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

'Tis the Giving Season!
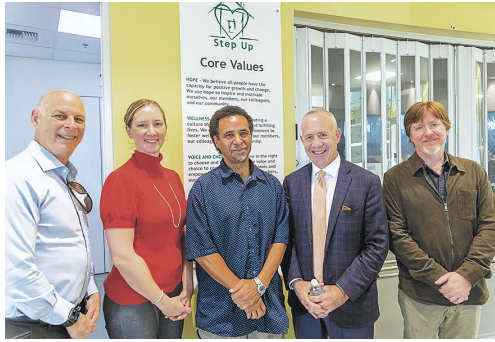
Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2019 kicks off Step Up's year-end campaign. You have the power to make a difference:

- **DONATE** - Give to connect Step Up members experiencing homelessness and mental health conditions with services designed to enrich their lives. You'll make our communities a better place for families, schools, and work. Look for a special email with a story about Shelia (*pictured*), a Santa Monica resident and Step Up member who first experienced homelessness during the 2008 housing market collapse.

- **VOLUNTEER** –Directly impact the lives of Step Up members experiencing a mental health condition or homelessness by becoming a volunteer!

- **GET EDUCATED** - Subscribe to Step Up's monthly newsletter and receive the link to the latest report about the 58,936 individuals experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. Text PSH to 51555 and receive updates to your phone.

For more information, please visit www.stepuponsecond.org

You have the power to make a difference.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Step Up was honored to host Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg (*pictured second from right, along with Tod Lipka, President & CEO; Emily James, Director of SA 4 Clinical Programs; John Watson, Step Up member; and Aaron Criswell, newly appointed Chief Housing Development Officer*). Steinberg is interested in motel conversions, an issue that Step Up is a leader in with five motels in the process of conversion for Veterans experiencing homelessness and three conversions in its current portfolio.

Mayor Steinberg, co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Homelessness, was the co-author of the 2006 Mental Health Services Act, which has yielded billions of dollars in funding for mental health across the state and is the reason why Step Up has Full-Service Partnership (FSP) programs in Los Angeles and San Bernardino County, our client run center at Second Street, and the drop-in center at Daniel's Place.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Les Jones, (*pictured on left*), former Step Up member and now full-time staff, is the founder of Step Up's Computer Learning Center. He has been teaching and helping others as they transition out of homelessness since 2014. Thanks in part to Spectrum's 2018 Digital Education Grant, Les has expanded his reach to include the Veterans in Bldg 209 on the West L.A. VA campus. The Veterans have access to Acer Chromebooks, "the computer of the future," says Jones.

The atmosphere created by Jones is one of comradery and generosity, "You learn something, you teach something." Says resident William K. (*pictured on right*), "Les has created a safe space for us. At 62, I overcame the resistance to learn and discovered it's never too late to grow. For that, I am thankful."

A SENSE OF BELONGING

Growing up in Moreno Valley was not easy for 26 year-old Sarah W. (*pictured*). Her life was dictated by domestic violence, depression, and anxiety. Her mother was not stable, her father was prone to violence, and her grandmother was experiencing schizophrenia. Couch-surfing with her mother to escape the violence at home, bullied at school for being overweight, and feeling suicidal was the norm for Sarah.

After graduating from high school, Sarah went to beauty school but had to drop out due to a lack of funds. Tired of the hostility from her mother's family, Sarah moved into a shelter on her own. It was there she was given the information for Michael's Village. Sarah has lived at Michael's Village for the past three years. She now attends Los Angeles Trade School for Estheticians. Her relationship with her father is a work in progress and Sarah looks forward to the day she can take care of her mom. Sarah sums up her life, "It's ok to cry as long as you don't give up."

On Tuesday, December 3, 2019, Step Up is participating in

#GIVING TUESDAY

a global movement to celebrate year-end charitable giving.

Please donate generously!

Text to Give: **STEPUP19 to 91999**

Or visit www.stepuponsecond.org