ENDOWMENT *Newsletter*

WELCOME TO OUR 2011-2012 NEWSLETTER!

We hope this will help you share your passion for Garden Court Endowment with friends and colleagues!



Garden Court residents at Garden Court's very first Carnival.

A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As president of the Garden Court Endowment it is my privilege to share with you some of the exciting things that are happening at Garden Court.

As you know, in March of this year we held our annual fund raising event honoring Michael Towbes at the Canary Hotel. It was our most successful and enjoyable event to date. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and guests we raised almost \$55,000 for the Garden Court Endowment. The Western theme, relaxed atmosphere, great food, and lively music also made for a wonderful and memorable evening.

The money we raised will enable the Garden Court Endowment to continue to provide grants and financial support for the emergency needs of our lowest income seniors. These seniors include the residents at Garden Court and low-income seniors throughout the community. This is a vital service for those seniors who have nowhere else to turn in times of need.

These funds will also help us to move forward with our ambitious goal of creating more housing for low income seniors with special needs. With an expanding waiting list at Garden Court and an ever-growing senior population, the need for another facility is becoming our top priority. All of us on the board of directors are excited about the progress we're making. We hope to share more of the details in the coming months as we continue to develop our plans.

When the time comes to unveil our plans publicly and submit a development application for approval, we will be looking to all of you for your support. Nothing will speed things along in the approval process like the strong support and commitment of the community. We look forward to the day we can invite all of you to a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Garden Court II to serve those most vulnerable members of our community.

I also want to take this opportunity to once again extend a special thank you to our key fundraising event sponsors, Santa Barbara Bank and Trust, Montecito Bank and Trust, The Towbes Group, the Canary Hotel and the many other sponsors and contributors who helped us raise the money needed to continue to serve our senior community.

I look forward to seeing all of you next year.

Detty Peikert, Board President

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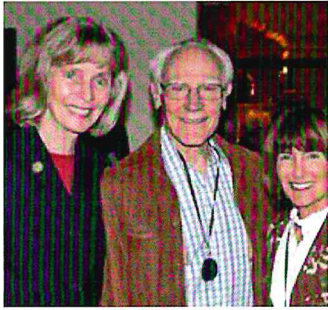
Alyce Parsons

Bhupi Singh

Christopher Tucker
Executive Director

WHAT IS GARDEN COURT?

Founded in 2000, Garden Court provides enhanced independent living for frail, low-income Santa Barbara seniors to live independently for as long as possible. Many of Garden Court's 97 seniors, 62 years of age or older, are long-time Santa Barbara area residents who worked all their lives serving the Santa Barbara community as laborers, nurses, business owners and teachers. These residents are spending their golden years as an active part of the community they helped to shape and tend. Garden Court is a public-private partnership through the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara and Parsons Group. For more information, visit www.gardencourt.org.



MICHAEL TOWBES HONORED

By: Jeannette Casillas/CASA

Local cowboys and cowgirls recently hitched their horses at the Canary Hotel for a fun and festive western themed evening to raise funds for the Garden Court Endowment. The event also honored Michael Towbes for his lifetime commitment to affordable housing.

“This year’s event theme, “Home,” was selected to encourage community members to commit to making a difference in the lives of low-income seniors, and was also a fitting name to celebrate Michael Towbes for his philanthropic and “home” building efforts, which have so greatly benefited our community.” Shared Detlev Peikert, Board President.

While perusing the enticing silent auction tables, the 150 plus guests were treated to gourmet BBQ-style hors d’oeuvres, an array of local beer, wine, and “cowboy cocktails.”

Towbes, a successful businessman, developer, and financier, has built over 6,000 residential units, 1.3 million square feet of commercial space, owns and operates many properties, and has sole ownership of Montecito Bank & Trust. He is also one of Santa Barbara’s leading philanthropists. At the event, he was presented with a Certificate of Excellence from the House of Representatives by Rep. Lois Capps and a Certificate of Achievement and Leadership by Mayor Helene Schneider for his tireless efforts.



“A highlight of the evening was being able to honor a man for whom I have the utmost respect and admiration and who does so much for our community,” related Peikert. “As well as listening to his insights on the importance of providing housing that is attainable for a broad spectrum of our community.”

The Garden Court Endowment provides grants for housing, medical, and other needs so that frail, low-income Santa Barbara seniors can enjoy independent living for as long as possible. The “Home” event raised \$55,000.

“The money raised through the Endowment helps pay for costs of medical care and supplies, clothing, and helping meet other essential needs that are not covered by other supports,” shared Peikert. “The Endowment is now planning to support an initiative to fill one of the most critical housing and service gaps in our community through the creation of an assisted living facility for low income seniors in Santa Barbara.”



After a hearty home-style buffet dinner and a live auction hosted by John Palminteri, guests took to the dance floor and danced to the tunes of the Foss Brothers country rock band.

See more ©2012 Photos by Priscilla at santabarbaraseen.com

RESIDENT SUCCESS STORIES

Garden Court serves a wide variety of seniors! Here are some of our stories!

LOOKING GOOD SB • Seven Garden Court residents recently won the annual ‘Looking Good Santa Barbara’ award. With this award the City of Santa Barbara recognizes the daily volunteer service of these active residents who meet each morning at 9:00AM to pick up trash and keep the neighborhood around Garden Court looking clean and beautiful.

REBA • With the help of a Garden Court scholarship to assist with the cost of her new dentures, Reba has gone from being extremely underweight and depressed, to a much more social and happy person who is gaining weight on a consistent basis and enjoying her meals once again.

ELIZABETH • Former Activity Director for Villa Santa Barbara, Elizabeth is a regular volunteer at the new Cottage Hospital. She is also a writer who composes poems for her neighbors and Garden Court staff. She now has taken on the role of Resident Editor, for our monthly community calendar and newsletter featuring profiles of Garden Court residents.

MIZUE • Mizue has begun hand knitting several blankets each month for Unity Shoppe as a member of our community service program.

GRACE • Grace is truly giving back through her service as a volunteer peer counselor with programs helping people facing homelessness and substance abuse issues. Health care advocacy at Garden Court has helped Grace access glasses, and she is in the process for applying for a Garden Court endowment grant to help her access dentures, which she has been without for over three years.

GENE • Former musician and composer for screen & stage—and Nordstrom Pianist—Gene plays jazz standards for our newly launched and soon to be famous monthly ‘Cruise Ship’ tea parties.

JIMMIE • After being homeless for over a decade, Jimmie now is head of the Garden Court organic garden and teaches meditation and Tai Chi to Garden Court residents.

MARJORIE • Former Beverly Hills High School librarian and Channel Islands history researcher, Marjorie has helped to create a very user friendly library for Garden Court. Her efforts have markedly increased readership and accessibility to our extensive collection.

TED • Homeless for several years before his recent move to Garden Court, Ted is a former college level guitar teacher; he now performs regularly during our frequent resident events.

PHYSICIANS HIGHLIGHT OVERLOOKED CONNECTION BETWEEN SOCIAL NEEDS AND HEALTH

From the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Newsletter

National survey indicates physicians believe addressing patients’ social needs is as important as addressing medical conditions.

12/8/11 | Four in five physicians say patients’ social needs are as important to address as their medical conditions, according to a new survey conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For physicians serving patients in low-income communities, nine in ten physicians believe this is true.

In this national survey of primary care providers and pediatricians, 85 percent believe that unmet social needs – things like access to nutritious food, reliable transportation and adequate housing – are leading directly to worse health for all Americans. Furthermore, 4 in 5 physicians do not feel confident in their capacity to meet their patients’ social needs, and they believe this impedes their ability to provide quality care.

This is health care’s blind side: Within the current health care system, physicians do not have the time or sufficient support staff to address patient’s social needs.

Physicians surveyed feel so strongly about the connection between social needs and good health that 3 in 4 wish the health care system would pay for the costs associated with connecting patients to services that address their social needs if a physician deems it important for their overall health. Results also revealed that, if physicians had the power to write prescriptions for social needs, they would prescribe fitness programs, nutritional food and transportation assistance. Physicians whose patients are mostly urban and low-income also wish they could write prescriptions for employment assistance, adult education and housing assistance.

THE GARDEN COURT SOLUTION:

Promising models, such as Garden Court help bridge this gap by providing for the unmet social needs of the seniors we serve. Combining housing with support services such as transportation, meals, and social activities go a long way in removing the social barriers that keep seniors from taking the actions they need to be healthy.

ENDOWMENT GRANTS

During the last two quarters Garden Court Endowment has granted a total of \$5,800 to residents of Garden Court as well as other Housing Authority senior communities. Small but necessary grants for deep housekeeping and clutter removal, carpet cleaning, furniture purchases, and window cleaning were funded. Some seniors find it difficult to perform necessary cleaning tasks for a number of reasons. While this may seem a surprising need, these tasks left untended can put frail seniors at high risk. *These onetime grants helped these seniors continue to be able to live independently in safe environments.*

Larger grants were given to seniors requiring hearing aids and dental work, neither of which is covered by Medicare or Medical and both are far beyond the economic reach of low income seniors. *Without the ability to hear or eat without pain senior’s quality of life is severely impacted.*

For the larger grants, residents have a stake in their own self-sufficiency and success, and participate in the payment of a portion of their care, by way of small loans which they pay back over a maximum of a six month period.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Garden Court is a wonderful place to live in part because of our community partners. Thank you one and all for your support!

BRILLE INSTITUTE, PACIFIC PRIDE • Residents volunteer to process *tens of thousands* of direct mail pieces for these worthy causes as part of our community service program.

ROTARY CLUB • Residents create gift baskets used for various fundraiser raffles and events.

DIRECT RELIEF INTERNATIONAL • Monies raised through bake sales are donated to U.S. and international disaster relief programs.

PRE-SCHOOL • Ocean Spirit pre-school visits regularly for story telling with seniors, art, music, games and snacks.

FOODBANK OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY • The Foodbank helped provide palettes that allow Garden Court residents to create an urban organic garden on-site in our courtyard! Spring greens, herbs, tomatoes and strawberries are now an organic staple in the daily Garden Court dining menu.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS • Art from the Heart programs bring young children from all area elementary schools to create art, and join kids and seniors together at Garden Court for regular crafts, songs, story readings, games and snacks.

HIGH SCHOOLS • San Marcos, Dos Pueblos, Santa Barbara and Providence Hall high school students and their teachers spend meaningful community service hours here on a regular basis.

COLLEGES • SBCC and UCSB bring the world right to Garden Court, with international students of many languages and cultures.

ADULT ED • Omega program presents weekly ‘Mind and Body’ programs open to all here at Garden Court.

LINDA VEGA DANCE SCHOOL • Flamenco Dancers, ages 7 to 23, practice regularly at Garden Court; they love the enthusiastic audience and the free performance space.

R.S.V.P. • Two dozen residents volunteer regularly for a variety of projects through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and were honored at a Fess Parker luncheon in April.