Michael Jordan once said, “I’ve missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I’ve been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.”

This sentiment exemplifies the attitude and commitment of CCIH volunteers. They show up week after week for homework club, teen club, and preschool programs, and never give up! Why? Because homeless children have twice the rate of learning disabilities and three times the rate of behavioral problems compared to their non-homeless peers. And poor children are more likely to do worse than non-poor children on measures of school achievement.

Our staff and volunteers face these daunting challenges head on because they are dedicated to educating ALL children. The result? Since opening in 2004, 100% of our formerly homeless youth have completed high school. And along the way these youth have learned that failure can be a launching pad to success, people care and can be trusted, and the future holds promise. ALL BECAUSE OUR VOLUNTEERS NEVER GIVE UP.

Preschool Volunteers Shine

Three days per week, volunteer Kristin Bura lights up the lives of preschool children who live at Garden Park. She has been doing so for the past five years. Kristin, along with volunteers Ellen Docili and Julie Deikmann, helped Academic Specialist Linda Worsham develop an onsite school readiness program. “Not only has Kristin filled the children’s need of a reliable, steady presence,” said Linda, “she has also been an insightful partner and incredible resource in building the preschool. Our curriculum has benefited tremendously from the wisdom of volunteer credentialed teachers. Their involvement enhances the quality of our programs.”

“It has been a pleasure to witness, first hand, the resiliency of children,” Kristin reflected, “watching them grow academically, socially, and emotionally, despite early trauma, has been a deeply rewarding experience.”

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Inspired service. Such is the contribution of hundreds of volunteers who embody CCIH’s values of integrity, compassion, and responsiveness. Each year we attempt to honor the contributions of our Board of Directors, Volunteer Steering Committee, Academic Volunteers, Faith Community Partners, Chamber Music Volunteers, Ruby Slippers Team, Painting/Furnishings Gurus… the list goes on. We cannot fully express our gratitude to our beloved volunteers. So, we leave you with this wholly inadequate expression of thanks. Thank you for your commitment, your generosity, your inspiration. Thank you for never giving up.

We hope you enjoy our humble tribute to your tremendous contributions.

With gratitude,
Louise Bourassa
2011-2012: ANOTHER YEAR OF INSPIRED VOLUNTEER SERVICE

New Walnut Creek office painted by Pete Schmitt • Wilderness Camp by Greg Bontemps (L) • Dance Camp by Grace Goodwin (C) • Music Camp by Sophia Lofaso • BBQ by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary • On-site summer volunteers, Ian & Alexis Gliser and Josh Rideout (R) • A dozen member faith congregations and community partners in the Backpack Drive.

Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill (R) members, families, and DVC RotarAct students painted Garden Park Apartment gates for the Pleasant Hill Volunteer Service Day. • Professional volunteer musicians presented at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church Chamber Music Benefit Recital four times a year to raise money for CCIH programs and services.

Annual Pumpkin Carving by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary (L) Painting at Garden Park by San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church (R) • Tenant Dinner at GPA by St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church.

Community barbeque by Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill • Performance by Pleasant Hill Star Quest • Car wash for tenant bike locks by Walnut Creek Kiwanis/Northgrate Key Club • Tutor training for Homework Club volunteers of Garden Park in Pleasant Hill, Los Medanos Village in Pittsburg, and Bella Monte in Bay Point (Above).

Early Tenant Thanksgiving Dinner at Garden Park by St. Monica’s Catholic Church (Above) • Annual Appeal mailing assembled by volunteers from six member congregations at the Walnut Creek Office (Below).

Holiday Bingo/Tea at Bella Monte in Bay Point by the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church and St. Ignatius Catholic Church of Antioch (L) • Holiday Dinner at Garden Park by First Presbyterian Church of Concord • Craft activities by Danville Congregational Church, Young Life, Navigenics (C), St. Perpetua Catholic Church and Temple Isaiah (R) • Holiday Dinner at Los Medanos by New Hope Covenant Church • Adopt a Family by twelve community and member faith communities.
2012 Ruby Slippers Committee event and set up by NCL Acalanes Chapter (Above) • Tenant dinner by St. Agnes Catholic Church • Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (Below) offered Service Day at Garden Park.

This timeline represents a sampling of inspired service offered by CCIH volunteers. Special projects such as video production, family photography, and marketing support are provided by unsung heroes. Special thanks to Carol and Vern Hance who furnish apartments; Duane Rustad and Sandi Sandri who patiently repair furnishings; Greg Wilson who delivers weekly food; and all of our Homework Club volunteers who grace us with their genius all year long!
Our mission at Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) is to provide permanent, affordable housing and vital support services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals in Contra Costa County.

Christ the King Catholic Church
Community Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg
Congregation Beth Chaim
Congregation B’nai Shalom
Congregation B’nai Tikvah
Danville Congregational Church
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
First Presbyterian Church of Concord
Grace Presbyterian Church
Hope Center Covenant Church
Hillcrest Congregational Church
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
Lafayette United Methodist Church
Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church
Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church
New Hope Community Church
Orinda Community Church
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
Santa Maria Catholic Church
St. Agnes Catholic Church
St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church
St. Ignatius Catholic Church of Antioch
St. Monica Catholic Church
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
St. Perpetua Catholic Church
St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
Temple Isaiah
Trinity Lutheran Church
Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church
Ygnacio Valley Presbyterian Church

Thank you for your inspiration and leadership!

Christopher Long, Chair
St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
Mary Fenelon, Secretary
Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church
Dr. Greg Bayer, Vice Chair
Jerry Williams, Treasurer
Christ the King Catholic Church
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr. Laura
Barnes Coney
Danville Congregational Church
Joe Cunningham
Community Member
Steve Seiler
Community Member
Michael Bealmear
Community Member
Rabbi Roberto Graetz
Temple Isaiah
Decky Thornton
St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church

Stephanie Bontemps
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
John C. McClure, II
Community Member
Terry Wassmann
Hope Center Covenant Church
Robert Clayton
Congregation B’nai Shalom
Pastor Charie Reid
Grace Presbyterian Church
William Coney
New Hope Community Covenant Church
Dr. Jeff Rideout
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
Temple Isaiah

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

John Quincy Adams