



IMPACT!

newsletter



October
2019

October 1-7 is Mental Health Awareness Week

How your investment is changing the future for individuals and leading the way to life in recovery!

A meaningful evening celebrating Daniel's Place 20th anniversary



Arthur Greenberg and Claire Travis

On September 25, 200 friends and supporters gathered in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Daniel's Place at the Skirball Cultural Center. Step Up honored its Founder, Susan Dempsay, and long-time supporter, Arthur Greenberg. Former County Supervisor and Step Up Board member Zev Yaroslavsky masterfully emceed the evening. Board chair Anant Patel and CEO Tod Lipka kicked off the evening.

A highlight of the evening was a musical and spoken word performance by Daniel's Place members Waverly, River Jones, Shane, and Bruce who received a standing ovation. The event raised significant funds for Daniel's Places. A heartfelt thanks goes to our sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and staff, whose contributions created a meaningful and memorable evening.



Susan Dempsay, Step Up Founder and
Tod Lipka, Step Up President & CEO

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



Ronniesha has struggled with homelessness throughout her early adult years. When she was 16, she had a fight with her step-father and her mother asked her to leave their Florida home. Soon after, Ronnieisha lost her Social Security benefits because she did not have a stable address and had no knowledge that she was required to reapply once she turned 18. With no additional

support available, Ronnieisha relocated to Atlanta, GA.

In Atlanta, Ronnieisha (pictured) worked closely with her case manager to obtain the missing documents to secure her housing voucher. She was able to move into her new apartment this past August. She stated that "Step Up has really been a blessing." Since she now has housing, Ronnieisha is now ready to focus on finding employment and plans to go back to school for her GED.

A SENSE OF BELONGING



The Santa Monica Rotary Club held a backpack drive for the members of Daniel's Place to give them a safe place to keep their personal items and toiletries. Rotary President Sharon Gavin (pictured with a DP Member and DP Program Manager Maria Jeffery, on right) said, "It was our privilege to partner with Step Up on our Backpack Survival Kit project. We are happy our contribution can improve their lives." Every backpack included a rain

poncho, emergency blanket, first aid kit, flip flops, sweats, socks, underwear, deodorant, soap, and toothpaste & a toothbrush.

"It's imperative our youth experiencing homelessness have a place to keep their important documents. Losing one's ID can be devastating and even cripple access to services," says DP Program Manager Maria Jeffery. "Members who come into our drop-in center at Daniel's Place have experienced this very issue."

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



In May 2015, Cleo (pictured) was living with her mother, going to college, teaching theater to middle-school youth, and a summer lifeguard when she began experiencing extreme anxiety, mood swings, and overwhelm. "I am very functional and can multi-task, but then it was like watching a train wreck and not being able to do anything about it," says Cleo. The Los Angeles LGBT Center in Hollywood referred Cleo to Daniel's Place, where she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

At Daniel's Place, the positive coping and life skills Cleo learned allowed her to continue her education and remain employed. When Cleo aged-out of Daniel's Place, she continued to receive mental health services at Step Up. She completed her Bachelor's degree at Antioch University and is currently employed at a Unitarian Universalist Church in a managerial position. "I feel grateful, humbled, and exhausted that I have been stable for a long while now, and I have finally reached adulthood at age 30."

It's time to sign up!



Designate Step Up on Second
(Organization ET322)

Each time you swipe, Ralphs
will donate 4% of your
purchase amount to Step Up!