



# CONNECTION

## news • notes



A 63-year-old client at the New Image Shelter.

### Major Study on Homeless Older Adults Unveiled

**Unique Study Surveys Vulnerable Population for First Time; Offers Specific Solutions to Address Growing Problem**

With home foreclosures on the rise and fewer public service dollars available, a new Strategic Plan by Shelter Partnership revealed that homeless older adults are among the fastest growing, frequently overlooked, and most vulnerable homeless populations in Los Angeles. The Plan was released in March 2008 and received national press coverage.

One quarter of the 250,000 homeless annually in Los Angeles County are over age 50. Not surprisingly, as the “Baby Boomer” generation ages, the number of homeless older adults will increase dramatically. Poverty, which contributes to incidents of homelessness, is increasing among homeless older adults, particularly among women of color living alone. Unfortunately, one-third of all persons over 62 years of age depend on Social Security for 90% of their income, which is generally inadequate to meet most people’s needs.

Homeless older adults are unique because they are more likely than their younger counterparts to have multiple medical problems and chronic illnesses that have gone untreated for years, and illnesses common to aging such as diabetes, cardiac disease, circulatory problems, and hypertension, which are compounded by homelessness. Homelessness also contributes to memory problems, cognitive impairments, depres-

Continued on page 5



### Shelter Partnership Director Wins Woman of the Year Award

Executive Director, Ruth Schwartz, with State Senator Gilbert Cedillo at the State Capitol in March 2008 where she received the “Woman of the Year” award from the Senator.

### Foster Girls Receive Designer Gowns

Shelter Partnership recently provided gowns valued at \$216,900 that were donated to our Resource Bank by a famous designer to the Annual Glamour Gowns event, hosted by CASA of Los Angeles. This private event has taken place for seven years now, where hundreds of high school girls in foster care in Los Angeles



County are given a free prom gown and accessories, courtesy of generous donations from individuals and companies. We were proud to be able to support this great event! (Left to right) Jessica, Classy and Alicia Spicer model dresses donated by Shelter Partnership.



### \$1.4 Million Federal Housing Grant

Shelter Partnership Executive Director Ruth Schwartz (second from right) at a press conference on August 14th at the Laguna Apartments for seniors in the Silverlake neighborhood with (left to right): Mercedes Marquez, General Manager, Los Angeles Housing Department; Honorable Maxine Waters, Congresswoman, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity; Steve Preston, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Honorable Eric Garcetti, Council President, Los Angeles City Council; and Rudy Montiel, President and CEO, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles. The press conference was to announce the award of a \$1.4 million federal grant to the City of Los Angeles to provide permanent housing for persons with HIV/AIDS who are homeless, which Shelter Partnership was instrumental in developing.

**19th Annual Dinner!**  
Visit Our **Photo Gallery** Inside



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## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Ruth Schwartz**

## Major Caveat in National Response to Housing Meltdown

There has been much media attention given to our national housing meltdown with hundreds of thousands of hard-working homeowners at-risk of losing their homes. The national response—the enactment of Public Law No. 110-289, signed into law on July 30th—establishes a new refinancing program within the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to help households who are facing foreclosure. But not as well publicized is the fact that the new law also ushers in a dream of all of us who care about housing persons who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness—the National Housing Trust Fund.

The National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) campaign was led by the well-respected national advocacy organization, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and first introduced in 2001 under the leadership of now U.S. Senator representing Vermont, Bernie Sanders. Along the way, there have been many great champions in both the U.S. Senate and in the House of Representatives, including our very own Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Barbara Lee.

The NHTF is a permanent program with a dedicated source of funding not subject to the annual appropriation process. At least 90% of the funds must be used for the production, preservation, rehabilitation, or operation of rental housing. At least 75% of the funds used for rental housing must benefit

the people and families that we focus our efforts on and which many federal, state, and local programs do not target—the poorest of the poor, including people who are homeless and those who have extremely low incomes and are at great risk of becoming homeless.

While much work needs to be done to see that the NHTF is implemented, its passage is a major milestone that will result in thousands of units of housing being built for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Its enactment is a major milestone in the fight to end homelessness in our nation and the National Low Income Housing Coalition, of which Shelter Partnership is a long-term member, is to be thanked for a job well done!

“  
**At least 75% of the funds used for rental housing must benefit the people and families that we focus our efforts on and which many federal, state, and local programs do not target—the poorest of the poor, including people who are homeless...**  
”



*A nonprofit organization serving all of Los Angeles County, designed to develop housing and resources for the homeless.*

## Shelter Partnership, Inc.

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Steve Renahan

**Design:** Grey Worldwide, Los Angeles

*with Pam Ward, Ward graphic design*

# *a warm Thank You...*

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**19th Annual Dinner honoree Dan Rosenfeld of Urban Partners receives congratulations from Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel (left); Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry, and Ruth Schwartz. The event on April 10th, 2008, raised \$459,000 (and netted \$408,000) for Shelter Partnership.**



**Old friends Jorge Sandoval (left), Director, Community Relations, Citibank (Banamex USA) and former Shelter Partnership Board member Frank Damon meet up during the reception.**



**Event emcee and KNBC4 weathercaster Fritz Coleman greets longtime supporter Judge Harry Pregerson.**

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In honor of Lili Davidson

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In honor of Dan & Laura Morefield

Pam Ellis  
In honor of Dan & Laura Morefield

Sally Frank  
In honor of David Scheper's birthday

Michael Harrell  
In honor of Diann Kim

Nat Hutton  
In honor of Carolann Carter's birthday

Michelle Johnson and the  
Mt. San Antonio College  
Mathematics Department  
In memory of Francis Griffith

Dr. John Kim  
In honor of Diann Kim

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Shelley & Joel Schwartz  
In honor of Harlan Schwartz

Maudann & Paul Sunderland  
In honor of Natasha Sunderland

## Major Study on Homeless

Continued from page 1

sion, poor judgment and poor comprehension, which cause difficulties delivering services.

“On any given night in LA County, there are between 3,000 and 4,000 older adults who are homeless. Over 60% of them have a disability and one-third to one-half or possibly more are chronically homeless,” said Executive Director Ruth Schwartz. “The solution to their homelessness is the development and greater access to permanent, supportive housing that is affordable,” Schwartz reported recently at the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Washington D.C.

“The results of this study are eye-opening, pointing to the fact that more needs to be done to support seniors and older adults who are facing homelessness,” said Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry, who chairs the City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness where the Plan was released. “Awareness and prevention are imperative to address the growing number of seniors who are now calling the streets of Los Angeles their home,” the Councilwoman added.

Among the core recommendations:

- Invest in permanent supportive housing with services that meet their needs.
- Link homeless service providers with administrators of affordable senior housing, to overcome application, screening, and wait list barriers including background checks, lack of addresses and birth certificates, and move-in costs.
- Target 250 tenant-based Section 8 vouchers through the various housing authorities for at least the next four years for homeless older adults and identify and fund service providers to assist with housing search and leasing functions.
- Initiate a pilot program targeting homeless older adults aged 62 or older in year-round shelters with mobile resource teams of gerontologists, psychiatric specialists, medical staff, dental staff, income specialist, and housing specialist. to help seek out and assist homeless older adults.

“This groundbreaking study is crucial to helping us get seniors off the streets and into housing where they can receive the support and services they need,” said L.A. City Council President Eric Garcetti.

*To access the Executive Summary or a complete copy of the Strategic Plan for Homeless Older Adults, please visit our website at [www.shelterpartnership.org](http://www.shelterpartnership.org).*



## Madeleine Stoner, Homelessness Expert, Passes Away

We dedicate this issue to Dr. Madeleine Stoner, a professor of social work at the University of Southern California and an expert on homelessness and advised policymakers on how to prevent it, who died July 13th of cancer at her home in the Westwood area of Los Angeles. We came to know Madeleine well as a friend, colleague and supporter of Shelter Partnership and in fact, she was one of the first people that we consulted with even before we started up our efforts in 1984.

Dr. Stoner, the Richard M. and Ann L. Thor Professor in Urban Social Development, divided her time between academic work and applying her research in the community. She was the author of "Inventing a Non-Homeless Future" (1989), which laid out an agenda for policymakers, and "The Civil Rights of Homeless People" (1995), which analyzed litigation and advised advocates on homeless people's rights to housing, minimum standards of health and welfare, education, family preservation, education and voting.

She also chaired the USC Urban Initiative, which brought together experts from a variety of disciplines, including architecture, history, business and healthcare, to offer solutions to the complex problems of life in metropolitan Los Angeles.

Dr. Stoner was born in New York City on Sept. 13, 1937, and grew up in Pittsburgh. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Sarah Lawrence College in New York in 1960, followed by a master's in planning in 1970 and a doctorate in policy and planning in 1979, both from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

Her community involvements included serving on the board of directors and as president for ten years of the Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services Agency and on the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness for the City of Santa Monica.

Dr. Stoner's survivors include Ralph Fertig, her husband of five years who is a clinical professor of social work at USC; her stepson Tad Stoner, his wife Iris and their children Erin, Ben and Adam; her stepson Jon Stoner, his wife Julia and their sons Willie and Sam; her son Alan Cushman, and her daughter, Katie Jacobs, her husband Brian, and their sons Noah and Bryce.





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# CONNECTION

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Please visit Shelter Partnership online for the latest in news, information and/or ways to make a difference.

### Shelter Partnership Bestowed Coveted 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

For another year, Shelter Partnership has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that an organization excels, as compared to other charities in America, in successfully managing the finances of the organization in an efficient and effective manner. For more information, visit Charity Navigator at [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)



### Help Us While You Search and Shop the Internet!

Most people search the Internet every day. Next time, instead of using Yahoo! or Google, you can now use [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) then enter Shelter Partnership as the charity you are supporting, and then use the Yahoo! search engine field on the top of the window. We make money every time you search!! Give it a try and support the cause that you care most about. What is unique is that GoodSearch has developed a way to direct money to your favorite charity with every click. You can also choose a charity and do your online shopping, while the charity gets a part of the sale! You'll recognize many of your favorite online merchants, so please spread the word and bookmark the site at work and at home!



### Making a Donation is Easy! Save Postage!

Did you know that you can easily make a donation online by visiting our website? Go to [www.shelterpartnership.org](http://www.shelterpartnership.org) and click on Make a Donation. You will be linked with the PayPal website to make a secure donation.



## SAVE THE DATE

YOU'RE INVITED! 9TH ANNUAL RESOURCE BANK  
*luncheon & tour*

### JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

for a buffet lunch and tour of our Resource Bank project in Bell from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This year, we will be joined by **Fritz Coleman**, our favorite KNBC weatherman, and we'll have plenty of surprises! Live music from **Washington Rucker and the Jazz Collection** to help us celebrate!

**For more info or to RSVP**

please visit our website or contact Rhonda Villanueva at  
(213) 943-4579 or by e-mail at [rvillanueva@shelterpartnership.org](mailto:rvillanueva@shelterpartnership.org)

### Shelter Partnership 19th Annual Dinner

#### PHOTO ALBUM



From left, Johnie Bennett, Gary Erickson, The Erickson Group; Molly Moen, Downtown Women's Center; and Stephen McAvoy, retired, City National Bank.



SP Board member David Scheper welcomes (from left) Julie Blackshaw, Carol Pomerantz and Donna DeFazio to the event.



SP Board member Marty Willhite (right) enjoys the event with Todd Molz.