

project restoration



Project Restoration is uniting community partners through innovative case management to empower our high utilizing neighbors to achieve health, wholeness and hope.

January 2018

Our First Residents and Graduates!

January newsletters often look at the year behind or the year ahead. Our “year” behind was not even twelve months long. In March of 2017 the Advisory Board formed what would become the heart of Project Restoration. In June 2017 we engaged our first client even though we did not yet have a physical location for the transformative work we were

beginning. Or as the Apostle Paul said, “*δε πιστις ειμι ηψποστασις ελπιζο, ελεγχη οσ πραγμα ου βλεπο.*” Don’t worry, if you don’t speak Greek, many of us are learning a new language and culture as we try to change the future world rooted in the values and wisdom of the past. The English translation of the Apostle Paul’s words is, “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*”

We believed it could happen, even if we couldn’t see it and it is now happening.

In August, only 5 months from inception, our first resident moved in. By October we had a full house. Now 2 months from completing our first year we have already EXCEEDED our goals of engaging 10 clients in the first year.



Graduation Day for one of our residents!

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At a Glance

Resident Clients Currently in House 6

Collectively the current 6 people living in Restoration House have lived in Lake County for 99 years!

Resident Clients who have graduated or moved out 5

Non-Resident Clients 3

Welcome to Project Restoration!





Is Restoration House A Homeless Shelter?

One question we are often asked is, "Is Restoration House a Homeless Shelter?" The answer is "no" although we do share some services in common with homeless shelters. Wikipedia gives this definition of a homeless shelter:

Homeless shelters are a type of homeless service agency which provide temporary residence for homeless individuals and families. Shelters exist to provide clients with safety and protection from exposure to the weather while simultaneously reducing the environmental impact on the community.

Restoration is a transitional living environment which provides housing. Wikipedia give this definition for

transitional housing:

Transitional housing provides temporary housing for the certain segments of the homeless population, including working homeless making insufficient wages who have trouble affording long-term housing, and is set up to transition their residents into permanent, affordable housing.

While this definition is closer to what we do, it does not tell the whole story either. One aspect that is particularly important to our work at Restoration House is the "High Utilizer" component, specifically as it relates to using community resources and complex medical needs. To better understand this look at the Continuum of Housing below.

"I have always felt that the best security for civilization is the dwelling, and that upon properly appointed and becoming dwellings depends more than anything else the improvement of mankind. Such dwellings are the nursery of all domestic virtues, and without a becoming home the exercise of those virtues is impossible."

- Benjamin Disraeli



A Continuum of Housing



LIFE SAVING

- Outreach, intake, and assessment in order to identify service and housing needs (as self identified) and provide a link to the appropriate level of both
- Emergency shelter to provide an immediate and safe alternative to sleeping on the streets



LIFE CHANGING

- Transitional housing with supportive services to allow for the development of skills that will be needed once permanently housed



LIFE SUSTAINING

- Supportive housing to provide individuals and families with an affordable place to live with services as needed
- Can be permanent but does not necessarily need to be so



LIFE GIVING

- Permanent, non subsidized housing that supports the community through taxes and appropriate levels of utilization



Where is Project Restoration on the Continuum of Housing?

Project Restoration encompasses the entire housing spectrum collaborating with our community partners to help our residents achieve health, wholeness and hope.

LIFE SAVING

All of the clients with Project Restoration have been high utilizers of life saving services in Lake County. While they have not all used each service, all have used some. These include but aren't limited to the Emergency Room, Paramedics, the Warming Center and yes, the local jail. Each of these service providers has been *life saving*, but addresses only the symptoms, not root causes. If a life is lost is cannot be transformed. We need more emergency housing for our homeless neighbors. At this moment the only place a person who is homeless can walk into and find shelter without a medical emergency, or by breaking the law, is the Warming Center in Lakeport which is open only a few months out of the year.

"The welfare state has increasingly shifted in its focus from the causes of our discontent to the symptoms. We go to a doctor when we are sick, a therapist when we are sad, a dietician when we are overweight, prison when we are convicted, and a job coach when we are out of work. All these services cost vast sums of money, but with little to show for it. In the US, where the cost of healthcare is the highest on the planet, the life expectancy for many is going down."
 - [Rutger Bregman](#)

Life Changing

Project Restoration falls into the life saving category in that clients can begin the program without first "getting clean" so to speak and we are providing shelter. But it's not just about shelter. Research shows is that it is hard to change your life when basic necessities such as housing and food are not met. We begin with housing and add wrap around services in 16 different domains. And it's working! We are seeing improved quality of life for our clients and a reduction is costs in the emergency room and other community service agencies. With each small change comes the opportunity for major change. Together with all of our Project Restoration partners we are preparing them for the transition to Permanent Supportive Housing.

Life Sustaining

With close to 1800 homes in Lake County lost to disaster in less than three years and only 10% yet rebuilt, finding permanent supportive housing is a crucial challenge our community is facing. Programs like NCO's New Digs and the Hope Rising Coalition help pave the way for those who are ready. Low income housing isn't Project Restoration's end goal however.

Life Giving

We are helping our clients rebuild their lives in such a way that they will be empowered to give back to the community that has helped them. This will be done as they become volunteers, advocates and homeowners.

"Every Euro invested in fighting and preventing homelessness in the Netherlands enjoys double or triple returns in savings on Social Services, police, and court costs."
 - [Rutger Bregman](#)

Imagine what we can do in Lake County!

One PR client wracked up **\$101,374** in medical costs over a one year period. Of this only **\$11,525** was reimbursed to the hospital. This year, his first six months with Project Restoration has seen a drastic reduction in costs with overall medical expenses brought to less than **\$5,000** while receiving outpatient intensive case management.



16 Leaves, 16 Domains

SHELTER

TRANSPORTATION

LEGAL

ADVOCACY ACTIVISM

FAMILY, PERSONAL & PEER RELATIONSHIPS

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

OFFICIAL ID & VITAL RECORDS

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

MENTAL HEALTH

FOOD & NUTRITION

PROVIDER RELATIONSHIPS

MEDICATION & MEDICAL SUPPLIES

HEALTH MANAGEMENT

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

BENEFITS & ENTITLEMENTS

OTHER

Meet Eddie, A Resident at Restoration House

Eddie was born in Miami in 1956 but was raised in California. His dad was a General Contractor who helped build Disneyland and Disney World. His mom started a Molly Maid franchise while they were living in Florida. From the time Eddie was 12 years old summers were spent training in masonry and laying bricks.

He went to high school in Anaheim, CA but didn't finish because the staff did not appreciate him chasing them through the halls on his motorcycle. He would later get his GED and High School diploma to please his mom. She wanted the certificate on the wall.

Eddie served in the military in Vietnam, Guatemala and Honduras but doesn't like to talk about it. Ever.

He met Connie at a Sturgis Motorcycle rally. They were together, living on and off the grid, for 15 years. He loved to fish and she wanted to learn so they visited Clearlake. They loved it. In the 70s they bought a little land in a remote area of Clearlake off of Jerusalem Road. They didn't live there but came up to camp every weekend, grow their vegetables, and get away from the city.

September 19, 1988 their only child was killed in a dirt bike accident. He was 13. It was the hardest thing Eddie has ever had to face before or since, but the next year would be hard to bear as well. Just over a year later Connie died in the Loma Prieta earthquake.

Eddie moved around a lot after that. He did contract work, masonry, pounding nails, ran an oyster bar and more. He lived in Lake County and out, spending time in Colorado and Alaska. During these years he discovered his skills as an artist. It started with carving wood, and scrimshaw but his favorite was sculpting marble. When asked today what he would like to do if he could choose anything, he says, "I would be in a shop sculpting marble. Marble lasts. Nothing destroys it, not even fire." In 2016 the off grid cabin Eddie had been living in just outside of Clearlake Oaks was destroyed by fire.

He couch surfed for a while but became fully homeless in 2017.

His stomach started to swell and he began to understand he was sick. Friends told him to try the hospital in Fort Bragg but they treated him in the ER and released him saying only that he had cirrhosis of the liver. The next hospital stay was the very next week. 12 days in Willits where he was "scary alone." They told him quit drinking or die. A TB scare saw him transferred to Sutter Lakeside and then ultimately to Adventist Health St. Helena. He has a large mass in his lungs that has still not been fully diagnosed but threatens his life.

He's at Restoration House (RH) to save his life; to heal. When asked what the most important thing about RH is he answers, "It's steering me in the right direction while taking care of my medical needs. And friendship. I've made a couple friends. That's a tough word for me."

Eddie acknowledges that he has many regrets, that he has "done good and done bad." When asked what his purpose is now it is to "get well and become a better person" so he can "contribute to my fellow man in Clearlake or elsewhere."

Next month Eddie will be 62.



THANKSGIVING

Thank you to everyone who came out on Thanksgiving morning to celebrate the holiday with exercise and food raising.

There were walkers, runners, dogs and strollers. More importantly, participants filled a truck bed with nonperishable food that all went to Restoration House.

The residents then worked together to create a Thanksgiving feast that included all the trimmings from the turkey to cranberry sauce and more. Said one, **“I’m just so grateful to be here.”**

Check out the entire gallery of images from the Turkey Trot on our [AHCL Facebook page](#). Thank you everyone!



Valerie, a resident of Restoration House, and Pastor Shannon, Coordinator for Project Restoration, walked the two miles together.



Members of the Community Wellness Team delight at all the wonderful food donated at the Turkey Trot for Restoration House.

The cupboards at Restoration House went from empty to overflowing in one beautiful day! It’s not too late to donate hearty soups.



OPERATION GOBBLE has been a Golden State Water tradition since 1990. Partnering with local community leaders, including Mayor Russ Perdock, Golden State Water distributed more than 7,700 turkeys to non-profits serving individuals and families with limited resources. This year Restoration House was among the recipients! Thank you, GOLDEN STATE WATER.



CHRISTMAS AT RESTORATION HOUSE



The Lonto Family, Project Restoration Staff and Residents celebrating our first Christmas.

Residents of Restoration House were invited to write a wish list for Christmas. Two declined and one listed only the gifts he wanted to give others. Those that did write lists asked predominantly for very practical items such as new clothes, shoes or basic necessities. Even when the requests were not strictly necessary, they were often community oriented, tickets to see a movie with a friend, a plant to take care of; or things that would help in a job search, for example a coupon for a hair stylist. One who uses coloring as a path to peacefulness asked for colored pencils. One asked for a walking cane with four prongs for better stability. Members of the community then “adopted” each client and purchased them gifts. Several residents were concerned about how to thank the people that purchased the gifts for them, but we felt like most of the givers would prefer to remain anonymous, so promised to express their gratitude here, for all of our partners to read.

“I feel like this is a family. Thank you.”

“Someone did this for us? For me?” Tears.

“Who bought these for me? Tell them thank you. Thank so much.”

“I am so grateful, I don’t know what to say.”

“You (Pastor Shannon) and Marylin saved my life and there are more people like you! I’m so thankful.”

More tears. (Okay, maybe some of the tears were mine.) Thank you, community. Together we are changing the world. One. Person. At. A. Time.

“Until we can receive with an open heart, we’re never really giving with an open heart. When we attach judgment to receiving help, we knowingly or unknowingly attach judgment to giving help.” **Brené Brown**



The Osborne/Lapres/Wakefield/Masingila family joined the residents on Christmas day for caroling and a good time was had by all!

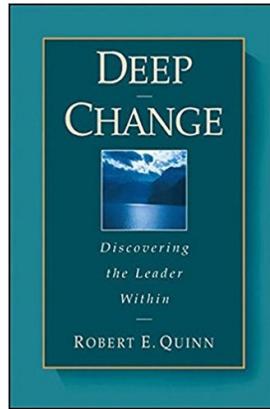


Deep Change: Discovering the Leader Within

One thing I consistently hear about Project Restoration meetings is that this is one meeting no one wants to give up even when their organizational leadership role may call for someone else to start attending in their place. Why is this? I believe it is because each member of the Advisory Team recognizes our role as change agents in Lake County and the potential Project Restoration has to truly transform our community. And...

Change doesn't just happen. It requires leaders who are life long learners ready to risk, experiment and challenge the status quo. As successful as our work together has been so far, it is also true that collaborations cannot grow beyond their leadership.

Strategic change initiatives can't work unless the leaders who design them are willing to change and grow in the process as well. This is particularly true in collaborations where each agency is a strategic component to the project. You are a part of the project and solution!



[Digital readers can click here to order the book.](#)

Our Project Restoration clients are making amazing strides at the deep changes required to turn their lives around. Where can we make changes as leaders to effect a deep change in our entire community beyond just this one project but in each of our agencies? Or perhaps just starting with us?

You are invited to join us for a leadership book discussion on [Deep Change](#) by Robert Quinn. Is it really worth the read and discussion? Thomas Jones, President of CIGNA Insurance said, "Deep Change should be mandatory reading for every business leader seeking the strength, direction, energy, and inspiration to shape organizational transformation."

Join us **Thursday, March 1 at 1PM** in Building F of Adventist Hospital Clearlake. All are welcome. You will get the most out of the discussion if you purchase and read the book in advance.

The question is not *can* new ideas defeat old ones; the question is *how* and *when*.



[To see a description of this year's workshop and training tracks digital readers click here.](#)

Housing California is the largest affordable housing and homelessness conference in the nation, providing networking, training and technical assistance. They are helping to build strong, broad coalitions around housing and homelessness issues among homebuilders, nonprofit developers, homeless service providers, the health and mental-health communities, transportation experts, energy-efficiency experts, criminal justice reform advocates, child welfare workers, and others.

Since 1988, Housing California has been working to prevent and end homelessness and increase the variety and supply of safe, stable, accessible and permanently affordable homes. They collaborate to pave the way for developers to build more affordable homes for Californians living on the streets, or on fixed incomes and modest budgets, so that all members of our communities have a place to call home.

To build on the momentum of the hottest housing legislative successes in California's history, Housing California has announced the 39th Annual Conference focused on the MOVEMENT. Scheduled for March 7-9, 2018, this event brings together more than 1,400 leaders to learn from successes and move collectively toward new ways of thinking, doing business, and achieving results. [For more information go to www.housingca.org](http://www.housingca.org)

[To register for Housing California Sacramento March 7-9 Digital readers click here.](#)

Opportunities to Help!

You Can Donate Time

Monday through Friday the cafeteria at Adventist Health Clearlake provides both lunch and dinner for Restoration House. We need a driver to pick up lunches at 12:30 each day and another to pick up dinners at 5:30.

Several clients have Dr. appointments that the bus schedule does not always meet. We need drivers to help clients get to appointments.

You Can Donate Services

Gift certificates are an easy way to provide services. Here are some ideas:

- ◆ Hair Cut at a salon of your choice
- ◆ Gas cards
- ◆ A night at the movies

To learn more about how to help at Restoration House please call 707-461-4426 or email Pastor Shannon at kimbels@AH.org

You Can Donate items

- ◆ Yard tools such as a shovel, and rake
- ◆ Gardening tools such as hand shovel, cultivator etc.
- ◆ Bags of gardening soil
- ◆ Microwavable bowls perfect for a large bowl of soup
- ◆ Cans of hearty soups
- ◆ A computer and printer
- ◆ Tablets, Chrome books or Kindles
- ◆ Bus passes

Tax deductible donations may be sent to Adventist Health at 15322 Lakeshore Dr. Suite #201 Clearlake CA 95422
Please make your check payable to Adventist Health with Project Restoration on the memo line. Thank you.

Project Restoration Partners



Police Dept & Mayor's Office



Lakeview Health Center



Dept. of Behavioral Health & District Attorney's Office