## HOPE Housing Matters



## HOPE's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic Raises More than \$180K to Create Homes for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

On a beautiful Monday morning in November, Home Ownership for Personal Empowerment, Inc. hosted its 10th Annual Charity Golf Classic at Virginia Country Club in Long Beach. With over 30 sponsors, including the \$15k sponsor California MENTOR and five \$10k sponsors City National Bank, Patricia Del Monico, Ambitions CA, Integrated Life, and Social Vocation Services, this event raised more than \$180K to provide stable, affordable homes for adults with developmental disabilities.

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## HOPE Housing Makes the Dream of Independence Come True for Resident and Her Family

"She pays all of her bills online," Emily's mother Tammy chimes in, "She's really good about rent. She's on it and doing it all on her own."

Emily sits in the living room of her new HOPE Independent Living Home with her mother and father Tom. She is polite and friendly and eager to speak about her recent move, her increased independence, and her next big steps in life.

For many parents, there is no guarantee that their children with developmental disabilities will grow up to live on their own. For Emily, her journey to acquire affordable housing and achieve greater self-reliance was not a straight line. "Earlier in Emily's life we really questioned if she could live independently," Thomas says, "but the more she developed and got into programs like [College to Career], Continue on page 2









## **Independent Living**

Continued from page 1 the more she grew into the young woman she is today. They prepared her to do things like this."

Emily now shares a threebedroom HOPE home in Norwalk with two roommates. Their rent comes out to no more than 1/3 of their income. They take care of their household chores and utilize supported living services as needed through Harbor Regional Center.

Adults with developmental disabilities have the same goals as anyone. They desire dignity and opportunity to grow into self-reliant members of their community. HOPE believes that housing is foundational to this journey.

"A home means living independently," says Emily.

ONE WAY HOPE DONORS SUPPORT THIS DREAM is through the College to Career program. C2C homes are designed to offer dorm-like housing near Long Beach City College for students with special needs. During Emily's time in the program, from

2014-2016, she received a full range of both on-campus and residential supports. Staff members were available on site and on campus to provide additional academic counseling and assistance with independent living skills.

For Emily, the C2C program was the final step in her journey toward housing independence. Earlier in life, she benefited from a high school "Earlier life skills program in Emily's life we that taught her really questioned if she budgeting and could live independently, grocery shopbut the more she develping skills and the Torrance ed and got into programs Transition prolike C2C, the more she gram that grew into the young taught her bus woman she is transportation today." and job readiness skills. Because of these programs, Emily is now thriv-

"I like to make my own meals in the kitchen and to water the yard," she says, "and then in my personal time I enjoy writing in my journal,

ing in her new environment.

watching movies, or reading books."

Emily is now in the process of searching for a job-her next important life goal. Like many young adults who finish their college education and hope to enter the workforce, Emily is facing an uphill climb. "I'm still job hunting," she admits. "I'm waiting to hear back from my last interview." She is optimistic though and determined to find work in her chosen industry of retail.

TOM IS VISIBLY PROUD OF HIS **DAUGHTER** who has matured into an inspiring young woman. "I think her new living situation—and the independence and responsibility of running a home that comes along with it-is what is now giving her the confidence to go out and find a iob."

"That is how housing has influenced her," he adds.

Emily's future is truly bright. With the needed supported services through Harbor Regional Center and her stable, affordable housing through HOPE, she is on her way to living the life she always dreamed. the next few years, I'd like to be a married woman," Emily shares, "and maybe taking care of my kids part-time and working part-

HOPE believes in her ability to reach these goals, and we will be here every step of the way to ensure that her housing provides the stability needed to live life to the fullest.

time."

## **Charity Golf Tournament**

Continued from page 1

The theme of this year's event was *Creating Independence*. Funds raised will go toward providing homes that empower those who are most vulnerable in our society to become valuable, contributing members of their communities. HOPE believes that housing is foundational in everyone's life and when our residents are no longer forced to worry about where they will live and sleep, their energies—and savings—can be freed to focus on work, school, volunteer service, and fostering social relationships.

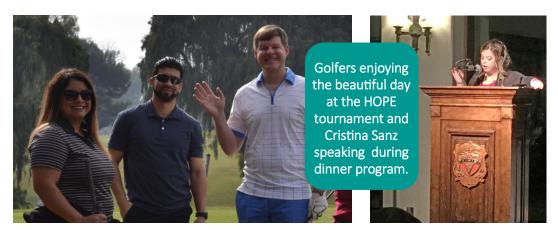
This sold-out event saw 144 golfers from the local business and philanthropic communities come together in competition to support this vital cause. Tournament Committee Member Forrest Riopelle of City National Bank spoke on why this event is so meaningful, "I personally, and City National Bank, have supported HOPE for years because we believe that the work they're doing is essential to creating opportunities for people with developmental disabilities." He continued, "Their mission is also just great for the community, as their homes end up being the most beautiful and well-maintained properties on a block."

THIS EVENT CULMINATED IN A TOURNAMENT DINNER, emceed by ABC7 Sports Anchor Rob Fukuzaki, with guest speaker Christina Sanz from the award-winning A&E docuseries, "Born This Way." Cristina discussed how housing was instrumental in her personal growth. "My biggest dream is to be independent," Cristina said. "And thanks to HOPE I am living my dream. When I was young, I dreamed of my own apartment. That dream became real nine months ago when I moved into my HOPE home."

I dreamed of my own apartment. That dream became real nine months ago when I moved into my HOPE home Since establishing the tournament ten years ago, HOPE has raised more than \$1.2M to support affordable housing projects. This funding has a very real impact on our mission During the evening dinner program, HOPE Executive Director Kristin Martin announced the progress made over the past several years to close in on an important organization goal. "I am happy to update you today that because of your support in recent years, HOPE has reached 88% of our 2014 goal to house 80 additional residents by the end of 2018. To date, we have

created homes for 71 residents since 2014." Once completed, this achievement will have nearly doubled HOPE's housing capacity over a four year period.

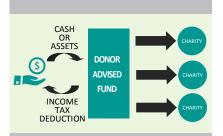
This day would not have been possible without the golfers, dinner attendees, sponsors, donors, and community volunteers who came together to make this event one of the premier charitable golf tournaments in the region. More than fifty volunteers from across Los Angeles County served at the event in registration, as cashiers, on the course, and in raffle ticket sales. "Day of" donations at the tournament surpassed \$15K due to their passionate efforts.





### **Help Create a HOME**

Sadly, HOPE currently has a waiting list of more than 200 adults with developmental disabilities standing by for their opportunity to live in a stable, affordable home. Join us in making their dreams a reality. Donate at: www.hope-homes .org /ways-to-give/ donate/, or complete the reply device included in this newsletter. Thank you for your support of our mission.



### Consider a Donor Advised Fund

'Tis the season for giving! Ask your investment company about establishing a donor-advised fund, as a method to streamline charitable giving and increase funds available for distribution over time. If you already have a donor advised fund, please consider HOPE this year for your annual contribution.



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# **Housing**Matters

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**Family** 



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