

A Refuge for Survivors Amidst a Housing Crisis

Recently the City and County of San Francisco released their homeless count & survey. Many of us don't need a survey to highlight the fact that homelessness in San Francisco is pervasive.

The City's "Point-in-Time" count was conducted on January 24, 2019 and covered the entire city. The study found that 8,011 people were experiencing homelessness in San Francisco,

which is a 17% increase from 2017. The study found that homelessness has also disproportionately impacted the Black and African American community, with 37% of respondents identifying as Black or African American. This is especially striking given that in 2019 the San Francisco General Population Estimate of the Black or African American community sits at 6%.

The study also notes domestic/partner violence as a primary cause of homelessness. We accept hundreds of victims and survivors of domestic violence into our shelter each year to ensure that they do not have to choose between living on the street, or living in fear. Domestic violence is extremely prevalent within the homeless population in San Francisco. **Nearly a third of all respondents (31%) reported experiencing domestic/partner violence in their lifetime. 44% of female respondents and 74% of transgender respondents reported experiencing domestic violence across their lifetime.**



La Casa has worked tirelessly to be a part of the solution to homelessness for women and children and San Francisco.

Overall we saw a 5% rise from the 2017 Point-in-Time count with regard to individuals who reported experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime, and amongst females we saw the number of respondents impacted by domestic violence increased by 7% from 2017 to 2019.

While these statistics are both disheartening and alarming, one statistic stood out as a reason for hope and a signaling of change. In 2017, of the individuals in families, 30% of those in families who had experienced domestic violence reported domestic violence was the primary cause of their homelessness. In 2019, 22% of respondents in this cohort attributed their homelessness to domestic violence. This is a key statistic that La Casa has been working to change. We work each day to prevent homelessness by intervening in the cycles of domestic

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LETTER FROM THE Executive Director



Dear Friends of La Casa,

Our Board consists of 12 fierce advocates for survivors of domestic violence. Maria Bee has been a leader and President of this dedicated group of individuals. As of June 30th, Maria has retired from the Board. It is at moments like these that I pause to reflect on the many strong and inspiring leaders that have led La Casa's Board through programmatic transitions and growth.

I first met Maria in 2006 when she was named Chief of the Victim Service's Division under then-District Attorney, Kamala Harris. Her commitment to all of the victims' safety and support was apparent on Day 1. She created programs that increased DV survivors' access to confidential support service, and strengthened the District Attorney's Office by building critical relationships with social service agencies supporting similar populations in the community. Maria had her full staffed trained on domestic violence advocacy and helped us build a longstanding connection with both the DA's office and the SFPD Special Victims Unit. As President of the Board she guided La Casa through a period of unprecedented growth, which has allowed us to reach more victims and survivors of domestic violence than at any point in our history. Maria leads with a calm and steady hand. She inspired each of us to be bold in our actions and kind with our words. While we will miss her deeply, we look forward to watching her continue to change the world through her work as Oakland's Chief Assistant City Attorney.

We also welcome Michelle Zauss as the new President of the Board. Michelle is a Senior Director of Sales Strategy and Operations at Salesforce. Michelle joined

La Casa's Board of Directors in 2010. Since the day she joined, Michelle has brought immense energy, insight and enthusiasm to our small-but-mighty organization. Chairing the Finance Committee for the past several years, Michelle has helped us strengthen our financial position, and the services that we can provide. She has overseen La Casa's financial decision to pay off the note on our shelter property far ahead of the due date as well as the more recent purchase of our Drop in Counseling Center. Her stewardship, in addition to her passion for ending domestic violence, has always stood out. As a leader in the fight against domestic violence, we are excited to be led by Michelle's spirit and wisdom in the coming years.

I hope you will join me in wishing Maria great success in her future endeavors, and thanking her for the years of service and dedication which she has poured into La Casa.

With Gratitude,

Kathy Black
Executive Director

redHOT*

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RAISE AWARENESS**

October 3rd / The Green Room

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LA CASA
DE LAS
MADRES

the living room



Corporate Citizens & #ChangeAdvocates

On August 7th our community gathered in our "Living Room" to talk about Corporate Social Responsibility. Panelists from BlackRock, Kaiser Permanente, Kendo Brands, and Pinterest shared a few key takeaways. We hope you will join us for our next Living Room on November 13th!

Grassroots Passion

Building the movement for corporate responsibility at your workplace can be a grassroots effort. Research what you care about and share it with your peers. People respond to passion.

Big hearts move big companies

It just takes one person with heart and drive to make a difference, even in the biggest company.

Dream Big: Ask Big

Don't be afraid to ask your company for support on a community project. Start small, prove a campaign is successful, and expand next year.

Community health is the Best Investment

Build across the system rather than fund one-off projects. Investing in organizations that serve local health priorities builds large-scale community health.

FY 2018-19

LA CASA SERVED
THOUSANDS OF
SURVIVORS IN OUR
SAN FRANCISCO
COMMUNITY THIS
PAST YEAR



10,9991

Bednights



3,500

survivors accessed support



15,000

community members
connected

24/7 365

A REFUGE FOR SURVIVORS AMIDST A HOUSING CRISIS

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violence sooner. Our programs are built to intervene in high-risk cases at critical community touchpoints. The sooner we reach individuals in the community, the easier it is to find them other options and support systems, before their domestic violence causes them to become homeless.

At La Casa we talk about seed-planting. Not every survivor we meet at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, the San Francisco Police Department, the Human Services Agency or the SF Housing Authority wants to work with our co-located advocates right away. What we see however, is survivors coming to our Drop in Center, or calling our hotline, a few days later, seeking the support and services that we offer. It can be frightening to admit you are in an unsafe relationship, and even more frightening to come forward to begin to plan ways to leave an abusive partner.

La Casa's hub and spoke model, in addition to our robust community education and outreach program, are designed to reach as many survivors as possible, before homelessness becomes a reality. With the support of many generous donors, and strong partnerships with government agencies, we are able to expand the scope of our response intervention services and walk alongside survivors on their path away from abuse. While it might not be a linear progression, we are proud to be a part of reducing family homelessness caused by domestic violence.

LA CASA DE LAS MADRES' DONOR LIST

The Board of Directors would like to thank all of our generous contributors for making La Casa's work possible. The following list reflects pledges made and gifts received between **January 1 - June 30, 2019**. Please excuse any inadvertent errors or omissions.

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La Casa wants to partner with your company on Corporate Citizenship! There are many great ways to get involved: from employee workshops to volunteer activities to sponsoring an upcoming Living Room. La Casa wants to help you build a culture of giving back at your workplace. If you want to know, more please drop us a line by emailing Jessica.n@lacasa.org to discuss exciting partnership opportunities.



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Healing is an art, it takes time, it takes practice, it takes love.

—Pavana Reddy

La Casa de las Madres

A Refuge. An Advocate. A Strong Voice Against Domestic Violence.

The mission of La Casa de las Madres is to respond to calls for help from domestic violence victims, of all ages, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We give survivors the tools to transform their lives. We seek to prevent future violence by educating the community and by redefining public perceptions about domestic violence.

La Casa de las Madres

Un Refugio. Un Consejero. Una Voz Fuerte en Contra de la Violencia Doméstica.

La Casa de las Madres ofrece amparo a mujeres que han sido víctimas de la violencia doméstica, y a sus hijos e hijas. Nosotros nos esformzamos en ayudar tanto a las mujeres como a los niños a descubrir su fuerza interior, manejar los riesgos que se les presentan y tener más control sobre sus propias vidas. Nuestro objetivo es restaurar la dignidad de nuestras clientes, fomentar su esperanza, evocar su valor y ayudarles a desarrollar su mayor potencial.

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