

## Our Resource Bank Moves into Permanent Home

Our Resource Bank project began in 1988, three years after we established Shelter Partnership. We started getting calls from retailers and manufacturers who wanted to get their donations to homeless people. First there was the man with more than 1,000 raincoats. Then there was a children's apparel industry group that had \$100,000 worth of children's clothing. Through experiences such as these, we realized there was an untapped market for a "wholesaler" to secure large-scale donations of new excess products and distribute them to agencies on the front-line of serving people who are homeless.

Since shortly after the project's inception, we have occupied four different warehouses at the City of Bell Federal Service Center, each one larger than the last. In the fall of 2003, we were approved to own a 120,000 square foot warehouse at this site at no cost. We took this opportunity to plan ahead and obtain a permit to operate in this space until the conveyance. In doing this, we saved ourselves thousands of dollars in repairs to the warehouse that we were occupying at the time. We have been waiting anxiously for finalization of the transfer of the warehouse and we now anticipate that it will occur in summer 2005. This warehouse gives us an additional 40,000 square feet of space, allowing us to expand our project and solicit more goods for our agencies. We have been in full operation in this new warehouse since April 2005.

Jerry Ayala, Warehouse Manager with his staff of two, Jesus Cardenas and Hector Pena, have worked diligently to make this a spectacular and efficient place where we can receive and distribute goods to more than 200 agencies that we serve throughout Los Angeles County. Anita Morales, Distribution Manager, also did her share in making sure the office records and years of documentation were moved in an orderly fashion to the new location. It has been a wonderful transformation to this larger location where we can serve more agencies in an efficient manner.

Now the challenge has begun for the Product Donations Manager, Nat Hutton, to work to fill this space with items that are needed and can be used by the shelters and service centers that we serve through this project. Nat is up to the challenge and is making things happen. Recently, Dynasty Fashions, Inc. donated 30,000 pieces of new women's clothing, including suits, dresses, blouses and slacks that will be placed in our inventory. It will take numerous donations like this to fill our new warehouse, and we need your help.

To those of you that are reading this article and can recommend a manufacturer, distributor or other entity that can place large (or even not so large) amounts of excess inventory with us, please contact Nat Hutton at (213) 943-4577 or look online for more information at [www.shelterpartnership.org](http://www.shelterpartnership.org).

Fiscal years end for many organizations on June 30, 2005 and if you need to lower your inventory and receive a wonderful tax benefit, please remember Shelter Partnership. ■



## Shelter Partnership Loses Founder and Friend

We are sad to report that Dennis Albaugh, a lifelong advocate for homeless people and the poor, died Friday, December 10, 2004 after a valiant two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 63.

Dennis was instrumental in founding Shelter Partnership and for bringing current executive director Ruth Schwartz to the agency. We awarded him the Tom Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003 at our Annual Dinner.

In the 80s, he spearheaded a new network of homeless healthcare projects, around the country, addressing the largely unmet need. Since 1986, Albaugh served as Vice President of Comic Relief, where he developed a new way to raise funds and awareness for the plight of homeless people in America. The first live televised "Comic Relief" show aired on HBO in 1986, followed by seven other HBO Comic Relief telecasts, all hosted by comedians Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg, and Robin Williams. To date, Comic Relief has raised and distributed nearly \$50 million, helping to provide direct health care services to homeless men, women, children, and families throughout the country.

Born in 1941, Albaugh grew up in Monrovia, California, and graduated from University of California, Riverside. He began in 1965 as an organizer for Head Start programs in migrant camps and destitute neighborhoods of Riverside County.

After moving to northern California in 1969, he became an integral part of a movement that galvanized Santa Cruz County from a sleepy conservative community into one of the more politically progressive areas in the country. He worked as assistant director of a two-county community action program that became one of the most effective in the state, working with Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Fred Ross, Jr., and the Farm Workers Union. He spent 14 years in Santa Cruz as a community organizer and crusader for social justice. During that period, Albaugh set up several coalition non-profit organizations that continue to this day as effective advocates for the rights of the county's poor.

Albaugh moved to Los Angeles in 1983, where he served as Vice President of the Planning Division at the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. He lobbied for the use of United Way dollars for non-traditional agencies and developed projects that placed United Way in a proactive position against poverty and hunger in Los Angeles.

Dennis leaves behind his lovely wife Janet, daughter Tyrrell, sister Barbara, and brother Tim. On behalf of Shelter Partnership, and all of us involved with the agency, we dedicate this newsletter to him. We will miss him greatly. And we will close with his favorite quote, by William James. "To know your values is to be human. To live your values is to be free." ■



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# CONNECTION



Honoree Senator John Burton (left) and presenter Sheriff Lee Baca are joined by Carol Baca (right) and Ruth Schwartz during the reception.



Honoree Bill Robertson (left) and friend Judge Harry Pregerson are greeted by Ruth Schwartz.

## SAVE the DATE

**Tuesday, September 20th – Evening**

Come celebrate 20 years of service to Shelter Partnership by our beloved Executive Director Ruth Schwartz. Look for your invitation, check our web site for details, or call our offices so that you don't miss this great celebration.

**Monday, October 3rd – Lunch**

Join us for our Annual Resource Bank Reception and Tour, showcasing our new warehouse space in the City of Bell.

## 16th annual dinner



The Century Housing Team + One! From left: Ann Marie Hickambottom, Cathy Cates, G. Allan Kingston (SP Board member & Century Housing's President/CEO), and Patti Kingston talk about downtown LA with Carol Schatz, President, Central City Association.



First-time Dinner Committee member Kathy Turner (left) greets SP Vice Chair Dan Morefield (second from left) and his wife Laura Morefield (far right), as well as their guests Andy Pattantys and Sue Peterson during the reception.



"The raffle kids" who diligently sell raffle tickets at the event, gather for one last photo before most go off to attend college in the fall.



# CONNECTION



Lamp employee Tabia Safiya Salimu recites the poem "There's a Special Art to Living" at a Training Institute session.

## New Project in Santa Monica

In 2001, The California Endowment awarded Shelter Partnership, Lamp Community, OPCC (formerly Ocean Park Community Center), and the RAND Corporation, a \$1 million grant to replicate and disseminate information on the Community Model. The Community Model, pioneered by Lamp Community in the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles, is an innovative approach that combines harm reduction and low demand philosophies to serve homeless people with mental illness and

those with a dual diagnosis of substance abuse. The main goals of the collaborative effort were to articulate and disseminate information on the Community Model program and replicate the service model in a suburban community on Los Angeles' Westside.

The grant term ended on February 15, 2005 with tremendous success. The collaborative published "Ending Chronic Homelessness Among People with Mental Illness: The Community Model," launched an interactive website for those interested in learning more about the model and the Collaborative ([www.CommunityModelLA.org](http://www.CommunityModelLA.org)), created an interactive training curriculum, and hosted two Community Model Training Institutes. Fifty-five people, representing 19 homeless and government agencies, attended the Training Institutes.

Furthermore, the Collaborative was able to site a Safe Haven, considered the anchor of the Community Model, in Santa Monica. OPCC has recently hired a contractor to complete the necessary rehabilitation, and the facility is anticipated to open in March 2006. The new site will house both OPCC's existing Daybreak Shelter and the new Safe Haven program, providing shelter to 55 homeless men and women. ■



Since 1989, Shelter Partnership has collected over \$125 million in new goods for distribution to homeless people throughout Los Angeles.

## 16th Annual Dinner Breaks Another Record!

On April 6th, 450 people crowded into the Omni Hotel's Bunker Hill Ballroom to celebrate another successful event. This year's Annual Dinner hit a new high, grossing over \$287,000 for our work. The Annual Dinner's success is so important because we rely on the funds generated from the event to continue our important work in the community.

At this year's event, we honored Senator John Burton, most recently California's President Pro Tem of the State Senate, for his many accomplishments as an advocate for homeless and poor people. Christine Minnehan, one of California's leading advocates for affordable housing, who worked very closely with Senator Burton on his housing and homeless agenda, also received an award at the event. And Bill Robertson, former Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles AFL-CIO, was our third honoree. The always entertaining Fritz Coleman, weathercaster for KNBC-TV, was our Master of Ceremonies for the 13th year, and comedienne Paula Poundstone provided the crowd with her original and funny comedic performance.

Please see the list of Annual Dinner supporters in this issue, as well as some photos from the event. You may also visit our website at [www.shelterpartnership.org/afterdinner.html](http://www.shelterpartnership.org/afterdinner.html) for other photos from the evening. And a big thanks to our Board and Dinner Committee members for their hard work in making this a very successful event! ■

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## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Ruth Schwartz**

## The Role of Community Support and Political Leadership in Housing

During the last two decades, community-based organizations developing housing for very low-income people would most often complain about the lack of available funding. While this is still a major challenge, the situation has improved greatly as a result of such measures as the voter's approval in 2002 of a \$2.1 billion bond act and the recently enacted City of Los Angeles' Housing Trust Fund.

However, the number one barrier that groups now most often face is the lack of community support and the political leadership needed to locate programs in the community.

A case in point is the recent controversy surrounding siting a 30-bed temporary shelter for the homeless in the City of Santa Clarita. According to the then-Mayor, the City had evaluated more than 60 sites and determined that there was no site appropriate in this city of more than 160,000 residents for a homeless program. If not for the intervention of L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich, who in less than a week found a County-owned site that was made available, the local homeless population would have had limited options during the cold winter months.

This problem is repeated throughout the region. One often hears repeated that the neighbors do not have a problem with a shelter program, but they feel it belongs somewhere else – closer to public transportation, further from schools, anywhere but in their neighborhood.

Rather than trying to resolve community fears, too often our elected officials either will not give their needed support of housing for special needs populations, or will stay neutral and require that the community groups convince the neighbors to allow them to develop in their community. In either case, the result is too often the same – the lack of housing developed for desperately poor individuals and families.

At the same time many of the fears that people have are unfounded and are based on prejudices and stereotypes. If we are ever to solve homelessness, we will need political leadership that addresses the needs and the risks but ultimately takes action. ■

*A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SERVING ALL OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, DESIGNED TO DEVELOP HOUSING AND RESOURCES FOR THE HOMELESS.*



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▲ Photos:  
 Top: SP Board member Sarah Dusseau (left) presents award to honoree Christine Minnehan.  
 Middle: New SP Board member John DeFazio (right) of Frenkel & Co., Inc., mingles with colleagues Mike Dow (left) and Gregg Inboden (middle).  
 Below: Children from one of the agencies we serve.