

# HOPE Housing Matters

Home Ownership for Personal Empowerment

## HOPE Partners with SVS on Landscaping Service That Employs People With Developmental Disabilities

**H** OPE knows that living an ordinary, independent life is a primary goal for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Housing plays an enormous role in achieving that objective, but how can someone afford a home in this challenging real estate market without a job? If HOPE truly wants to be a part of the solution, then we also must prioritize creating employment opportunities for this population. That is why, in 2016, we started a contract with the landscaping arm of Social Vocation Services (SVS), a statewide service provider for people with I/DD.

SVS was founded in 1977 as a small after-school program for teenagers with autism. Since its establishment, SVS has grown to serve over 4,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout California. They offer a wide variety of services to meet the needs and interests of a diverse population, from day programs, work programs, and licensed group homes. Their landscaping business has been operating for nearly 20 years while providing jobs and personal growth opportunities for people with I/DD.

The current employment rate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in California lags far behind the rate for those without disabili-

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**2** Charity Golf Classic



**3** Grand Opening

From top: SVS gardener trimming hedges at HOPE home; Ignacio mowing lawn; Full SVS team that provides landscaping at seven HOPE homes throughout Los Angeles County. From left: Luis, Wilber, Donaciano, Ignacio, and Mario. Front: Gabriel. (SVS)

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 ties, as well as the rate for people with all other types of disabilities. While a majority of people with I/DD desire to work, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) reports that during the past decade, little more than 13% of this population has been employed. Despite efforts to enhance employment opportunities, substantial barriers to accessing gainful employment still persist for a majority of these individuals.

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This reality has a significant impact on the ability of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to afford rent. Currently, 8 out of 10 people with I/DD must rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to support themselves. A typical SSI payment is around \$900 a month or \$10,800 a year. SSI-level income is less than 20% of the area median income for Los Angeles County and below the 2019 federal poverty line of \$12,490. According to the 2014 *Half in Ten Report* from the Center for American Progress, 28.4% of adults with disabilities live in poverty, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities represent 16% of all adults living in poverty.

Housing is generally considered affordable when the rent or mortgage is no more than thirty percent of a person’s income. For a person living on a \$900 a month SSI payment, affordability would translate to no more than \$270 a month. Rents at this level are nonexistent in Los Angeles County. In fact, in Los Angeles, an average one-bedroom apartment rents for \$1,360 and is five times more than what a person living on SSI can afford.

Jobs are vital to addressing this issue for people with I/DD. The SVS Downey Community Inclusion Services gardening group is just one example of the wide variety of work opportunities SVS offers their clients statewide. In order to be employed by SVS as a landscaper, candidates must demonstrate safety awareness skills and the ability to oper-

ate gardening equipment such as lawnmowers, edgers, or weed and hedge trimmers.

HOPE will be looking for ways to further expand our use of their excellent services.

Employees of this service take pride in their work. They are very detail oriented and guarantee a beautifully landscaped yard every time.

HOPE can attest that they genuinely care about us as customers and the lawns and gardens they service.

When a person with an intellectual or developmental disability is given the opportunity to work, they benefit in more ways than just receiving a paycheck. There is pride in being able to contribute financially to their independence, a chance to make friends, and an overall ability to stay active and feel useful. “There’s a lot to do,” employee Ignacio M. says, “It keeps me busy. I like to use the lawnmower!”

Because of our donors, volunteers, and advocates, HOPE can pursue our mission of creating stable, affordable homes for people with developmental disabilities, while never losing track of why we do what we do. With your support, HOPE will continue to keep our values front and center as we create independence, choice, and dignity through housing for those we serve.

**November 4, 2019**

**SAVE *the* DATE**

**12TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**  
 Old Ranch Country Club  
 Seal Beach, CA

**Join us for our premiere, annual fundraising event that through 2018 has raised more than \$1.4M to create stable, affordable homes for people with developmental disabilities!**

This year’s event will take place at Old Ranch Country Club, and ABC7’s Rob Fukuzaki has once again been invited to serve as our Master of Ceremonies. Players will enjoy golf, fun in-tournament contests, lunch, and snacks & beverages throughout the day. The evening’s award ceremony and dinner will provide guests with chances to win fabulous items in our raffle, auction, and opportunity drawings, as well as hear highlights of HOPE’s 2019 achievements. Information on sponsorship and benefits packages are available at [www.hope-homes.org/golf](http://www.hope-homes.org/golf) or by emailing us at [tournament@hope-homes.org](mailto:tournament@hope-homes.org). We look forward to seeing you November!



**SPONSORSHIPS | VOLUNTEER SIGN UP | GOLF REGISTRATION  
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**REGISTER AT [HOPE-HOMES.ORG/GOLF](http://HOPE-HOMES.ORG/GOLF)**

# Community Celebrates Grand Opening of HOPE on Redondo!



From top left clockwise: Kristin Martin speaks to attendees; new HOPE homes in Bluff Park; resident and guests tour unit; living room interior.



**LONG BEACH:** We were deeply moved on June 26th by the outpouring of support that HOPE received at the grand opening of our newest homes on the 100 block of Redondo Avenue. Thank you to those in attendance, volunteers, and of course our many project partners. This day would not have been possible without you. Our guests heard from Mayor Robert Garcia, Councilwoman Suzie Price, HRC Executive Director Pat Del Monico, and many others about how important housing like this is for the community and specifically for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



This rehabilitated, six-units of housing is now home to seven low-income adults with I/DD. while one onsite unit is reserved for supportive living service staff. The project was funded with support from the City of Long Beach and the Long Beach Community Investment Company, as well as foundation grants from Bank of the West, Wells Fargo, Bess J. Hodges Foundation, Union Bank, The Ahmanson Foundation, Del Harbor Foundation, and Opus Bank. On-site services will be made available to residents through Harbor Regional Center and Ambitions CA.

With your support, HOPE will continue to pursue our important mission with a sense of urgency, passion, and integrity. **To contribute today, please consider purchasing the opportunity drawing tickets included in this newsletter!**





# Housing Matters

## THANK YOU TO OUR TOP DONORS | January 2019—June 2019

### \$25,000-\$200,000

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UniHealth Foundation  
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### 10,000-\$24,999

Ambitions CA  
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**IN  
THIS  
ISSUE!**

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on Landscaping Service  
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**PLUS**

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**12 Annual  
Charity Golf  
Classic**