

# BARRY DEL BUONO

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Highly accomplished internal and external fundraiser, lobbyist and entrepreneur. Proven leader of large and complex organizations.

# National Geographic

“Starting Over”

DECEMBER, 2001

**Starting Over**

Photograph by Bob Sacha

“I had nowhere else to go,” says 22-year-old Rick Wilson, who showed up broke and jobless at the Boccardo Reception Center, San Jose’s largest homeless shelter. Hitting bottom motivated Wilson, one of an increasing number of Silicon Valley residents who can’t afford a place to live in the high-price region. Wilson found a minimum-wage job at a Starbucks coffee shop and was soon promoted to a shift supervisor. At the shelter he started classes to qualify as a network technician. After nearly five months he moved from the noisy bunkhouse environment of the shelter to a shared apartment subsidized by San Jose’s Emergency Housing Consortium. Saving money, he now dreams of his own place, someplace private. Vows Wilson: “I’ll keep going forward.”

This reprint courtesy of Emergency Housing Consortium

National Geographic Magazine, December, 2001

## EXCERPT:

Melita Singh would be happy if she could find a home, any home, to rent, but for now she, her husband, and their three children will have to get by in a room in the Boccardo Reception Center, a shelter for the homeless in San Jose.

The Singhs are not poor. Mrs. Singh, who grew up in Trinidad, is a registered nurse who works in a nursing home. Mr. Singh works on contract for Hewlett-Packard. Between them, they have an income of \$105,000.

Melita Singh would be happy if she could find a home, any home, to rent, but for now she, her husband, and their three children will have to get by in a room in the Boccardo Reception Center, a shelter for the homeless in San Jose.

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But \$105,000 a year isn’t house-buying money in Silicon Valley, and the Singhs have the black mark of an eviction notice against them because of their noisy children. “You can throw money after scarce apartments all you want, but with an eviction you’re not getting anything,” said Maury Kendall of the Emergency Housing Consortium. So the Singhs are part of a new trend in homelessness. “It’s no longer hobos and bums. It’s working people -- moms and dads impacted by the economic boom.”

It is also a quirk of geography compounded by economics. The math is simple. The median apartment rental price is \$1,600. There is a 5 percent vacancy rate in Silicon Valley. Rentals are at a premium; landlords rule.

“Why should a landlord have to contend with pets or kids when there are plenty of renters without such liabilities?” Kendall asked rhetorically. “We are reaping the harvest of years of poor planning. There is no affordable housing because it doesn’t exist.”

## "Doer's Profile"

MARCH, 1985

14C Saturday, March 16, 1985 ■ San Jose Mercury News

### Doer's Profile

## Barry Del Buono



**Profession:** Director of the Emergency Housing Consortium of Santa Clara County, an organization that provides temporary shelter for the homeless. "Most of my efforts involve fund raising and attempts to increase the level of consciousness in the community. I have to shake a lot of money trees."

**Age:** 33.

**Marital Status:** Married 11 months to Peggy Coleman.

director of Loaves & Fishes, a soup kitchen serving the poor.

**Children:** A 15-month-old foster son named Micah. "He's a real gift."

**Home:** "It's a big, rambling Victorian home in downtown San Jose that consumes labor and supplies. Micah runs around in the backyard with the chickens and rabbits."

**History:** Catholic priest for five years. "I felt called to work outside the priesthood where I could accomplish more for the poor. You have to be true to who you are and what you want to be."

**Working on:** "Our six shelters provide emergency housing for 500 people every night. We are always full. A staff of counselors, teachers, and volunteers works to help these people get reestablished. Saul Alinsky said, 'Don't do something for someone that they can do for themselves.' We don't give charity . . . we help people to help themselves."

**Quote:** "Most of the 5,000 homeless people in the county are children. That scares us. They are the real victims. If we don't provide opportunities for them, we're setting ourselves up for a future generation of poor."

**Personal heroes:** "Cesar Chavez. He worked in the community to improve the quality of life. His work was a form of ministry — and it has become his life."

**Best time of my life:** "When Micah came into our home and when I married Peggy. I felt like I finally had a family, and a place to hang my hat."

*Do you know somebody who devotes his or her time to helping others? If so, write Doer's Profile, c/o Religion Editor, San Jose Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Dr., San Jose 95190. Please include information on where your Doer can be contacted.*

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“Anniversary marks fifteen years of hope.”

1995

► *The work continues...*

## Anniversary marks fifteen years of hope

1995 marks the fifteenth year of operation for the Emergency Housing Consortium—fifteen years of working to end homelessness, one life at a time!

Formed in 1980 as an outgrowth of a “feed the needy” project in San José, EHC has grown to encompass a complete continuum of care for homeless people, providing shelter and services to over 6000 people every year. The agency’s most recent budget showed revenues and expenditures of over \$3 million, making EHC one of Santa Clara County’s largest social-service non-profits.

An original member of the EHC team, Executive Director Barry Del Buono notes that “...in fifteen years, we’ve made an impact on literally thousands and thousands of lives. It’s great to see such positive energy in our dedicated staff, changing lives and working to end homelessness.”



*Special logo commemorates EHC’s anniversary*

EHC’s life-saving continuum of care ranges from temporary emergency shelter to comprehensive transitional programs to permanent and affordable housing. And as long as people become homeless, EHC—with the support of the community, with *your* support—will be there to offer creative solutions that work.

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**Business Week**

"Down and Out in Silicon Valley"

MARCH, 2000

**BusinessWeek**

MARCH 27, 2000

Social Issues  
**INEQUALITY**

# DOWN AND OUT IN SILICON VALLEY

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Plenty are left behind by the greatest wealth machine in history

*"We're a high-productivity economy, which puts a premium on talent," says Joint Venture President Rueben Barrales. "If you're not part of that, you're left out."*

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Plenty are left behind by the greatest wealth machine in history. We're a high-productivity economy, which puts a premium on talent, says Joint Venture President Rueben Barrales.

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"Old Agnews building to be used as dormitory for destitute"

AUGUST, 1983

— San Jose Mercury News ■ Saturday, August 6, 1983 5B —

# Old Agnews building to be used as dormitory for destitute

By Maline Hazle  
Staff Writer

An aging building at Agnews State Hospital will be converted to a shelter for homeless families.

The 22,000-square-foot building will be leased to the Emergency Housing Consortium of Santa Clara County. Papers sealing the deal were signed Thursday, consortium director Barry Delbuono said.

The two-story dormitory, which has been vacant for seven years, will house as many as 35 families — or about 100 people — a night, Delbuono said.

"It's been vacant since Ronald Reagan was governor, so Mother Nature has started moving back in. But we hope to have it cleaned up and open Sept. 1," Delbuono said. The dormitory had become vacant because of cutbacks made in the state's mental institution budget.

The added beds at Agnews will mean the consortium can house 300 people each day. The consortium already operates apartment buildings in San Jose and Gilroy.

But, even with the added beds, the consortium still will have to turn away as many as 25 families a day who need shelter, Delbuono predicted.

"In the last six months, we've provided housing for 384 families, which translates into 1,292 individuals," he said. "But we've turned away another 1,118 families. That's 3,424 people."

With the increasing demand for emergency housing in mind, he said, the housing

consortium is eyeing a second vacant dormitory on the Agnews grounds.

The consortium will pay the state \$5,000 a month for the first dormitory.

"But even though we're paying a lot of money, the state is throwing in the utilities, which is about \$1,500 a month," he said.

Delbuono and his staff had hoped that requests for housing would dip during the summer, but the opposite has proved true.

"I guess it's probably because a lot more people move on in search of jobs in good weather," he said. "We'll get that second facility if this is not adequate."

"We hope that over a period of time we can close down the shelters — kind of move ourselves out of a job. The economy is turning around, but not like when you quickly turn around a dinghy and move the other direction. For the poor people, it's like a supertanker that moves slowly and needs 20 miles of ocean to change direction."

The consortium telephone number is (408) 293-8202.

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# EHC Update

"City, Red Cross and EHC  
create a place to call home"

SPRING, 2002

# EHC Update

Emergency Housing Consortium Spring, 2002

*For victims of domestic disasters: Bay Area's only refuge*

## City, Red Cross and EHC create a place to call home

We've all seen the headlines: "Families homeless after 2 alarm fire." Confusion, uncertainty and fear take hold when sudden disasters strike, all made worse when home and possessions go up in smoke. Where do these families turn for help?

Now they have a place to call home.

A unique partnership between the City of San Jose's Homeless Services Department, the American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter and Emergency Housing Consortium (EHC) has created "The Haven," a temporary living center for up to four families who have been displaced due to fire, flood or other domestic disaster.

"This is a rare combination of strengths, combining the best skills of three groups to provide much needed disaster relief for citizens of San Jose," says EHC Executive Director, Barry Del Buono. Del Buono explains that the City providing the funding for the program; the Red Cross provides immediate relief and program support; and EHC owns and operates the building, located south of downtown San Jose.

Now, when disaster – day or night—a Red Cross specialist will help the victims find temporary accommodation, and then can refer them to The Haven for longer-term help. Families can stay at The Haven for up to 30 days while resettling into new homes.

"In this tight housing market, a 'temporary' dislocation can add up to permanent housing loss. The Haven is designed to keep that from happening...to provide a little breathing room for people in need," says Del Buono.

The Haven celebrated its Grand Opening on April 4, 2002, and is ready to offer comfort to families now. Contributions to aid families affected by domestic disasters are welcomed at EHC: call us at 408/294-2100, ext. 406 to offer your support. Victims of domestic disasters can call the American Red Cross emergency response number at 408/577-1000 for support, and to access The Haven's shelters.



*Another example of Silicon Valley's innovative spirit: shelter designed specifically for victims of domestic disaster. The foresight and compassion of the City of San Jose, the disaster-relief expertise of the American Red Cross, and the renowned hospitality of the Emergency Housing Consortium combine at The Haven.*

### Volunteers with spirit needed for America Festival!

Summer is just around the corner, and with it: EHC's annual celebration of the American Spirit, the San Jose America Festival. Hundreds of volunteers help us create the Bay Area's best party...join the fun! Contact Nona White at 408/882-5082, or email Nona at [volunteers@filco.com](mailto:volunteers@filco.com).

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## "The High-Tech Homeless: Silicon Valley, a Dark Side to Booming Economy"

FEBRUARY, 2000

### EXCERPT:

Each night, on the floor of a church that sits a few hundred yards from the campus of Apple Computer Inc., software executive Gordon Seybold unfurls a bedroll and attempts sleep. It rarely comes. He often spends hours staring into blackness, wondering how Silicon Valley's wealth stampede could keep rushing past a man with his résumé.

Last January, Seybold lost his job as a corporate sales manager for Oakland-based C2Net Software Inc., where he said he was on track to earn \$125,000 last year, including commissions. He tried to find a new job, came close a few times, but ultimately turned up nothing after several months. In August, he was evicted from his \$1,600-a-month apartment in West San Jose. Since then Seybold, who holds three degrees and speaks five languages, has landed on the Silicon Skids, joining a fast-growing homeless population that might be the best credentialed in the nation.

CUPERTINO, Calif.—Each night, on the floor of a church that sits a few hundred yards from the campus of Apple Computer Inc., software executive Gordon Seybold unfurls a bedroll and attempts sleep. It rarely comes. He often spends hours staring into blackness, wondering how Silicon Valley's wealth stampede could keep rushing past a man with his résumé.

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# The High-Tech Homeless

## In Silicon Valley, a Dark Side to Booming Economy



**Tough Times:** Tracy Ramirez and her daughters Serena, 3, above center, and Cassandra, 9, sit on the porch of their one-room "transitional home." Gordon Seybold, right, was laid off from his job and now sleeps in a homeless shelter.



PHOTOS BY STEVE CASTILLO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

See HOMELESS, A13, Col. 1

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2000

## San Jose Mercury News

### "Home Stretch"

# HOME STRETCH

Santa Clara complex to offer housing, education, family help for homeless



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GARY REYES — MERCURY NEWS

The emergency shelter at the Sobrato Family Living Center will offer these apartment units where the homeless can stay for up to 90 days. Also to be offered are 30 permanent subsidized housing units for low-income families and 10 transitional housing units.

BY BETTY BARNACLE  
Mercury News Staff Writer

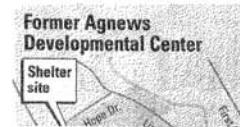
**T**HANKSGIVING IS more than a bounty of traditional foods. It's a time to reflect on and share the important things in life.

This holiday season, Santa Clara County advocates for the homeless have a special reason for giving thanks.

A \$7.8 million complex is being built for needy families who will find shelter and continuing assistance in a blend of emergency transitional and permanently subsidized housing. The Emergency Housing Consortium's (EHC) three-acre project will be in Santa Clara's first new neighborhood in years.

"We are thankful to be able to add new programs to help people," said Barry Del Buono, EHC executive director. "But we also are reminded of the ever-increasing need."

The Sobrato Family Living Center will have 50 units when it



Students from St. John Vianney School in San Jose check out stuffed animals in a bedroom at the center. All children at the center will get a stuffed animal.

tion for an area recreation center in San Jose. Residents of

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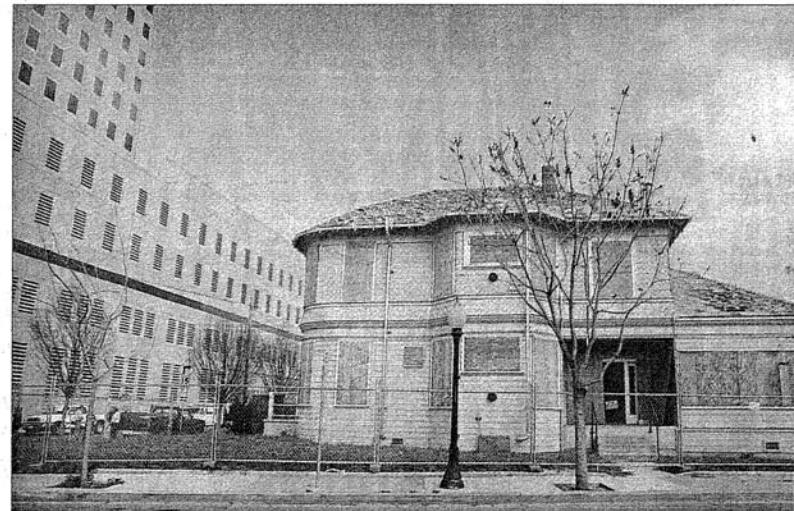
"Landmarks Get New Life:  
Historic House Will Serve Teens"

APRIL, 2003

4/21/03  
PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HERITAGE

# LANDMARKS GET NEW LIFE

## Historic house will serve teens

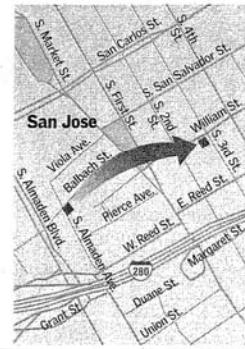


RICK E. MARTIN — MERCURY NEWS

The Greeninger House, with Victorian features, was built by a San Jose wagon maker and politician.

### On the move

The Greeninger House will move from the corner of Almaden Avenue and Balbach Street to South Third and William streets.



### SAN JOSE: 100-YEAR-OLD GREENINGER STRUCTURE WILL BE MOVED, REBUILT

By Janice Rombeck  
*Mercury News*

Her windows are boarded, the wraparound porch is gone, and there is little left inside to tell the story of life in 1903 San Jose.

But at the insistence of a preservation-minded community, the two-story historic home in the path of a convention center expansion will get a new life in another downtown neighborhood.

Next year, the 100-year-old Greeninger House will move from the corner of Almaden Avenue and Balbach Street to Third and William streets to become part of Our House, a shelter for homeless teens that will also provide apartments for City Year volunteers.

Jose historic homes have been restored or renovated for new uses, this is the first time an old home will be moved to be part of a larger project.

The idea came from Don Galliardi, a community activist and member of the Preservation Action Council, San Jose's watchdog of historic structures. At one of 19 community meetings held by the city to get neighborhood acceptance and involvement in the Our House project, he suggested that the San Jose Redevelopment Agency use a couple of historic buildings as part of the design.

The Greeninger House, built

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**San Jose Mercury News**  
*The Newspaper of Silicon Valley*

1B SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS ■ Local ■ WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2000

## New Sun campus combines public and private uses

Offices, auditorium and park replace old Agnews center

BY LAURA KURTZMAN  
Mercury News

In an arrangement that appears unique among Silicon Valley companies for its benefits to the public, Sun Microsystems today unveils a new Santa Clara campus that breaks down some of the barriers between the high-tech economy and the community in which it has grown. Instead of acres of arid parking lots, the campus entrance is a tree-studded public park with restrooms and picnic benches provided by Sun.

The company auditorium is a refurbished historic building that will soon play host to community fundraisers as well as product launches. Across the street is a homeless shelter, built in part with Sun's money and expecting a bounty of volunteer help from Sun employees.

Built on the site of the old Agnews Developmental Center, Sun's new 82-acre campus has not appeased all of its critics, but it has gone further than any other in finding ways to funnel some of the high-tech economy's huge wealth back to the community.

"What Sun Microsystems is doing is breaking new ground for the kind of public and private partnership that's required in Silicon Valley to create a place people can live," said Barry Del Buono, executive director of the Emergency Housing Consortium.

The company has spared no detail in finding practical ways to make its new campus available to the public, although the million square feet of office space will be off limits.

Buying furniture for the auditorium, Iris Gai, the campus project manager, considered not only what might work for a company presentation but also what could withstand punishment from a troop of Boy Scouts.

"In working it out, we always thought, what is it the community is going to need and what are we going to need," she said.

Already, neighborhood kids have begun riding their Razor scooters in the 14-acre park. A high school jazz band and local choral, chamber music and ballet groups have performed in the refurbished auditorium. Soon, the refurbished 1912 director's mansion will be available for private dinners -- even weddings.

To gain development rights, other local companies have agreed to set aside land for a threatened owl species, build parks and pay housing fees.

But none has gone as far as Sun, which also agreed to landscape a turn-of-the-century cemetery, move an old Agnews building so it could be a new city library, pay for a history of the Agnews campus and not only improve its public park but pay to maintain it.

"It's just one of those things that's hard to believe," said Larry Wolfe, Santa Clara's director of parks and recreation, which will be handling booking arrangements for the new facilities.

Developing Agnews was especially contentious because some in the community fought to preserve the turn-of-the century buildings, saying they were the last vestige of Santa Clara's disappearing history.

Despite an all-out campaign to stop the development, the preservationists lost narrowly before the city council, which voted 4-3 in favor of the project. Residents also embraced the development in a citywide vote.

Former Mayor Everett "Eddie" Souza, who helped lead the campaign against Sun's development, said he would shun the new campus, despite its public amenities.

"It should have been saved for housing instead of another industrial campus," he said, adding that by creating more jobs, the city was worsening the valley's housing shortage. "And now we're paying the price for it."

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*...from the San Jose Mercury News, Thursday, November 17, 1994*

## Year-round shelter proposed for North S.J.

### ■ Shelter may take place of armories

BY BILL ROMANO  
Mercury News Staff Writer

With Wednesday's reopening of the National Guard Armory cold weather shelter program in San Jose, officials announced plans for a year-round emergency housing facility for the homeless.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Ron Gonzales said the new shelter — proposed for an industrial area of North San Jose — is expected to serve as a housing replacement when the armory program expires in two years.

With the cooperation of local non-profit groups and government, the so-called reception center is designed to provide a long-term solution to homelessness for families and individuals, Gonzales said.

The proposed facility, on Timothy Drive, would be built in a huge warehouse owned by CityTeam Ministries. Backers of the \$3.5 million project say it would be a safe place for sleeping up to 250 people a night and offer rehabilitation services through a computer network system.



About two dozen people lined up for the opening Wednesday of the armory in downtown San Jose

The Emergency Housing Consortium, which would run the program, is negotiating to buy the warehouse. An application for a conditional-use permit is pending before the San Jose Planning Department. There are no homes in the area, which is bordered by Berryessa Road, Highway 101 and Coyote Creek. Neighboring properties are occupied by light-industrial firms, including an electrical shop and a commercial medical laboratory.

San Jose Councilwoman Margie Fernandes, who earlier indicated that the project might be suited for the area, said Wednesday that the shelter remains a controversial issue in the district. Fernandes said she wants to see what the planning department has to say about the facility's impact on the area.

"We are proceeding slowly until we have all of the facts," said Fernandes. "It's not time (yet) for the council to approve or disapprove the location."

Timoteo Vasquez, a consortium official,

said a planning decision is expected in March. If a permit is granted, the purchase can be finalized and renovation of the warehouse can begin. The project would be up and running by April 1996, he said.

The armory's cold weather shelter programs around the state, including those in Gilroy and Sunnyvale, were scheduled for permanent closing in April. But recent legislation extended that deadline for an additional year.

Last winter, the county sheltered as many as 500 people a night at the three armories in Santa Clara County. Estimates of the county's homeless population range from 8,000 to 20,000.

The proposed new shelter is being planned by representatives of the Emergency Housing Consortium, the Salvation Army, CityTeam ministries, InnVision, the Santa Clara Valley Multi-Service center and the San Jose Family Shelter.

©1994, San Jose Mercury News

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# San Jose Mercury News

## “Shelter and Beyond”

DECEMBER, 1999

San Jose Mercury News

Opinion  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1999

## Shelter and beyond

THE Sobrato Family Living Center in Santa Clara should be the wave of the future for homeless care. Shelter alone isn't the answer.

This latest Emergency Housing Consortium project includes transitional housing for families working their way out of homelessness, as well as some long-term housing for low-wage earners. There will be computer training, with the help of Sun Microsystems, which is building a campus across the street. There'll be services for kids.

Santa Clara is helping pay for the center, but its most significant contribution is approving it on the former Agnews campus, much of which will be upscale housing. The Sobrato center will keep alive the Agnews spirit of helping the less fortunate.

Shelter alone can be a blessing. But homelessness isn't a finite problem, with X number of people to keep from the cold. Many families with working parents teeter on the brink of homelessness. When they topple, they don't just need a roof over their heads, they need help getting up again. Homeless care in Santa Clara County is moving in that direction, and the Sobrato center is a fine step forward.

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SEPTEMBER, 2000

**1B**

**San Jose Mercury News**

**The Valley ■ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2000**

# FIRST CLASS GRADUATES



EUGENE M. LOUIE - MERCURY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS

## Job program rescues homeless

BY BETTY BARNACLE  
Mercury News

Nine homeless clients of the Emergency Housing Consortium have received the elusive key to leaving the streets forever: a good job.

They are the first to complete a pilot work program created jointly by the consortium, a corporation and a union.

"The program is a godsend," said Shannon Worley, 38, one of the graduates.

Four months ago, Worley was sleeping on a cot in a room full of other needy men. This week, wearing a California Waste Management shirt with "Shannon" embroidered on the pocket, Worley accepted a plaque for finishing the Collaborative Employment Program.

Under the program, EHC provides shelter and employment services; Waste Management provides employment and job training; and Teamsters Local 350, also known as the Sanitary Truck Drivers and Helpers Union, provides apprenticeship training support, union representation and benefits.

Worley lost his San Jose job as a cabinetmaker last November when there wasn't enough work for three employees and he was the last hired. His savings and unemployment payments quickly ran out.

"I've been homeless since Feb. 28," he said.

He heard about the shelter at EHC and was admitted just when the collaborative program started four months ago.

CONT'D

Paul Young, Chris Hixon and Shannon Worley, top, from left, and Errol Toledo, above, sort recyclables at Waste Management Inc. in San Jose. They are clients of the Emergency Housing Consortium who went through a job-training program designed to make them self-sufficient.

This reprint courtesy of **Emergency Housing Consortium**

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MAY, 1993

*...from the San Jose Mercury News, Sunday, May 16, 1994*

## S.J. needs new center for homeless

### ■ Homeless shelter deserves funding

BY BARRY DEL BUONO

**S**IICON VALLEY. Birthplace of invention. Cradle of ingenuity. Hotbed of the high-tech industry. Haven for the middle class. Home to the homeless.

The latter, of course, doesn't square with our upbeat perception of our region. But the numbers don't lie. Although it is impossible to be exact in a census of the valley's homeless population, estimates last year ranged from 8,000 to 22,000 homeless people in the metropolitan San Jose area.

In a philosophical reversal, we, the sheltered, are the outsiders looking in and wondering, where do we go from here?

We could begin to shape a powerful response to that question on Thursday, when the San Jose City Council will vote on an appropriation for a new shelter, which can be the critical piece in solving the homeless puzzle. Long the model for technological progress, this new shelter can be the first stop in using our high-tech inventiveness and ingenuity to pioneer social advancement. More succinctly, we can, if we choose, elevate people.

The new \$3.5 million shelter, which would be located in San Jose, would be cooperatively funded by Santa Clara County cities. San Jose's share

would pay \$2.5 million of the total. The shelter would house up to 250 street people 365 nights a year, far more importantly, though, is the role it could play in impacting homeless people's lives, an objective that is obvious from its name: The Reception Center.

In the short term, it would be a year-round hospice to offer homeless people services and recovery programs while providing basic needs such as:

- Individual case management (including a possible computerized tracking element)
- Beds for de-tox center clients.
- Medical services for the homeless (which are currently provided for a mobile unit).

■ Beds for the mentally ill.

In the larger picture, this new shelter can be pivotal to a continuum of services that will address the homeless issue in a profound - and in the lexicon of the '90s, collaborative - way if we react correctly. If we do not, well, it will simply be the biggest Band-Aid you've ever seen.

We can use this shelter to effectively move toward ending homelessness. Or, we can use it to get the homeless off the streets. There is quite a distinction between the two.

The most immediate requirement is to bring about a communitywide understanding

of the homeless population, an awareness of the infrastructure that currently exists to address its needs, and a leap of faith that we can really do something to positively influence the lives of these people.

#### False impressions

The perception of many — too many — is that the preponderance of street people are inebriants, drug addicts, mentally ill people, people who fell through the cracks, and that all that can be done to assist them is to clothe, feed, and provide temporary shelter from winter's chilly blast.

A seismic shift began to take place among the homeless population in the late '70s and early '80s. Its most noticeable manifestation: The average age of a homeless person today is probably 24 to 25 years. San Jose's homeless are throwaway kids, kids running away from pedophiles and God knows what other ugliness, young mothers with small children, displaced youths and entire families. An influx of the new poor now stands in the same soup lines with the ragged old men in their shabby old coats.

The shift in the homeless population needs to be met by a shift in attitudes. There needs to be an entrepreneurial spirit, which, in turn, can bring about new life-stabilizing programs

and could be one of the first steps in Clinton administration's stated effort to end welfare in the United States.

Before the homeless can be put in affordable housing, several things need to happen that will provide a cure for homelessness. Without the preliminary steps by shelters, service agencies, government and community leaders, all the affordable housing in the world wouldn't be enough.

The envisioned continuum would provide the necessary structure. It would be a coordinated, collaborative and cost-effective system in which agencies, companies and individuals would join together to create a process of unduplicated services. The product of the continuum would be a restored dignity and respectability that would ultimately enable homeless people to live independently and productively.

The continuum begins with redefining the role of shelters. They can provide critical life support, but they alone cannot change people's lives. What shelters can do is lure people off the streets, thereby creating the atmosphere for life-changing miracles to occur. This process - getting a job for one person, helping another to become clean and sober — starts at a higher level with assistance from many different sources.

Shelters need to work in direct concert with programs for drug abuse and alcoholism, mental illness, battered women, job training, education and the valley's many other excellent social services. Over time, these services can be as effective as the Council on Aging, which has fostered legislation for older displaced people and given them a better existence.

Understandably, some of the homeless are going to need help with housing for the rest of their lives; however, there are others who have steady jobs but are not yet earning enough to fulfill their dreams of getting into housing. Ultimately, permanent housing for this faction may come from a number of sources, such as the conversion of old motels.

The Reception Center should not be viewed as an independent structure, but as the ground floor on which a model, multi-tiered system can be built. The San Jose City Council can drive home the first nail on Thursday, and then we can all start hammering away.

*Barry Del Buono is the Executive Director of the Emergency Housing Consortium and has worked with the county's homeless population for 15 years. © San Jose Mercury News*

## EXCERPT:

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# Morgan Hill Times

## "Homeless Find Some Help"

APRIL, 1986

# MORGAN HILL TIMES April 18-1986

## Homeless find some help

This week has been declared the "Week of the Homeless" by the State of California to call attention to the housing needs of single persons, families and seniors.

The Emergency Housing Consortium of Santa Clara County, a non-profit organization that shelters the homeless, has been awarded a special recognition as one of two shelter systems in the state that serve as model programs.

Barry Del Buono, executive director of the Emergency Housing Consortium, received

the award yesterday from the Speaker of the Assembly in Sacramento.

The Emergency Housing Consortium provides shelter in San Martin to families on an emergency basis. The family is limited to 30 days in the San Martin shelter while seeking a more permanent housing.

"While they are there we work with them to obtain housing and, if necessary, a job," said Marina Gonzalez, Emergency Housing Consortium representative. "We want the families to help themselves

and not rely upon others."

The consortium also provides a shelter in San Jose for single persons.

The consortium provides daily shelter, prepared meals, child care programs, elementary education, tenant education, computerized network of housing information, and job information, according to Gonzalez.

"These services are available, through the staff and volunteers, for families, singles and seniors in a home-like atmosphere," she said.

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JULY, 1995

*...from The Morgan Hill Times Tuesday, July 11, 1995*

## Grant helps shelter expand

■ \$698,000 grant will allow SM center to house 28 families

**By JIM HARRINGTON**

Staff Writer

Federal funds awarded Monday morning should enable a local shelter to nearly triple its capacity to house the homeless.

The San Martin Family Living Center received about \$698,000 from the U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). San Martin housing officials plan to use that money to increase the facility's capacity from 10 homeless families to 28.

The San Martin facility was funded at 100 percent of what organizers had asked for from the federal government.

Construction of the new living units in San Martin is slated to begin in September 1996 and be completed in April 1997. Officials expect to have the units occupied by May 1997.

HUD representative Art Agnos, former San Francisco mayor, announced local awards from a nationwide \$900 million pool of federal funds.

All together, nine Santa Clara

County homeless service projects received \$10.7 million in funding — which thrilled the providers at Monday morning's press conference in San Jose.

“There was spontaneous cheering and applause — I've been to very few press conferences where that happened,” said Maury Kendall, spokesman for Emergency Housing Consortium, which runs the San

development workshops emphasizing employment training, as well as job referrals. The idea is that during a family's stay in the transitional home, they would be able to find the means to afford other housing — such as permanent affordable housing. Kendall said that Agnos attributed the increase in funding to a collaborative effort from the

**“There was spontaneous cheering and applause — I've been to very few press conferences where that happened.”**

— MAURY KENDALL, EMERGENCY HOUSING CONSORTIUM

Martin program. The \$10.7 million is an increase from the \$1.5 million awarded last year.

San Martin's 18 new units will be transitional homes.

“It's the transition from emergency shelter to permanent housing,” Kendall said.

Those families who use transitional homes will be allowed to live in the units for a maximum of two years. They are also allowed to use the support services offered through the San Martin Family Living Center, such as case management and skill

different county homeless providers worked together in complimentary fashion with each other — such as a housing provider teaming up with a skills trainer and a local food program — in order to offer a more comprehensive program. Kendall said that HUD is more willing to fund comprehensive programs than it is to fund individual components. The money used for the projects will come from the federal Super-Notice of Funding Availability grants pool.

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**"Emergency shelter finds a home"**

# Emergency shelter finds a home

## SM motel leased for six months

By Rob Hof  
Dispatch Staff Writer

GILROY — "This is it!" a triumphant Marilyn Mills cried Tuesday to the homeless families assembled at the emergency shelter on Luchessa Avenue. "We've got our housing."

The shelter coordinator had just gotten word that the center, which must move out Thursday to make way for migrant farmworkers, will have a new home at a motel in San Martin. She and some of the families still without a place to live can move in Friday.

It won't be quite as good a deal for the families as the nearly free units at the migrant camp, but Mills had despaired of finding anything at all. Residents will have to pay at least \$325-a-month rent, and shelter officials will have to come up with enough money to buy the \$300,000 complex if they want to keep it open permanently.

But residents will have a home for two or three months to come up with jobs to pay the rent. Until now they could stay only 30 days. And if officials can raise the money within six months, the shelter again will become almost free.

Besides, for most of the families who have passed through the Luchessa camp, the issue has not been money but housing. Most say they can find jobs with little problem, but they can't find a place to live in South County's tight rental market in order to stay on the job.

Coordinators at the shelter



Shutters painted by Steve Fleshman will greet homeless families at San Martin motel.



Dispatch photo by Rob Hof

Please see Motel, page A8

Families at Luchessa camp met Tuesday for last time before moving to new quarters.

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"Many in Silicon Valley  
Cannot Afford Housing,  
Even at \$50,000 a Year"

FEBRUARY, 2000

"All the news  
that's fit to print."

# The New York Times

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2000

National Edition  
Complete coverage of national  
and international news,  
sports, business and weather.

## Many in Silicon Valley Cannot Afford Housing, Even at \$50,000 a Year

By EVELYN NIEVES

SAN JOSE, CA—It is long past midnight as the No. 22 bus lumbers down the spine of Silicon Valley carrying 12 passengers with nowhere to go.

The bus rolls past \$1 million, three-bedroom ranches on quarter-acre lots, driveways where Range Rovers are the second car, towns where millionaires are minted every day. The passengers keep their eyes shut, or on the floor.

They have two hours to catch a bumpy nap before the No. 22, the only bus in the valley that runs 24 hours a day, finishes its 26-mile circuit from here to Menlo Park and back. Then they must get off and wait 10 or 15 minutes before they can climb aboard again, using their \$3 all-day pass for another two-hour run on the bus known these days, these hours, as "the rolling hotel."

Most of them work full time. One is a cashier at a toy store. Another works at a box factory. Another says he juggles three part-time jobs. But in the dot-com land of milk and honey, where the median family income, \$82,000, is the highest in the nation (and an average of 63 people hit the millionaire mark every day), nontech jobs just do not pay the rent.

With all the new money floating around, the most expensive housing market in the country and the densest concentration of investment capital in the world, there is no other place in the country that offers a starker example of the growing gap between the rich and poor.

Stock option millionaires bid on houses as though they were buying Van Goghs. A four-bedroom contemporary in Palo Alto, for example, that was priced at \$2.2 million sold for \$3.2 million, while a one-bedroom cottage listed at \$495,000 sold for \$750,000.

At the same time, more and more working people are becoming homeless: 34 percent of the estimated 20,000 homeless people in Santa Clara County in 1999 had full-time jobs, up from 25 percent in 1995. And those figures fail to count the growing number of families doubled up in single apartments, or paying \$400 a month to live in a garage or to sleep on a stranger's living-room floor.

And it is not just the minimum-wage earner who is scrambling to survive here. More teachers, police officers, firefighters, commissioned salespeople — all people who make more than \$50,000 a year and would be comfortably middle-class in many other places — are seeking the services of area homeless shelters.

In Silicon Valley, "poor" means a family of four scraping by on \$53,100 a year or an individual earning less than \$37,200, federal housing officials say. No wonder, then, that even some high-tech workers, those in the entry-level jobs, end up on the church soup lines.

"Over the last five years, we have seen a sharp increase in the number of families and working poor who become homeless almost exclusively due to the outrageous cost of housing in Silicon Valley," said Jan Bernstein, a spokeswoman for InnVision, a nonprofit group here that provides 300 shelter beds and serves 850 meals a day to the needy.

"More than half the people staying in shelters are employed," Ms. Bernstein, said. "They lose their housing first, then try to hang onto their job."

At the richest time in the richest region in the richest nation in the world, less than 30 percent of the households here can afford to buy a house. The median price for a house in Silicon Valley, \$410,000, is more than twice that for the rest of the country. Renting is increasingly out of range for the average worker as well. Two out of 5 valley residents cannot afford to rent the average two-bedroom apartment, which is about \$1,700.

Even studios in inferior neighborhoods cost more than 1,000 a month, and that does not include the three months' rent landlords typically ask to secure an apartment.

With waiting time for subsidized housing up to several years, the situation will only get worse, housing officials say. Indeed, the housing burden is the main reason why more people are leaving Silicon Valley these days than arriving, according to the state's Department of Finance.

For people who are not rich in Silicon Valley, getting sick or laid off or losing a second income means catastrophe. Tammy Morales, a \$15-an-hour dental assistant with two teenagers and a 6-month-old, discovered that when she and her husband separated two months ago. The rent on her two-bedroom apartment in Campbell, a suburb bordering San Jose, is \$1,425, impossible to manage on her salary, with her family's needs. Five days after she missed paying her rent, she received an eviction notice.

"I've always worked and have never asked for help," said Ms. Morales, who had her first child when she was 15. "But I never thought I wouldn't be able to afford to live where I've lived all my life."

The apartment hunting is not going well. Weeks tick on, and all she has found for the \$1,100 a month she can barely afford is a one-bedroom walk-up in a falling down building in south San Jose, the neighborhood she knew growing up as the bad side of town.

"It's getting ridiculous," Ms. Morales said. "My friend's father has a house for rent here. He was asking \$1,800, and he is getting calls from people offering twice that much, without even seeing it."

Ms. Morales received a one-time \$700 check last month from the Sacred Heart Community Service in San Jose, which offers emergency housing assistance, meals, job training, counseling, clothes and other services to help those who are

Continued on Page 2

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# Gilroy Dispatch

"City gives Ochoa Center  
\$15,000 to help homeless"

DECEMBER, 1993

## City gives Ochoa center \$15,000 to help homeless

By Amy Collins/Staff Writer

GILROY — The Gilroy City Council promised \$15,000 Monday to help a migrant center east of town remain open through the winter to house homeless families.

The Arturo Ochoa Migrant Housing Center, used for winter shelter the last eight years, faced a large debt because its winter operators did not anticipate its beds would be available this year.

Barry Del Buono, Emergency Housing Consortium's executive director, told the council his organization had not planned its budget properly to be able to run the center when it came available.

"We've always been hoping that the money will come. It's not a good way to do financial planning," Del Buono acknowledged.

The city allocated a \$6,000 federal grant in February to EHC, which at that time planned to operate only the Gilroy National Guard Armory for shelter since Ochoa had been scheduled as unavailable due to major renovations.

But since the renovation was once again delayed, EHC found the center available but no money to operate it. The city's Housing and Community Development Grant Coordinator Em Rojas said she learned only in October that EHC did not plan to operate Ochoa this winter.

Ochoa has 50 units available this winter, but is already at capacity, according to Del Buono. The Armory has 100 beds.

"There is a large homeless population here in Gilroy. Some of it may be transient, but some of it is real and here," Rojas said.

She recommended the council

grant \$15,000 from a city account which has more funds than anticipated. The housing rehabilitation account is available for low and very-low income residents seeking low-interest home loans. Its balance has exceeded the \$1 million goal, according to Rojas.

"We have had some extra paybacks into that loan fund," Rojas said. "I don't believe that \$15,000 at this point in time is going to hurt the fund."

The council agreed that the allocation would be a one-time-only emergency grant.

"This should not be a precedent," City Administrator Jay Baks said.

Councilman Mike Gilroy said he was concerned that EHC competed with other community organizations for the annual grants in February, but is now seeking special consideration.

Gilroy, along with all other council members, voted to approve the request.

"Four days before Christmas I'm not about to vote that there's no room at the inn," Councilman Paul Kloecker said.

The city's contribution will be combined with \$15,000 from Morgan Hill and \$25,000 from the county to pay for management costs, insurance, maintenance and other expenses. Del Buono said EHC has tacit approval from both groups for those funds.

Del Buono said Ochoa could not have remained open all winter without the city's contribution. "All we will do is run it until we don't have any money left," Del Buono said before the council's vote.

"If Gilroy helps us out tonight, we will have all the financial pieces in place for a real positive program."

## EXCERPT:

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Gilroy Dispatch, w/o 12/23/93

**American News Service**  
**"Homeless Shelter Overcomes NIMBY Opposition"**

AUGUST, 1998



## **Homeless Shelter Overcomes NIMBY Opposition**

By The American News Service  
August 24, 1998

SAN JOSE, CALIF. (ANS) When the house she was taking care of in lieu of rent was washed away by El Nino rains this summer, Karen Norman had nowhere to go. So she walked seven miles from the hills outside San Jose to the city.

Soon, Norman, 45, had settled in as one of 125 homeless people living at the new \$6.6 million Regional Reception Center. "If this wasn't here, I probably would have sat on the hill and waited for this life to end," she said.

Before it could make a difference to the lives of people like Norman, the center had to overcome the resistance of a neighborhood strongly opposed to a homeless shelter setting up in its midst.

John Ford, spokesman for the Little Orchard Concerned Citizens, conceded that his neighborhood had a classic case of NIMBY (not in my backyard). "We didn't want to lose property values and safety," Ford said. "If that was a Lions Club or an old folks home, we would have said nothing."

But because it was the largest homeless shelter in the San Francisco Bay area, designed to house up to 250 people, the citizens of the Little Orchard neighborhood had plenty to say.

"NIMBY is the norm in any city," said San Jose homeless coordinator Vivian Frelix-Hart. "If we went out in the country where there was no one, we'd still hear objections."

The residents hired an attorney to contest the city's decision to put a shelter in a building in their neighborhood, which is actually mostly industrial, and to challenge the conditions for doing so. The roughly 200 residents from about 50 houses and businesses spent about \$10,000 in legal fees.

The Little Orchard Concerned Citizens gathered 2,000 signatures in opposition to the shelter and bused in hundreds of people to attend meetings of San Jose's planning commission and city council.

"Our attorney knew we weren't going to win," said Ford. "He advised that we concentrate on the conditional uses of the shelter."

Although they couldn't head it off, the neighborhood group succeeded in making sure the shelter would operate at half capacity during spring and summer months, when demand is normally down. The city agreed to put in sidewalks and outside lights.

Still, there were problems, including vandalism, trespassing, drinking, sleeping and urinating outside the

shelter. Ford recorded examples of such behavior on videotape and received a prompt response from the city. "The city took immediate action," said Ford. "Now it's like the shelter isn't even there. I've congratulated the shelter. Things are great now."

To keep things on an even track, there are monthly meetings between the city, the police, the shelter and the neighborhood.

The shelter was developed with federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and community development block grants. As well as providing beds for the homeless, the Regional Reception Center offers an on-site social worker, medical clinic, drug and alcohol counseling, life skills training and job training.

Maury Kendall, communications manager for the Emergency Housing Consortium, said, "Most shelters are points of referral. This is a point of practice."

Shelter resident Norman, who recently suffered a mild heart attack and had a tumor removed from her kidney, has made use of the shelter's clinic and is working with a case manager to find another caretaker's job.

"The people who find themselves in need of a shelter need to be rehabilitated for what put them in the shelter," said Norman. "We need to eliminate the problem that brings people in here from society."

The most obvious problem people arrive with is that they can't afford homes, which is not surprising in San Jose, one of the most expensive places to live in the country. Rent for an average one-bedroom apartment is \$1,100 a month.

Recognizing that the good pay earned by local high-tech workers is one reason for climbing housing costs, several information technology companies have collectively contributed \$50,000 so far to create an online school at the shelter so that children living there will not fall behind. "It's one less stress they'd have to deal with," said Kendall. "Often at public schools, homeless kids are targets."

The plan is for the shelter's online school to have a full-time instructor and a dozen computers hooked into the Santa Clara County school system. It is expected to be fully developed within a year.

"The high-tech companies understand they are part of the homeless problem," said Kendall. "They are raising housing prices because they are attracting so many high-tech engineers to the area. They are driving up the market."

### **EXCERPT:**

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## "Pro Buono"

JANUARY, 1995

# Pro BUONO

*Barry Del Buono is a rebel with a cause — battling to make homelessness a thing of the past*

## SUNDAY PROFILE

JAN. 15, 1995

LEIGH WEIMERS

No small goals for Barry Del Buono. "I want to end homelessness in Santa Clara County by the year 2000," says the executive director of San Jose's Emergency Housing Consortium (EHC). "I need to do something besides say, 'Well, the poor will always be with you.' We can't end poverty, but let's end homelessness."

A big challenge, but Del Buono, 43, feels a solution is well under way. EHC already houses more than 1,000 persons these cold winter nights. It has joined with other non-profit groups in successful bids for governmental and private support. It is working with those groups — CityTeam Ministries, the Salvation Army, InnVision and San Jose Family Shelter — on an innovative, three-

pronged attack on homelessness called the Continuum of Care. "We're on to something in our community," he says enthusiastically. "The EHC is kind of leading the pack, making the pieces work, bringing all the different agencies together. It's really a collaborative effort. I think homelessness is a problem that can be solved locally, and I think that locally we can provide a solution that will be a model for other communities to adopt."

He says he's already getting calls from other cities and counties around the nation. You get the impression that if they weren't calling him, he'd be calling them.

Del Buono, by reputation and self-admission, is a wild man when it comes to doing something about homelessness.

A name-dropper who could compete with Liz Smith, he says he had his personality analyzed by the Enneagram method — a system that divides people into nine basic personality types on the basis of how they relate to others — at the urging of Sandhya McCracken, wife of Silicon Graphics CEO Ed McCracken.

"She said: 'Barry, I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that you're an eight, that you have a tremendous passion for trying to do that which is right. The bad news is that you don't care how you get it done, and you need to know that many eights are in jail.'

"My God!" he exclaims. "But that's me. Call me a maverick — ruthless for the right cause. I'm like Alaska — you either like me or you hate me."

A San Francisco native, Del Buono says his passion for helping others has been there since childhood. Without delving too deeply into pop psychology, it could be theorized that it's also a way of helping himself cope. "When my mom and dad were still living, they divorced," he says. "A bloody divorce; mother screaming, father excised out of the picture altogether." The family went downhill financially after the split. "I felt powerless as a kid, watching this," he admits. "I can

remember one time my mother gathering us and praying the rosary so our refrigerator wouldn't be repossessed."

### Going to church

Del Buono figured the best way to help people solve such problems was to become a Catholic priest. He entered St. Joseph's Seminary in Cupertino, completed the course of study there, was ordained and served for five years in San Jose at Sacred Heart, St. John Vianney and St. Patrick's parishes. It was at St. Patrick's, working to set up the Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen, that he met Peggy Coleman, recently divorced and a member of the Catholic Workers Movement. They fell in love. That brought up a problem: his priestly vow of celibacy.

"I realized that I'm Italian, Mediterranean, and I knew there was no way I'm going to go full term on this (the priesthood) without having a family. I wanted to share my life with another, not just with everyone. She was the one. I told the bishop about it. He wasn't pleased, but he said, 'Do what you've got to do.' I felt I couldn't do both. It was a tough decision, leaving the priesthood, but the right decision."

Del Buono and Coleman have been married for 11 years, adding two children of their own to her four, now grown.

"We have a real loving family," Del Buono says, although he admits his youngest son brought a Christmas wish list home from school, where it had been pinned on a bulletin board for all to see, reading: "Thank you, Baby Jesus, for giving us Christmas. And I wish my family would stop fighting with each other." Del Buono sighs, feigning injury. "My fighting primarily is at work, and that's in the good sense." His wife is also an eight, he says, referring again to the Enneagram personality profile. "She tries to overpower me," he claims, laughing. "She says I'm a three, a mindless busybody."

"Peggy is a real support," he adds, "a real inspiration to me."

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# Shelter News

SPRING, 1990

*1521*  
Spring, 1990

# *Shelter News*

EMERGENCY HOUSING CONSORTIUM

Vol. 1, No. 3

### Welcome

Welcome, once again, to *Shelter News!* We bring you this quarterly newsletter because we have many stories to tell:

- the stories of the more than 7,000 homeless we shelter each year
- the stories of our volunteers, staff and donors who make EHC possible
- the stories of our family shelters in Redwood City, Menlo Park, Santa Clara, San Martin and Gilroy
- the story of our Armory Cold Weather Shelter program in Sunnyvale, San Jose and Gilroy
- the story of our Sanctuary singles shelter, and our special housing for the disabled homeless in San Jose
- the story of our transitional housing program, St. Francis Farm, and our warehouse "Donated Goods Exchange" project
- the stories of how we give new hope to the homeless.
- the stories of the homeless themselves.

We tell you our stories because we hope that you will choose to share in them by joining the work of EHC.

We welcome your comments on *Shelter News*, and would be happy to add your family and friends to our mailing list.

Call us at 408/298-9657.  
Write us at P.O. Box 2346, San Jose, CA 95109. ■



### First Annual Campaign Message: "Help the Homeless Help Themselves"

Plans are underway for the Emergency Housing Consortium's first Annual Giving Campaign to raise \$5,000. With April 5th as the projected kick-off date, team captains and volunteer campaigners are being recruited, according to Mary Lang, EHC board member and chairman of this year's campaign.

"We are already experiencing an excellent response from the community", notes Lang, "With such a good response this early, I think we can expect a highly successful campaign".

Campaign captains are Bill Kitchin and Al Moreno. Campaign solicitors include Ana Hernandez, Dave Reisenhauer, Marion Tibbits, Betty Ross, Marilyn Schluter, Marisol Caballero, Darryel Nacua and Virginia Wyand (as of this printing).

Funds from this year's campaign will be used to support EHC programs such as the Family Living Center shelters for homeless families with children; Sanctuary singles shelter and "Next Step" housing for disabled homeless; the Armory cold weather shelters and the new transitional housing program for women with children in downtown San Jose (featured this Newsletter). The main goal of EHC is to empower the homeless to achieve affordable housing in a way that enhances their self-worth and maintains their dignity. ■

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OCTOBER, 2001

WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 31,  
2001

# B | The Valley

**The Mercury News**  
The Newspaper of Silicon Valley

## Teen shelter making way for new S.J. City Hall

By Edwin Garcia  
*Mercury News*

A downtown San Jose shelter for homeless teens on the site of the yet-to-be-built City Hall will be relocated under a \$3.5 million plan approved by city officials Tuesday, over the objections of some residents who claim the center is not compatible with their neighborhood.

The city council by a unanimous vote directed the San Jose Redevelopment Agency to relocate Our House, the 10-bed shelter run by the Emergency Housing Consortium, in a two-phase process.

First, the shelter will leave South Fifth Street and move a block to North Fifth Street as soon as next week. About three years later, when the consortium is expected to have raised \$8 million, the shelter would move to a permanent location at South Third and East William streets.

The permanent site would also include a transitional housing complex for the consortium and for young adults involved with City Year, the local branch of a national organization whose members are paid low wages to work on community service projects.

But a neighborhood resident who leads a coalition opposed to the development said the combined projects -- referred to as a "youth village" by a consortium official -- are unacceptable because the city and shelter officials have yet to tackle issues related to the development's effects on parking, traffic and personal safety.

"We need to address the concerns, the negative impacts, and how they can be mitigated," said Steve Cohen, whose apartment is next door to the proposed shelter at 480 S. Third St., and who has fought the proposal for several months.

Cohen submitted a petition with 90 signatures of concerned residents and said the project could cause "everlasting damage" to the neighborhood.

At the council meeting, he was outnumbered at the podium by supporters of the shelter, a few of whom shared some of his concerns but urged the council to approve the move.

Several residents praised the consortium for running the teen shelter and other shelters in a professional manner. Some shelters, said Lisa Jensen, president of the University Neighborhoods Coalition, appear from the outside to be identical to neighboring homes.

"To my knowledge, it has been a very good neighbor, never had any difficulty at all," said Jim Crawford, pastor of the First United Methodist Church near where the shelter has been the past nine years.

The shelter and its daytime drop-in center serve a variety of teenagers; many of them are Santa Clara County runaways, some are homeless youths who pass through San Jose while traveling between Southern California and Oregon.

Consortium officials have searched for a new location since 1999, when they were notified that the shelter was in the path of the new City Hall. About 35 locations were studied, with the most ideal sites near public transit.

The permanent location could include 10 apartment units for City Year participants and three apartments for the consortium's transitional living program. Redevelopment officials also are considering moving a historic house to serve as the shelter on that property.

The relocation plan approved Tuesday directs the redevelopment agency to:

- Buy for \$752,000 the existing shelter, a historic house that will be moved.
- Pay \$300,000 to rehabilitate the shelter's temporary home, which is city-owned property. Provide up to \$2.5 million to help the consortium buy and develop the permanent location.

Contact Edwin Garcia at (408)286-0264.

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The Dispatch Monday, December 17, 1984 A3

## Wilson asking cities to help save shelter

By Ken Maryanski  
Dispatch Staff Writer

GILROY — County Supervisor Susanne Wilson is appealing to the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill for money to keep the Luchessa Migrant Camp open for emergency housing this winter.

The Emergency Housing Consortium of Santa Clara County, which runs the camp for homeless families during the winter, has run out of money. The federal government recently cut off funding for emergency housing in the county because the county unemployment rate fell too low to qualify.

Caught in the middle are 20 families — about 150 people — who are staying in the camp now. Another 11 families ordered out of the Morgan Hill Apartments while repairs are made are staying at the camp, but are not affected by the funding problems.

The camp has stopped accepting any more homeless until it can come up with \$15,000 needed to keep it open through March. If the money cannot be raised soon, the camp will close next month.

Wilson will ask her colleagues on the board of supervisors Tuesday to chip in \$7,500, but wants South County to help too. Friday she called Morgan Hill Mayor Bob Foster and Gilroy Mayor Roberta Hughan to see what the cities could do.

Foster said he will bring it up at Wednesday's city council meeting. "It's a question of where we stand on our budget," he said, "and what we can afford, if anything."

Hughan will also ask the Gilroy City Council tonight for financial assistance for the camp, Wilson said.

In the meantime, private donations can be made to the Emergency Housing Consortium, attention: Gilroy shelter, P.O. Box 2346, San Jose, 95109.

### EXCERPT:

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# San Francisco Chronicle

"Santa Clara's Homeless Youths  
Living on the Edge"

MARCH, 1994

## EHC IN THE NEWS

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SF Chronicle

ON 3/28/94

### Santa Clara's Homeless Youths Living on the Edge

By David A. Sylvester  
Chronicle South Bay Bureau

After trying for years to get his mother to stop drinking and partying, 15-year-old Devin finally left to stay with friends in January. He has lost track of his mother — and doesn't really care.

"She put me through hell for the past three years," he said bitterly. "If somebody can do that to their own kids, why in the hell did

they have one in the first place?" In Santa Clara County, officials estimate that between 700 and 1,500 teenagers are homeless. Many, like Devin, are living with friends as if they were an extended family. Others are living in the streets, nestling into a dozen or so "squats," slang for hideouts in abandoned houses around downtown San Jose.

In San Francisco, homeless teenagers are easily spotted on

Polk Street or in the Haight, but in Santa Clara County they are spread throughout downtown San Jose and the nearby suburbs.

"It's harder here because they are more invisible," said Sparky Harlan, executive director of the Bill Wilson Center, one of the three nonprofit emergency shelters for teenagers in the county. "We've found kids in dugouts in parks in Santa Clara, on school grounds in Sunnyvale; under a

freeway underpass in Campbell."

An overlooked part of the

homeless population, teenagers often are caught in a worse dilemma than homeless adults. Not only are they inexperienced and less able to handle the pressures of street living, but they also are not old enough to work legally or sign rental leases that could get them off the street.

Many already have tried and

YOUTHS: Page A13 Col. 5

### YOUTHS: Hard Life on Street

From Page 1  
left the county shelter system, foster care or group homes.

"These systems don't work for all those kids," said Ernest Rodriguez, head of a new youth shelter operated by the Emergency Housing Consortium in downtown San Jose. "They said no one heard what they had to say, so no one treated them with respect."

The 10-bed Emergency Housing Consortium shelter was opened in November, bringing to 28 the number of shelter beds for the county's homeless young people. Operating with a staff of four and a \$250,000 annual budget, the shelter also runs a drop-in and counseling center.

In other counties, services for homeless teenagers vary widely and often are a victim of budget cutbacks.

In San Francisco, four agencies provide about 45 shelter beds for the estimated 1,500 to 2,500 teenagers on city streets each night. The largest is the 20-bed Diamond Youth Shelter on Central Avenue near Golden Gate Park, operated by the Larkin Street Youth Center.

"We definitely need more shelter beds," said Cassandra Benjamin, development director for Larkin Street. "But what we really need are longer-term solutions — job training, education, transitional housing."

#### Alameda County

Alameda County has no homeless youth shelters except two six-bed homes that take teenagers for one or two nights until they can return home. The Fred Finch Youth Center, a residential treatment center for 58 teenagers in Oakland, has been seeking federal financing for more than two years for a 12- to 16-bed shelter.

"We're very concerned," said John Steinfirst, executive director of the center. "We've made runs down the San Pablo Avenue-Broadway corridor, and there are scores of kids hanging out and hanging around."

Devin found out about the San Jose center through friends and is splitting his nights between the friends and the shelter. During the day, he attends ninth grade and is working two jobs for cash, no questions asked, to make money to live on.

"I'm busy all the time," he said. "I need money — money for food, money for clothes. You need money in your pocket in case of an emergency."

Like other street children, he avoids the adult homeless shelters because he worries that the operators may turn him in to the police. But he does not enjoy being homeless, either.

"All the kids on the street want to get off as bad as I do," he said. "It's not easy."

#### Too Old at 21

Mutt, a 21-year-old who has been homeless for more than three years, is too old to stay overnight at the youth shelter. He is living at a squat in San Jose and gives his address as "somewhere."

He is part of a group of homeless young people estimated by the Emergency Housing Consortium to be about 100 in the county, who travel from city to city in the area. He went through an alcohol treatment program that helped him quit drinking last year, but he still has no clear plans for getting off the street.

A nervous young man who has learned the code of the street, he barely hides his anger and defiance.

"I put myself in this position," he snapped. "I'll get myself out."

At the Bill Wilson Center, Harlan has noticed more teenagers with severe problems, such as drug and alcohol addiction.

"These kids are really coming from families that have fallen apart a long time ago," she said. "We see kids with more and more complicated problems."

## EXCERPT:

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# The Valley

"Valley Legend of Non-profits  
Packing it Up"

JULY, 2007

**B** WTC  
THURSDAY  
July 5, 2007  
[www.mercurynews.com/news](http://www.mercurynews.com/news)

# The Valley

**LOCAL NEWS IN YOUR INBOX ... EVERY WEEKDAY**

**FEDERAL FIRE CREWS IDLED**  
Shortage of U.S. Forest Service supervisors keeps engines off patrols during high-risk season. PAGE 5B

**DUST STORM HINDERS MARS ROVERS**  
NASA's solar-panel-powered Spirit, Opportunity delayed from their work by unfavorable weather. PAGE 5B

**More News**

  
**scott herold**  
in my opinion

## *Valley legend of non-profits packing it up*

As passionate as Barry Del Buono is about ending homelessness, he's never lost a sense of humor, an ear for the absurdities of life. Even now, he remembers the dog kennel idea with a rueful smile.

Driven by a well-meaning donor, the notion was that EHC Life Builders, Del Buono's agency, could help homeless people who had dogs. If you wanted to bring them off the streets, offer kennels for their canines.

No one embraced the idea. The homeless weren't happy with it. Neither were the dogs. And finally, Del Buono had to declare it a failure. "I learned a long time ago to take people's ideas as far as you can," Del Buono explained. "Usually, good business people can say, 'Nah, this isn't working.'

  
**Del Buono**

In the world of Santa Clara County non-profits, this echoes as dramatically as the departure of Steve Jobs would at Apple. Del Buono, 56, transformed a tiny organization with a yearly budget of \$17,000 into one with a \$10 million budget, 170 employees and thousands of volunteers.

**Visionary ideas**

He's the non-profit world's version of a visionary Silicon Valley CEO, a man who by force of will and passion and charm changed the way we *think* about the homeless.

It's no surprise that Del Buono tells a valley story to illustrate his approach. Early on, he noticed that Apple was hiring smart young people and bringing them in at night for seminars on the business. Couldn't the same be done for the homeless?

Del Buono twisted a few arms to get government officials, librarians, transit folks and legal aid lawyers to give seminars to the homeless ("I had to pay them to attend," he says). The result: a certificate in "tenant education" a landlord could accept.

"There's a can-do spirit in this valley, an ability to take ideas to scale," he says. "It doesn't have to be a wicket."

Along the way, Del Buono has done his share of fighting the not-in-my-back-yard types. One of the fiercest battles was at Third and William streets, where EHC is building a \$12 million youth shelter with a city subsidy. (One of Del Buono's many talents is getting government help.)

**High-rise angst**

Another NIMBY fight erupted when he accepted free office space from Calpine on the fifth floor of the Heritage Bank building. Suddenly, he was confronted by lawyers for the building and other tenants who seemed worried, in Del Buono's words, "that we were going to be lighting campfires on the fifth floor." (No campfires: The space was for EHC's office staff, which has since moved to different quarters.)

Will homelessness disappear because of Del Buono's efforts? He says not in his generation, though he has attracted a talented cadre of younger managers to EHC.

But in this case, it's the process that matters, not just the result. Like few other people — Ted Smith of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition comes to mind — Del Buono has knit together the valley's power players to confront a sometimes intractable issue.

And he admits to feeling a little tension when I asked him whether his next move risked the Mike Montgomery syndrome — superb college coach tries to move to pro level with dismal results.

"When I came to EHC, I was coming to do something different and unique," he said. "And I want one more chance to do that before I end up in Depends, toddling around."

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BARRY DEL BUONO