



Together we can break the stigma of addiction and revolutionize sober living.



....."we can't go back but we can change the future...."
(Support4Families grant recipient)

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Anastasia Stephanopoulos
President, Board of Directors

Congratulations to Pablo Martinez, a recipient of the 2022 *People Who Make a Difference* Award. This award is bestowed by the Contra Costa County Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board and acknowledges both volunteer and non-volunteer individuals, as well as groups, who have significantly contributed toward combating alcohol and other drugs in the Contra Costa communities.

Pablo works tirelessly on behalf of the Hispanic Community in Contra Costa, supporting individuals and their families as they struggle to overcome addiction. He is an inspiration to all of us, as well as the many people he has helped gain services.

As we start to develop new programming, we are ramping up our fundraising efforts. Keep an eye out for a big announcement about an upcoming golf tournament fundraiser in 2023. Even if you don't play golf, this is an opportunity to support our work. We will need event sponsors and items for the auction (silent and live). More details will come as we plan. Let us know if you have interest in helping us (nikki@support4recovery.org), as we welcome all volunteers.

And, once again, thanks to each and every one of you for being part of our mission. We would not be able to do what we do without you!



Pablo Martinez Receiving the *People Who Make a Difference* Award
August 21, 2022

PROJECT REPORTS

Support4Housing – We are proud that our housing grant program helps individuals in recovery focus on finding work in the first weeks following treatment, rather than seeking housing. In our January-June 2022 report to John Muir Health (our primary housing grant program funder), 100% of housing grant participants arrived at their Recovery Residence in need of employment. All of them actively sought work and 86% were successful!

Support4Families – Support4Families programming is still in the development stage. We are examining the many ways to support families in reunification, including small grants for clothing, school supplies, activities to do together, and groceries. We anticipate a formal program roll-out by year-end, so stay tuned.

Needs Survey – The needs survey has been shut down and we are actively analyzing the results. Almost 200 community members in recovery completed it. We now turn our attention to uncover barriers to treatment; issues faced by the community getting/staying clean and sober; and where and how people need help (e.g., finding employment, basic needs, family support, etc.). We look forward to sharing the information and creating programs to serve these needs, as we move into 2023.

Hispanic Community – We are near completion of *Finding Hope in America*, the working title of our documentary film dedicated to increasing awareness of, and participation in, Spanish-language addiction treatment. We plan to reveal the film in a variety of settings, especially private screenings, hoping to reach the greatest number of people. If you are interested in this effort or want to find out more about a private screening, reach out to us at nikki@support4recovery.org.

Alumni Association Support – Our efforts to support alumni associations are bearing fruit! On August 21, we helped Pueblos del Sol (Concord) hold its first-ever alumni gathering – a family-friendly BBQ (see pictures below) An estimated 120 people attended. That day alone, Pueblos gained 20 followers on social media. It is amazing to see the community coming together to eat, laugh, break open a pinata, play frisbee, and create shared memories.



Pueblos del Sol Alumni BBQ – August 21, 2022

BOARD PROFILE: TODD BANG



We are proud to be working with **Todd Bang**. Todd is a 61-year-old retired and disabled General Contractor with 14 years of clean time. He is an active member of two project committees – the Alumni Association Outreach Project and the Hispanic Project. His passion and commitment to Support4Recovery go back to its origins! He has been a member of Support4Recovery for all 15 years as a founding member, as well as serving as an Advisory Counselor, Vice Chair, and then Chair for three years.

Todd's story is one of relapse; it's taken him over 30 years to accumulate the 14 years he has now. Todd credits a courage inside himself that would always lead him back to the rooms of NA "sit my butt in a chair and raise my hand once again as a newcomer." Today, Todd has a heart of love and a strong desire to help his fellow addicts, "one starfish at a time, like a book I read tells me." He's proud of the work he's done with S4R, he credits S4R for the hard work of all the members, and is honored to be a part of the "stellar reputation" his hard work had contributed to.

TESTIMONIALS: SYRA VIETH



When you meet **Syra Vieth**, Assistant Manager at Restore, you would have no idea that, just three years ago, she struggled with addiction, domestic violence, and the intervention of Social Services into her family. The brightness in her eyes, as well as in those of her 4-year-old daughter, reflects hard work and commitment to her recovery.

Syra completed her inpatient program at Ujima (The Rectory Women's Recovery Center) in San Pablo. After the program, she had no idea where to go. Because addiction runs deep in her family, there was nobody who could take her in. If she returned home, where violence was commonplace, she might lose her daughter forever. Homelessness seemed her only option.

Thankfully, the counselors knew about S4R and the housing grant program. S4R paid for 3 months of housing, as long as Syra attended outpatient services. She found her first job (ever) at the Cleaning Authority in Martinez. It was a responsibility she had never dealt with before, and it felt good to work; getting paid was gratifying.

Before Support4Recovery provided a housing grant to Syra, she had never known anybody who had gotten get clean. The S4R grant allowed Syra to work on her long-term recovery, rather than repeat the cycle by returning to the same place, people, or things. Shortly after arriving at Restore (transitional housing), she was granted unsupervised visits, because it was a safe place for a child. Within 6 months, her daughter was with her full-time!

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