




2023 YEAR IN REVIEW NEWSLETTER



Explore inside to learn more about our journey of progress, exciting new expansions to our programs, and discover the impact your support has on transforming the lives of survivors in San Francisco

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SAN FRANCISCO SAFEHOUSE

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Julietta Hua, Board Chair

Dear Friends of San Francisco SafeHouse,

2023 has been a year of exciting developments for SafeHouse and the Hope Center! We are thrilled to share the difference you are helping us make here in San Francisco and we hope you'll continue to celebrate with us at our pandemic-delayed 25th Anniversary Gala next year.

As you know, SafeHouse is constantly striving to respond to the needs of the womxn we serve. Sister Rosina Conrotto and Reverend Glenda Hope established a very strong foundation in 1998 with the opening of the SafeHouse Transitional Supportive Housing Program and the organization has been working to expand its capacity ever since. The first stage of this growth came under the then-staff leadership of now-Executive Director, Toni Eby, who, along with Chief Program Officer, Kristen Moore, opened the drop-in Hope Center in the Tenderloin in late 2019. Now, five years later, we are excited to report that SafeHouse is expanding its services even further; just last month, the Board of Directors approved widening the community we serve to include womxn survivors with minor children. We will also be moving forward to acquire a building that will permanently house womxn and their minor children as they continue to be supported in their recovery and healing.

To help the organization scale its capacity, the Board of Directors welcomed Holly Joshi and Noël Plummer to the SafeHouse community in 2023. Holly has a lifetime of advocacy and professional work in anti-trafficking, anti-criminalization, community health, and support of sexually exploited youth. Noël brings extensive professional experience working as an attorney and with Children and Family Services. As the transitional house prepares to welcome women with children, we are especially grateful for Noël's expertise. We are lucky to have them on board!

We are also lucky to have you, our dedicated supporters, on board! On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you for your continued generosity. Help us bridge our capacity needs for the new permanent supportive housing program and celebrate the 25th anniversary of SafeHouse in 2024 by attending our October 17, 2024 Gala! To find out how to support our upcoming expansion and learn more about our 25th Anniversary, contact SafeHouse's new Chief Development Officer, Chelsea Leonard, at chelsea@sfsafehouse.org. Thank you!

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New Hours at the Hope Center!

The Hope Center is a drop-in space where women can rest, find community, and access a web of supportive services including case management, support groups, housing opportunities and more. We are excited to announce the extension of our evening hours to 11pm. This is a time when other safe spaces are traditionally closed, despite the need for safety increasing at this time of night. To learn more about the work happening at the Hope Center, visit our website at www.sfsafehouse.org.

25 YEARS OF PROGRESS AND MANY MORE FULL OF POSSIBILITIES

By Toni Eby, MSW, Chief Executive Officer



As we reflect on the last 25 years of San Francisco SafeHouse, we're profoundly moved by the collective effort that has transformed countless lives of unhoused women who have survived sexual exploitation and trafficking. Your unyielding support has been the bedrock of our mission to provide solace, support, and a renewed sense of hope to these women in their most vulnerable moments.

In our journey of serving survivors, we've encountered resilience in the face of adversity. Your support has enabled us to continue to operate our Transitional House program and, in 2019, open the Hope Center drop-in site - both programs providing resources for immediate shelter, comprehensive, trauma informed counseling, and critical wrap around services to those grappling with the aftermath of their trauma. Together, we've been able to make meaningful strides in restoring their dignity and empowerment and, as we commemorate this milestone, we're excited to announce two of our ambitious expansion plans!

First, we are venturing into a new chapter aimed at extending our services at the Transitional House to include women with minor children. We recognize the unique challenges these families face and the pressing need for specialized support. Our focus on expanding these services represents a significant step forward in our commitment to holistic healing and by offering specialized programs tailored to the needs of these families, including secure housing and comprehensive support networks, we aim to break the cycle of generational homelessness and provide a stable foundation for their future.



“We celebrate 25 years of unwavering commitment”

Next, we aim to not just provide temporary refuge but to create sustainable pathways for survivors towards healing and self-reliance for the remainder of their lives, regardless of disabilities or challenges that hinder their ability to live independently without ongoing supportive services. We are currently in the process of establishing Permanent Supportive Housing for women survivors and their children, representing a significant step forward in our mission to ensure a safe and stable future for those who have faced unimaginable hardships.

We understand the urgency and importance of our mission. There are still many more who require our services, and with your continued support, we're determined to reach them.

This milestone wouldn't have been possible without your generosity, advocacy, and belief in our cause. Your contributions, whether through donations, volunteerism, or raising awareness, have been instrumental in shaping the lives of survivors and their families we've served.

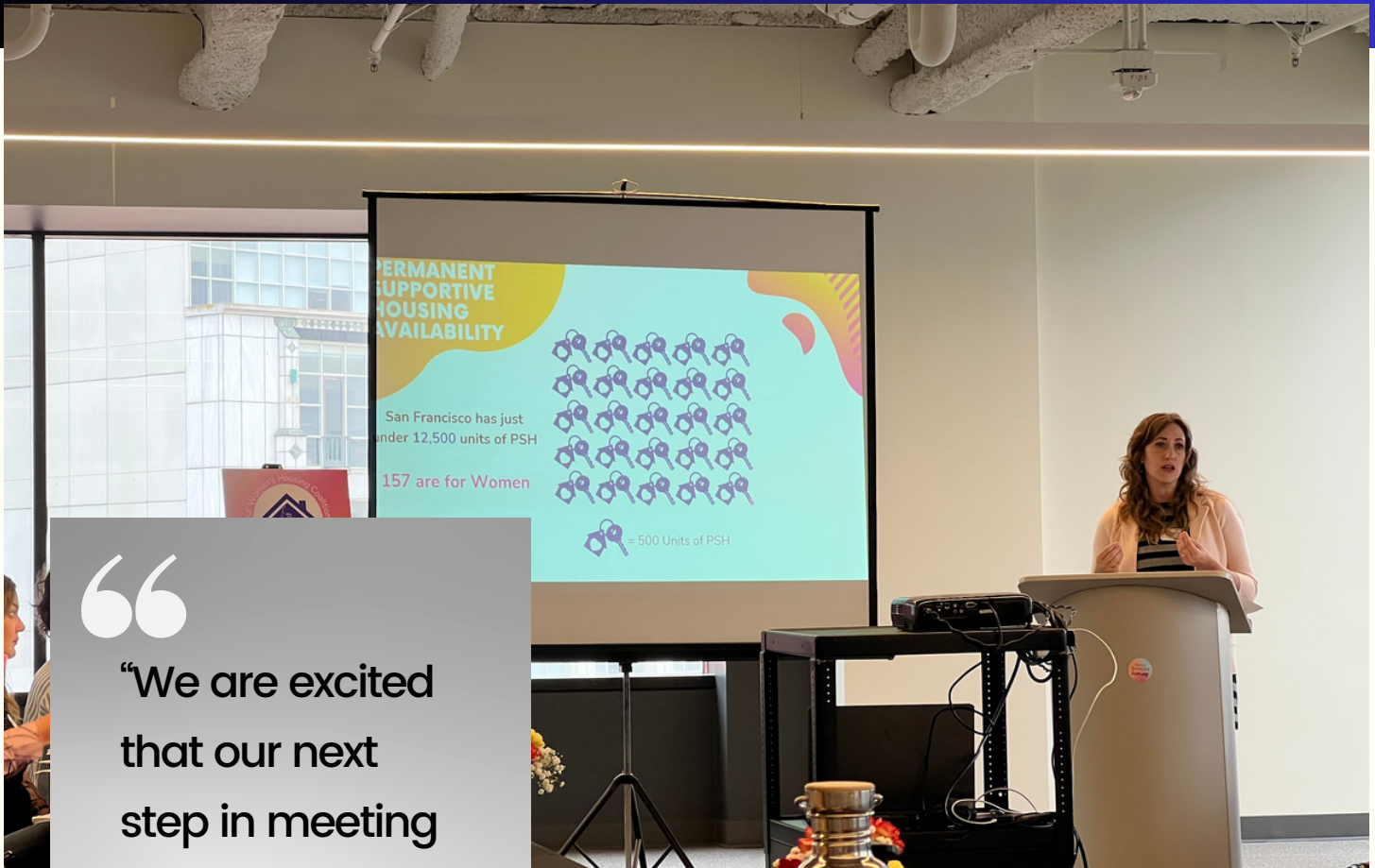
As we celebrate 25 years of unwavering commitment, let's embark on this new chapter together. Let's continue to stand as a beacon of hope, healing, and independence for survivors of exploitation, ensuring that no one is left without the support they need to thrive.



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Supporting Families

by Kristen Moore, MFT, Chief Program Officer



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From its inception, SafeHouse has prided itself on being an organization centered on meeting the unique needs of women. Our drive to provide gender-specific services has led us to implement many practices tailored for women over the years, including sexual health education, self-defense courses, trauma-informed therapy, domestic violence courses, and more. We routinely ask for feedback about our programming to make sure that our offerings align with what our participants identify as critical. Through the years, we have often heard the need from our participants to access safe, survivor-centered services and housing with their children. While we have always supported the reunification of our program participants with family, particularly minor children, we have not had the capacity to house intact parent-child families until now. We are excited that our next step in meeting the needs of women is opening all of our housing programs to mothers with custody of their minor children.

This transition has already begun with the implementation of our rapid rehousing and emergency housing voucher programs, where almost 15 families have been placed in permanent housing and continue to access case management and other critical services through the Hope Center.

We are excited to share that next year the transitional house will begin accepting women with children into the program for the first time. This flexibility will provide a critical safety net for mothers who may otherwise face losing their children to foster or kin care due to the impact of sexual exploitation and housing instability. With access to our transitional housing program, mothers will receive support on their personal goals as well as support with parenting and family healing. Likewise, children will receive specialized case management services and be able to access the tools they need to thrive alongside their mothers.

Welcoming families into our programming acknowledges and centers the importance of mothering in the lives of so many of the women we serve. It also disrupts intergenerational cycles of trauma, poverty, and violence and offers families the safety and opportunity to create a brighter future together. We have always known there is healing in togetherness and look forward to expanding and strengthening our community.



“The transition has already begun with 15 families having been placed in permanent housing... and continue to access case management and other critical services”

Marching to the Ballot and How You Can Help

By Yves-Langston Barthaud, Development and Outreach Manager



Over the last few years, San Francisco SafeHouse has increased our investment of time and resources in advocating to City and State legislators for additional support of unhoused women in San Francisco. The need for more gender-specific spaces for the safety of women experiencing homelessness and violence on the streets continues to grow and major investments and support from the City and State are becoming more and more necessary. From working with the California Office of Emergency Services to holding the inaugural Unhoused Women's Retreat with local City departments, those meetings and more have created opportunities for the expansion of women's support services that have allowed us to grow our programs to serve more women. While we continue to strive to address the challenges faced by women experiencing sexual exploitation and trafficking, we continue to find ourselves short of our goals to engage and meet the needs of every single woman living on the street.

In 2022, SafeHouse provided homes for 106 clients who came into our care - well short of the City's need. According to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's latest Point-in-Time Count, there are over 3,000 women, including women with trans experience, who are unhoused in San Francisco. By their own admission, that number is likely much higher since many people who experience homelessness go uncounted.

But, we continue to have hope and optimism for growth. As an organization, SafeHouse, in community with the Women's Housing Coalition, has requested \$30 million of an upcoming \$300 million housing bond introduced by Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin to be put on the March 2024 ballot. This housing bond will create new opportunities for women's services to have a line of funding for new housing projects and restoration of existing women's services.





Yves meets Gloria Estefan, a champion for women's causes, at the recent National Women's Shelter Network Conference

And we need you. As long-time supporters of SafeHouse and the unhoused women of San Francisco, we need our stakeholders like you, to help advocate for dedicated funds to address the current issues that plague the women of San Francisco experiencing homelessness, violence, and exploitation. That starts with voicing your support to your local District Supervisor, the Mayor, and lastly, at the ballot box come March.

"And we need you... this housing bond will create new opportunities for women's services"

For the last 25 years, SafeHouse and our supporters have worked tirelessly to make our community better. Together, we have an opportunity to continue and expand our work to better meet the needs of more women who are being challenged daily on the streets of our community. With your help and advocacy, we can meet those challenges.

For more information on how to get involved, please email ybarthaud@sfsafehouse.org



Employee Spotlight

by Tonette Woodson,
Support Services Supervisor

I absolutely adore the work I do for a living! It brings me immense joy and fulfillment. Reflecting back, it feels like just yesterday when I was offered the incredible opportunity to join this organization on September 19th of last year. It was on that auspicious day that I officially became a Rapid ReHousing Case Manager, embarking on a remarkable journey that has shaped my professional growth.

As soon as I received my caseload, I wasted no time in diving headfirst into my responsibilities. The thrill of taking on new challenges and the satisfaction of overcoming them fueled my passion even further. Gratitude fills my heart when I think about the 25 remarkable years I have spent in this field, working tirelessly in various roles. This diverse experience has granted me invaluable insights into the myriad of obstacles and intricacies that must be surmounted in order to pursue what I love.





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"Together, we can transform lives and bring hope to those who need it most. Remember, I see you, and together, we can make a lasting impact."

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Fast forward to today, and I have now assumed the esteemed position of Support Services Supervisor. It is an honor to lead a team of dedicated individuals who share the same unwavering commitment to our cause. Together, we strive to ensure that every single person, regardless of their circumstances, is granted the fundamental rights of a home and safety. It has been over two decades since I began this journey, yet the mere act of walking through the door still evokes a whispered reminder of the significance of "home" in all our lives.

Undoubtedly, one of the most challenging aspects of this line of work is forging connections with like-minded individuals and fostering thought partnerships that can truly make a difference in the lives of our clients. I firmly believe that collaboration and collective effort are the keys to unlocking the potential for positive change.

To all those who feel called to join me in this noble pursuit, I extend a warm welcome. I recognize the unwavering dedication and compassion you possess, and I am grateful for your presence. Together, we can transform lives and bring hope to those who need it most. Remember, I see you, and together, we can make a lasting impact.

Tonette works as the Support Services Supervisor at the Hope Center overseeing clients in the Rapid Rehousing Program.

Building Trust

BY CARLY SAVAGE,
CASE MANAGER

For most of the womxn who have the opportunity to be part of the San Francisco SafeHouse Transitional Housing Program, it is their first experience of safety. Oftentimes, for many of the womxn, it is their first opportunity to address the barriers that led them to human trafficking and homelessness. Our trauma-informed approach recognizes that many high-needs participants have a history of traumatic experiences, which requires providers to emphasize and practice safety and build trust. High-needs clients require careful consideration and a person-centered approach.

It is important to ensure that clients are linked to appropriate supportive services such as healthcare, mental health services, addiction support, case management, and care teams who are readily available to meet their needs. Client-centered care plans allow the participant to set their own goals and meet those goals with the support of the case manager; it is tailored supportive services, interventions, and resources to address their unique circumstances and promote their overall well-being.



“By getting involved, you can create positive change and improve the lives of individuals”



It has been my experience that the participant knows best, and it is my primary focus to ensure that I am supporting the participant's needs. Participants are more actively engaged when they feel seen and heard. I collaborate with other service providers and foster strong partnerships with relevant agencies to support the participant in meeting their goals. Although there are housing opportunities in the San Francisco Bay Area, there are limited resources specific to human trafficking survivors.

Remember, providing housing for high-needs individuals goes far beyond mere accommodations. Support initiatives aimed at increasing the availability of affordable housing options within the San Francisco Bay Area. By getting involved, you can create positive change and improve the lives of individuals who are human trafficking survivors experiencing homelessness.

The End of Year Giving Season is Here!



Your gifts during this holiday season allows us to direct funds to the area where they'll make the greatest impact! Whether purchasing winter gear for our clients at the Hope Center or remodeling rooms at the Transitional House to meet the needs of women with minor children, your generosity will make an incredible difference in the lives of survivors! Give online at sfsafehouse.org/give or by scanning the QR code below!



Gala Sponsorships Now Available!

We hope you will join us on Thursday, October 17, 2024 to celebrate our 25th Anniversary Gala! We look forward to an unforgettable night celebrating our clients of the Hope Center, graduates and current residents of SafeHouse, our community partners, and our generous supporters! Keep an eye out for more details in your email and mailboxes soon...

Interested in sponsoring the event? Contact chelsea@sfsafehouse.org to learn more about sponsorship opportunities today!

Don't Forget About Tax-Advantaged Giving!

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) can support SafeHouse programs while also lowering your tax bill! Donors 70.5 year and older can transfer up to \$100,000 directly to SafeHouse from your IRA - just use EIN: 94-3327255. Contact Chelsea Leonard at chelsea@sfsafehouse.org or (415) 231-6066 with any questions!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?



- Go to sfsafehouse.org and click on WishList under “Get Involved”. You will find everything from rain gear to cookware to toothbrushes requested by our clients .
- Have an item on the list or something else you wish to donate? Send an email to info@sfsafehouse.org or tonette@sfsafehouse.org



- Make a donation by scanning the QR code or visiting sfsafehouse.org/give.
- Give a gift of stocks, bonds or other securities.
- Become a sponsor of our upcoming gala or community events.
- Send a gift card from Home Depot, Amazon, or Costco.
- Organize an in-kind or partial proceeds fundraiser for SafeHouse

For more information on how to support SafeHouse, email Development@sfsafehouse.org

Thank You



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