

## Ways to Get Involved

### Volunteer

Transition House depends on over 800 volunteers each year to make sure our programs run smoothly. One important way that volunteers contribute is to provide dinners and lunches for 70 shelter residents every single day. This adds up to over 50,000 meals every year! Volunteers also serve in critical positions in the shelter to provide support to families, tutor school aged children, and do fun activities with the children. As a volunteer, you can make a difference in someone's life with only a few hours per month. **Visit [www.transitionhouse.com](http://www.transitionhouse.com) to find out more about how to get involved.**

### Transition House Auxiliary

Since 1993, the Transition House Auxiliary has been raising funds to support our programs. The Auxiliary hosts a signature event in the spring, the *Mad Hatter Luncheon*, and helps with other Transition House efforts throughout the year. The Auxiliary welcomes prospective members as guests to their monthly meetings for those who want to learn more about their work..

### Landlord and Employer Network

Transition House's program prepares clients to be reliable employees and tenants, but the tight job and housing markets can make success in these areas challenging. If you own a business or a rental unit, consider meeting with Transition House staff to find out how you can help. Transition House clients make dedicated employees *and* good tenants. And, Transition House can provide case management along with rental assistance if needed.

### Holiday Giving

Each year, members of our community donate gifts and food to help us create festive experiences for holidays all year round. You can join in the fun by helping, too!



## Ways to Give Support

### Donations

Transition House depends on the community to keep our programs going. Private donations make up over a quarter of our income, so support from individual donors is critical. Consider making a one-time donation, or giving monthly. We also accept donations of stock as well as bequests. Corporations can become involved as sponsors of our annual fundraising efforts. **Visit [transitionhouse.com/donate](http://transitionhouse.com/donate) to find out more about the following giving opportunities:**

### Home Maintenance Crew

Regular monthly gifts provide Transition House with a predictable source of income that we can rely on. Members of our *Home Maintenance Crew* help equip families with the tools they need to return to housing. Members can join for as little as \$5 per month.

### Corporate Sponsorship

Transition House relies on the corporate community to support our fundraising efforts such as the *Mad Hatter Luncheon* and the *Help-a-Kid*

*No-Ball*. Let us know if your company would be interesting in becoming a Transition House corporate sponsor.

### Léni Fé Bland Transition House Tomorrow Fund

In 2016, Transition House created a sustainability fund with the help of a \$1 million bequest from the estate of Léni Fé Bland. This fund will continue to grow over time, supporting the fiscal health of the agency. Please contact our executive director if you wish to discuss contributing to the fund or including Transition House in your estate plans.



**SINCE 1984,** Transition House has been helping capable and motivated families to successfully return to stable housing.

**These families now have homes:**

*"Transition House has given us the ability to function again as a family, the ability to learn how to live life again. Without Transition House, I strongly believe we would still be homeless. Still be without each other. Still not be a family."*

— Rob, father of two

*"I think that Transition House is amazing. It's life changing. Transition House is nothing like a regular homeless shelter. It's a program to help you become a better person, to help you become someone you need to be for yourself and your kids. They help out people who want to help themselves."*

— Alex, father of two

*"Without Transition House I would not have everything that I have now. I would have been lost. It's a hard program to go through, but then it's so rewarding. It's a program that helps you if you want to be helped."*

— Cindy, mother of three

*"You were strong for me when I was not. You had goals for us when I was so vulnerable and raw that all I was trying to do was survive each moment. Your kindness helped us feel safe and loved and your presence in our lives helped us feel noticed and important and valued."*

— Dulce, mother of three



**Solving Family Homelessness in Santa Barbara, One Family at a Time**



# Transition House



## TRANSITION HOUSE

425 E. Cota St. • Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 966-9668

[www.transitionhouse.com](http://www.transitionhouse.com)

e-mail: [admin@transitionhouse.com](mailto:admin@transitionhouse.com)



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*"I volunteer with the children's program because it's important to me to serve others who are at a critical juncture in their lives. I love being able to see how Transition House is helping families build a better future for themselves."* —Transition House volunteer





## Transition House offers a three-stage housing plus services continuum, helping families achieve lasting economic independence.

**Shelter** Homeless families come to Transition House's **Emergency Shelter** where food, safe shelter, and intensive anti-poverty case management lasting up to 120 days are provided. The family's crisis begins to be addressed with the support of caring staff members. Parents craft a realistic housing plan, work to improve their financial literacy skills, and increase their income through employment or entitlements if eligible. Parents participate in onsite evening educational programs designed to help prevent future homelessness. Children receive childcare, homework help, and enjoy evening arts and literacy activities, as well as a variety of other programming designed to help break the cycle of family homelessness.

**Transitional Housing** Some families need the additional six months of transitional housing provided at our second-stage facility, called **Firehouse**. Case management focusing on career counseling, budgeting and money management, plus educational enhancement continue. Families work towards achieving their long-term financial goals.

**Permanent Supportive Housing** Eligible families with high barriers to achieving market rate housing can apply for Transition House-owned affordable permanent apartments, called the **HOMES** program. Transition House continues to provide case management that is focused on individualized family action plans for up to two years.

## Poverty Is the Problem

The main cause of family homelessness in Santa Barbara is poverty. There may be other contributing factors, but underlying it all is poverty. It is very difficult for even hard working families earning minimum wage to make ends meet, even if both parents have full-time jobs. Living paycheck to paycheck, with no savings in case of an emergency, makes families vulnerable to homelessness. These challenging circumstances are compounded by Santa Barbara's lack of affordable housing and extremely low vacancy rate.

## Empowerment is the Solution

Families are in crisis when they arrive at our emergency shelter. They want to alleviate their family's suffering and return to housing, but the idea of amassing a savings account, having a meaningful career, or seeing their children one day attend college—these are things they have never dreamed of. Thanks to extensive case management, education around financial literacy and career development, plus special programs for children, families have the opportunity to achieve lasting economic stability. Some families have left our third stage housing with over \$15,000

in savings. Many have seen their children graduate high school and enroll in college. Several families have saved enough money to purchase a home in a less expensive area. By offering concrete tools and compassionate support, Transition House empowers families to make life-long changes. Each year, 70-80 percent of families succeed in transitioning to permanent housing.

*Living in poverty potentially has long-lasting effects on children. Homeless children are twice as likely to have learning disabilities and emotional problems as other children, and less than one in four graduates from high school. This can set up these children for a lifetime of poverty and homelessness as adults.*

## Meeting Trauma with Compassion

Many people served by Transition House have significant past trauma that may interfere with their ability to return to stable housing. For instance, 30-40 percent of the women in our program have experienced domestic violence. Trauma like this can impact self-esteem, negatively affect relationships, disrupt children's healthy development, and contribute to mental health issues such as substance abuse or depression. Transition House staff have undergone specific training in *Trauma Informed Care*, which emphasizes emotional safety, respectful interaction, kindness, and understanding. Through this approach, shelter residents are able to rebuild a sense of control and become empowered to change their lives in powerful ways.



## Why Transition House Works

**IT'S GRASS ROOTS** It was started in 1984 by concerned people, just like you, who took personal responsibility for a community problem.

**IT'S EFFICIENT** Each year over 800 volunteers give time, food for meals, and professional support to Transition House, saving the agency more than \$350,000 annually.

**IT'S COMMUNITY SUPPORTED** With local partners including the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara, social service agencies, faith-based groups, schools, businesses and dedicated individuals, collaborations are forged to address family needs.

**IT CREATES SOLUTIONS** Transition House not only provides shelter, but also offers critical life skills training that empowers families to develop lasting housing security.

**IT SUCCEEDS** Each year, 70-80 percent of shelter residents succeed in returning to permanent housing.