

# Conard Bulletin

*Our mission is to build welcoming communities and caring relationships that empower people and restore hope. We are a nonprofit organization that specializes in Supportive Housing and Mental Health Services in San Francisco.*

## NEW CONARD HOUSE PROPERTIES - RECOGNIZED BY MAYOR BREED

*"With public-private partnerships and initiatives like San Francisco's Cooperative Living for Mental Health, we can ensure that everyone has a place to call home in San Francisco."*

*-Anne Quaintance, Conard House CEO/Executive Director*



San Francisco Mayor  
London N. Breed

In a recent press release, San Francisco Mayor London Breed shared exciting news regarding the city's newest partnership with Conard House, "Today we acquired two new buildings in the Mission and South of Market neighborhoods that will provide housing and care for those with mental health and substance use disorders.

These buildings are part of a long-term strategy to transform how we deliver support for those living with mental health and substance use challenges." Before the end of the year, Conard House will welcome 26 people to their new homes in two new cooperative housing shared apartments. Conard House has championed supportive housing for San Francisco's most vulnerable residents since its founding in 1960. Today, Conard House continues its commitment to providing long-term solutions and alternatives to inpatient treatment, incarceration, and homelessness.

EMPOWERING  
PEOPLE  
RESTORING  
HOPE

The Conard House Supportive Housing philosophy aligns perfectly with the cooperative living model created under San Francisco's Cooperative Living for Mental Health (CLMH) program. Cooperative living allows people with mental health and substance use challenges to live in community with access to care, services, and treatment in spaces operated by local behavioral health service providers.

In the same press release, San Francisco Supervisor Hillary Ronen, who authored the CLMH legislation in 2019, congratulated Conard House for,

*(continued on page 4)*

# CONARD HOUSE RESIDENT POET: QUEEN

Queen, a new resident of Conard House, is a Bay Area native born and raised in Oakland, CA. He was an only child, but recalls never being alone. His mother has 15 brothers and sisters so there was always an abundance of family around – aunts, uncles, and lots and lots of cousins.

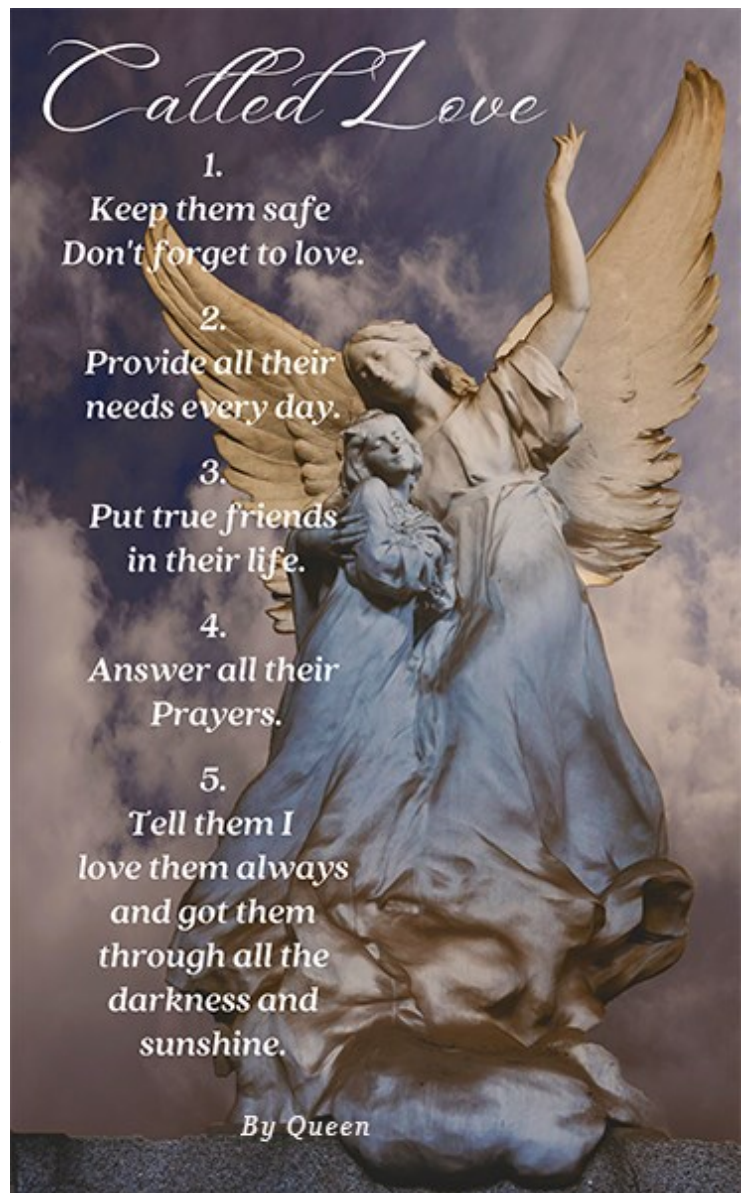
Queen's love for the written word began when he was young. He lovingly remembers his mother reading to him constantly. Queen also remembers being in awe of his father's artistic ability. His father could look at something, anything and then just draw the object from memory, perfectly, even if he drew the object days later.

From the time he knew how to write, Queen kept journals, writing in them whenever he could, recording everything - his life events, his prayers, and anything he could imagine or dream. The written word for Queen is a way to express his feelings, how he copes with his difficult times or situations, and how he expresses love, happiness and joy in the good times. It is his self-expression. It's tangible. It's his prayers, his truth, his unbridled emotion captured and tamed by pen and paper.

While Queen spent most of his life in Oakland, he did, for a short time, live in Sacramento, CA where he worked in hospitality. Eventually, Queen found his way back to the Bay Area. Queen was homeless and in a transitional program when he was referred to Conard House where he said he found his home. Since July, Queen says that, "I like it that when I want to go home, I can go and feel safe." The environment Conard House provides allows Queen to focus on doing what he really loves – writing.

Mild mannered and soft-spoken, Queen is full of love and positive energy. Queen urges anyone reading his story not to look down on people without a home. Queen says, "don't forget the love." He is an angel among us, spreading love and happiness in the Conard Community through his poetry.

In addition to poetry, Queen writes short stories and is working on his autobiography. "It's good to have a place to call home," and we are lucky to have him at Conard House, too. 🏠



# DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION



Graphic from: IIDA Northern California

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION AT CONARD HOUSE

What is Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) and why is it important? DEI in the workplace is more than just meeting a quota for race, nationality or gender. DEI recognizes and embraces differences and creates an environment where people from an array of different backgrounds and life experiences work and collaborate together with respect and acceptance to achieve a common goal.

At Conard House, we have embraced, practiced, and valued DEI since our founding in 1960 – long before it became known as DEI. Our experience has shown us, fostering

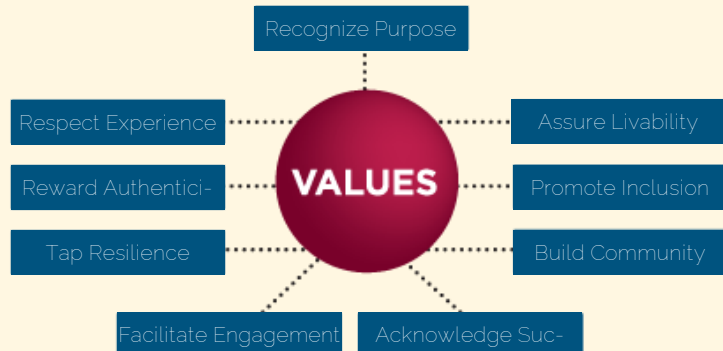
an environment of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace leads to our continued success. An important part of this work is regular and frequent self-examination as people and organizations continue to evolve and change.

To that end, Conard House decided not only to look at how our DEI policies were performing among our staff, but we also expanded our review to include our residents and clients this year. In order to ensure that the delivery of our services is inclusive and equitable, we asked them directly with a survey around inherent bias.

From the results, we learned that the clients and residents we serve know they are valued. We also learned there are areas where we can do better. The survey results conveyed our need to firmly establish that our organizational culture is truly rooted in equity.

We realize here at Conard House that DEI policies must be part of our continuing development and growth. As such, what we learned from our DEI survey will be incorporated into our new strategic plan which we will share more about in the winter issue of the *Conard Bulletin*. [📄](#)

### CONARD HOUSE VALUES





# ROUND-UP YOUR SPARE CHANGE FOR GOOD!



Donate your spare change via Round-Ups to Conard House! Every penny counts when investing in these vital community resources. You can give your spare change from your everyday purchases by texting **CONARD** to **26989**.

Simply and securely register one or more credit/debit cards and purchases made with registered cards are rounded up to the nearest dollar and donated to Conard House. *Minimum donation \$10 per month.*

## STAY IN THE KNOW!

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## NEW CONARD HOUSE PROPERTIES - RECOGNIZED BY MAYOR BREED (CON'T)

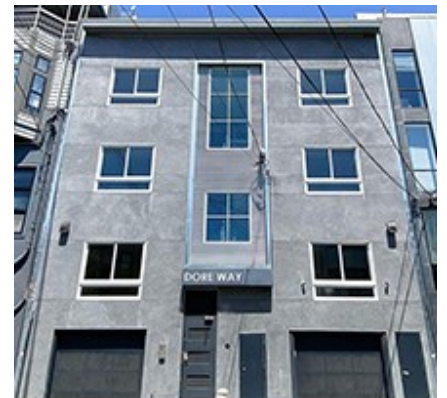
"...taking on these first two cooperative living sites for people with chronic mental illness," highlighting the importance of the work by sharing, "One of the most glaring gaps in our response to mental illness is the lack of housing options for people exiting residential treatment programs. For many people who are dealing with a combination of psychiatric and addiction issues, the key to stability and success is to be away from larger, sometimes hectic living situations that can trigger continued crises. Cooperative living can open the door to stability and serenity in their lives. These two properties mark a great step forward addressing our mental health crisis."

We couldn't agree with her more.



Conard House Florida Street  
Conard House Shared Apartment

Florida Street located in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood will be home for 8 residents. This beautiful spacious site has 2-flat apartments with access to a spacious backyard, garage, and storage area. Residents will have separate bedrooms, access to common areas, and will share the kitchen and bathrooms.



Conard House Dore Street  
Conard House Shared Apartment

Conard House's new property in San Francisco's SoMa neighborhood located on Dore Street is made up of six 3-bedroom apartments and will be home to 18 residents. Residents will have separate bedrooms, access to common areas, and will share the kitchen and bathrooms.

GIVING  
TUESDAY

SAVE-THE-DATE  
November 30, 2021



 **CONARD HOUSE**  
EMPOWERING PEOPLE • RESTORING HOPE

[www.conardhouse.org/donate-1](http://www.conardhouse.org/donate-1)

## SF FILM FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT



## Finding Home: Seeking Remedies for a National Crisis

Image courtesy of SFFILM

In this live talk following up on the mid-length documentary, **Lead Me Home** (info below), moderator Kevin Fagan (SF Chronicle Reporter) will engage Jon Shenk (Co-Director of the film), Shireen McSpadden (SF Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing Executive Director), Anne Quaintance (Conard House CEO/Executive Director), and community activists in a conversation about policies and practices with respect to San Francisco's unhoused population.

**Sunday, November 7, 2021, at 1:30 pm (PT).**

For more information on how you can attend this event, visit the [San Francisco Film Festival](#) website.

**Lead Me Home**, directed by Pedro Kos and Jon Shenk, was filmed

over three years in three cities that face seemingly intractable circumstances involving large populations of unhoused people, this mid-length film uses evocative visuals and powerful individual stories to show that a problem with manifold causes needs manifold solutions. Focusing on the west coast – San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle – filmmakers Kos and Shenk weave an unforgettable tapestry that challenges common stereotypes and paints an honest portrait of people trying to obtain and hold on to a solid footing in their lives. (Film description courtesy of SFFILM)

**Lead Me Home** will play at the Castro Theater Friday, November 5, 2021, at 5:30 pm (PT). For additional information visit [The San Francisco Film Festival](#) website.



PANELIST  
**Anne Quaintance**  
Conard House  
CEO/Executive Director



PANELIST  
**Jon Shenk**  
Co-Director Lead Me Home



PANELIST  
**Shireen McSpadden**  
SF Department of Homelessness &  
Supportive Housing  
Executive Director

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EMPOWERING PEOPLE • RESTORING HOPE

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