



NEWS FROM BEACON HOUSING



REMEMBERING JACK D. SAMUELSON



On July 18, Jack Samuelson, Beacon Housing’s cofounder, entered the fullness of heaven, surely greeted with the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Through their unerring efforts and ingenuity, he and his brother Bob lit a beacon of hope for so many who were working to achieve housing security through the founding of Beacon Housing as well as many community service and charitable activities. Jack and Bob were men of

action. They took the building skills they learned from their dad to begin and operate a successful construction business. They were men of God. They took the faith passed on to them from their parents to live lives of service. They were men of purpose. They took the compassion learned from their mom when she made a meal at their house for a homeless man who knocked on their door, and combined it with their building skills and faith to give back. Beacon Housing was the brothers’ answer to a question posed at a community meeting, “What can you do to help those in this community?” Today, we mourn the loss of Jack, his leadership, his sense of humor, his compassion, his faithfulness, his friendship, and his support. Even in our sorrow, we recognize that Jack and Bob have passed the torch. We are dedicated to carrying on their vision of a caring community environment where every person can be empowered to achieve housing security and financial independence.

GARDENING WORKSHOPS FOR MOMS AND KIDS

The updated outdoor space at Casa with new playground equipment and eating area is gaining a new community garden for the residents! We have been working with Arlington Garden in Pasadena to educate residents on planting and taking care of an edible and native plant garden. We had a workshop at Arlington Garden on August 13 to learn about regenerative gardening techniques and benefits, and a second event at Casa on August 27 to put into action what we learned. Two wonderful days and look what we created! We appreciate all the support in making this a success, with special thanks to the Soroptimist Club of Glendale and the Lutheran Church of the Foothills, whose grant funds made these activities possible. And shout out to For Goodness Cakes and their Sprinkle Squad for the generous donation of botanical-themed cupcake and cookie decorating kits for the children.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

On July 18, 2022, our beloved founder, Jack Samuelson passed away. Though we miss him tremendously, we will always remember and be grateful for his devotion to God, family, and friends. He dedicated himself to people in need of God’s love and worked with his dear brother, Bob, to provide a pathway to gain quality of life through safe housing, higher education, and ultimately, financial independence. We are comforted that Jack is with God, his beloved wife, Sally, Bob, and Bob’s beloved wife, Doris, in Heaven! As we celebrate his life, we are also tremendously grateful for Beacon Housing’s faithful supporters, and for all the kind and generous new friends and contributors who help us continue and expand our housing programs. We praise God not only for his leadership and drive, but also for the community he built to carry on Beacon Housing’s work to help those in need achieve housing security. Thank you for being our comfort during this difficult time.

Palin Nyaothheppitak

Ways You Can Help



Donate money or inkind goods



Spread the word to your networks



Volunteer your skills & time with us

BUILDING YOUR FUTURE BOOTCAMP

What a great day we had on September 10th at the Building Your Future Bootcamp at Garfield Agape Court. In collaboration with Kaimore, Beacon Housing held a free workshop designed to help parents and individuals to strengthen their financial literacy and prepare for housing readiness. Kaimore, a non-profit organization, focuses its efforts on promoting economic mobility by providing professional development services for those who are underprivileged. At the workshop Kaimore presented information on budgeting, how to save, banking, and credit repair. Beacon Housing's presentation focused on preparing for a rental application, moving in readiness, communication with your landlord, as well as understanding tenant and landlord responsibilities. Participants and presenters alike enjoyed sharing stories, exchanging ideas, and spending time in fellowship. We look forward to hosting similar workshops in the future.



SOFT STORY RETROFIT UNDERWAY AT GARFIELD AGAPE COURT

The Ahmanson Foundation has generously provided Beacon Housing with a \$100,000 grant to help undertake the soft-story retrofitting of our 43-unit apartment building, Garfield Agape Court. Given the seismic activities in California, this is a necessary step not only to comply with the City of Pasadena's mandate, but to ensure safety of our tenants and the long-term viability of our property. So, why the need for retrofit? Garfield is a soft-story structure with tuck-under parking. In the event of an earthquake, this means that one level of the building is significantly more flexible or weak in lateral load resistance than the stories above it and the floors or the foundation below it, which can present a serious risk. The grant funds will be used toward structural remediation construction services necessary to remedy the existing soft story condition, including all materials, labor, coordination and management. Beacon Housing and all the current and future residents of the Garfield Agape Court apartment building deeply appreciate the Ahmanson Foundation for helping us undertake this major improvement project to ensure the safety of our property.



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: SHARING FROM ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"At St. James' Church of South Pasadena, our outreach ministry continues a decades-long tradition of Episcopal advocacy emphasizing "Hands in Healing." Our parishioners heed Jesus' call to love our neighbors since God has given us a plentiful life. We share His blessings with our friends at Casa de Alegria and Beacon Housing. The youth of St. James have partnered with the South Pasadena High School Latin X student club to provide personal and essential care items for the residents during the COVID pandemic. Along with the youth, the adult parishioners share their time, talents, and resources by sponsoring birthday & holiday parties as well as donations in kind for the kids and moms throughout the year. It is a true blessing to meet and offer help as they transition from difficult situations and build new lives. We pray that our friends and family in our faith communities join us and remember that we are an instrument of peace. Our goal is to sow love, compassion and caring. We always welcome new participation. Simply get in touch with the Saint James Church office to get involved."

"For it is in giving that we receive."

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

With the holiday season fast approaching, there are a few ways that you can get involved and help uplift a household in need in the Beacon Housing community:

- **Be a Holiday Angel:** Your donations provide Halloween treats, Thanksgiving food, and Christmas presents to our Casa residents and tutoring club participants.
- **Lend a Helping Hand:** Our Helping Hands grant provides financial assistance to low income individuals in need like Wendy, who recently moved from transitional housing into her first apartment. She said, "with this new transition came added expenses from furniture to the most essential of needs, like utilities." Through the boost from the grant, Wendy was able to get caught up on her bills as she adjusted to her new home with her sons.

