

Newest College-to-Career Housing on Clark Ave Nears Grand Opening

HOPE and its donors desire to empower young adults with developmental disabilities to attend college as a means to achieving their personal, academic, and professional goals. In an effort to increase our capacity to meet this objective, in 2016 HOPE purchased its newest College-to-Career (C2C) building for \$1.6M with funds from donors, foundations, and financing through First Republic Bank.

The C2C program launched in 2010 as a collaboration between Harbor Regional Center, California MENTOR, HOPE, and Long Beach City College (LBCC). It was designed to offer dorm-like housing near campus for students with special needs. This new location, off of Clark Avenue in the Lakewood Village neighborhood of Long Beach, sits on a 17,000+ square foot lot that is a mere ½ mile walk from LBCC. This property's charming courtyard layout includes two adjacent buildings that total eight units of housing. It will

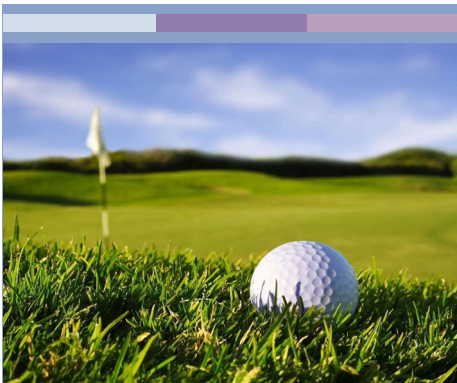
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HOPE Hires Landscaping Firm Urban Edge that Employs Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Adults with developmental disabilities have the capability and desire to work. Just like anyone, they strive for respect and they aspire to live as independently as possible. Despite these desires and abilities, many remain unemployed or underemployed in today's economy. HOPE wants to be a catalyst in changing this reality. In partnership with the forward thinking venture Urban Edge Gardening Services, HOPE is now helping to employ members of this important segment of our community. Founded in April of 2016, Urban

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2 Save the Date



2 Pave it Forward



4 Thank you Donors!



Save the Date to HOPE's 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Virginia Country Club in Long Beach

Each year the HOPE team strives to create the most exciting events possible for our donors and sponsors to attend in support of our cause. This includes hosting our various activities in unique and exciting locations. That is why we are happy to announce that our 10th Annual Charity Golf Classic will take place at Virginia Country Club in Long Beach on **Tuesday, November 14.**

Save the date of this premier event that to date has raised more than \$1 million to create safe, stable, and affordable homes for people with developmental disabilities. Virginia Country Club is a historical, member's only establishment. Just to the north of the Los Cerritos and Bixby Knolls neighborhoods in Long Beach, it offers exclusivity and a fun shotmaker's course with small greens and interesting terrain that creates nice variety throughout. We look forward to seeing you at this year's event. **For companies interested in reserving their sponsorship, please contact HOPE's Fund Development Coordinator Jennifer Byram at (310) 543-0635.**

HOPE
Home Ownership for Personal Empowerment

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C2C: Clark

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ultimately be home to 14 additional students, with one unit reserved as an onsite staff office.

Students enrolled in this program will receive a full range of both on-campus and residential supports. Staff members are available onsite and on campus, to provide additional academic counseling and assistance with independent living skills.

Dilworth Construction began renovations in the summer of 2016 when property improvements were ordered on the scale of \$172,000. HOPE would like to offer a big thank you to California Mentor for partnering with us and providing \$50K toward rehabilitation.

These property enhancements include new interior paint, kitchen



Before...



...After

cabinets, countertops, sinks, faucets, flooring, light fixtures, exterior paint, and landscaping. Plumbing and electrical elements were replaced as needed, and interior water heaters were relocated outside to open up additional kitchen space.

Beginning in December, new residents started moving into the building as each unit's rehabilitation was completed. The construction phase of this project

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of new C2C students to move in prior to summer sessions.

Creating this much needed housing would not have been possible without financial support from our donors and community partners. HOPE wishes to offer a special thank you to Lennar Charitable Housing Foundation that contributed \$10K and US Bank Foundation that contributed \$5K toward renovations. Also, we must offer a final thank you to California Mentor that, beyond their generous contributions to the construction costs of this property, also furnished beds, dressers, tables, chairs, couches, and appliances for each unit.

With renovations near completion, a grand opening celebration for our newest C2C location will be scheduled for later this year. Please consider joining us at this event as a very special naming ceremony



will be held to honor two longtime benefactors of HOPE, Colleen Mock and Mercedes Lowery. We are certain that this housing will serve as a solid foundation for its residents to accomplish their academic goals and begin their journeys toward adulthood.

If you are interested in supporting our C2C program and would like to help fund future HOPE homes, please consider purchasing an engraved brick through our Pave it Forward campaign on page 2. Your donation will create a lasting memory of your support for HOPE's mission.

HOPE Hires...

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Edge is coordinated by Diverse Journeys, a 501(c)3 public charity. Speaking on the origins of this entrepreneurial enterprise, Executive Director Amanda Gerhardt explained, "Our goal was to develop a small business that was owned and operated by regional center clients. This business model provides real work experience, real business ownership, and the clients are earning real paychecks." For HOPE and Diverse Journeys, implementing a model that includes hiring adults with developmental disabilities makes business sense. We understand the research that points directly to the many clear benefits of employing these ready and willing workers.

In the article "The Employer's Perception: Employment of individuals with developmental disabilities," the authors Robert Morgan and Melina Alexander found that companies identified several advantages to employing from this population at a higher rate. "The most frequently identified advantages were consistent

attendance, workforce diversity, long-term employment, and co-worker partnerships."

Currently, Urban Edge Gardening Services has two teams made up of three clients each. And the business owners are Westside Regional Center clients who live in Diverse Journey's Family Teaching Homes. One current Urban Edge employee shared his feelings about this new job, "I really enjoy getting up and going to work every day; I get excited when I get my paycheck." And we can all relate to the increased peace of mind that comes with stable employment.

HOPE is happy to announce that for the past 10 months we have received outstanding service through Urban Edge at five of our properties in Los Angeles and Hawthorne. Due to this successful partnership, we are looking into additional ways we can employ and contract with firms that prioritize hiring adults with developmental disabilities in the future.

We couldn't continue our mission without the support of our community. To assist HOPE in covering our operational expenses, like renovations, property management, and landscaping of our more than 80 homes, make a donation today

The most frequently identified advantages of hiring adults with developmental disabilities were consistent attendance, workforce diversity, long-term employment, and coworker partnerships.



Housing Matters

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PLUS

Pave it Forward