



# IMPACT!

## newsletter



March  
2020

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

### STEP UP SAN BERNARDINO EXPANDS!



In conjunction with the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health, Step Up's San Bernardino team will serve 234 new members. Step Up has hired 18 new staff members for its IE team to work with these individuals. In addition to mental health support, Step Up staff will promote housing stability, advance employment and educational opportunities, and facilitate the receipt of benefits to its clients. The San Bernardino Housing Authority will provide any additional vouchers needed. Congratulations Step Up San Bernardino! Your hard work and dedication to serving members is resonating throughout the county.

*Pictured is Dana Loomis, a newly-hired Step Up Service Coordinator II, San Bernardino Housing First & FSP Program*

### PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



Warley Park, in Sandford, Florida on February 4, 2019. The 85-unit affordable housing community is for families, individuals, and Veterans experiencing homelessness and is the first housing community in Central Florida to include permanent supportive services. Step Up is providing on-site property management and supportive services, including health care, vocational training, GED classes, and life-skills classes. Residents utilize rental vouchers as payment. Completion of the project is slated for the end of this month.

Step Up's President & CEO Tod Lipka, Wendover's Terry Cummings, and Arthur Murray, Director of Programs, Southeast Region for Step Up (pictured) visited the in-progress

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Derek M. (pictured) needed to get control of his life. DMH referred him to Step Up's Westside FSP TAY program. Within two years, he made such significant progress in managing his mental health, he graduated to Recovery, Resilience, and Reintegration (RRR), a lower level of care program. He was then placed in the kitchen on a training internship. Derek says, "I needed a push and Step Up was there to give it to me." After his internship, Derek was hired as a full-time dishwasher

at Step Up on Second. "I am thriving here – I never thought I would be hired as a permanent worker."

In October 2019, Derek was an honoree at the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition's Celebrating Success Breakfast for his dedication to his work and his successes at Step Up. "Working at Step Up helps my social skills while working with others. At the end of the day, I feel a sense of accomplishment."

### A SENSE OF BELONGING



Paul was eight years old when his dad, addicted to crack cocaine, left home. After graduating from high school, Paul moved into his friend's garage. This friend sold drugs and triggered Paul's childhood experience with his addicted father. Wanting something different, Paul joined the Marines, where he was deployed to Afghanistan to seek and destroy bombs. Paul was driving the jeep when it was hit. The explosion killed the Marine sitting next to him. Paul returned home with PTSD and found it difficult to return to the life he left prior. He and his girlfriend were using meth when they became parents, which led her parents to take custody of their two-year old daughter. After the birth of their second daughter, the grandparents were given custody automatically. It was then Paul started working on his sobriety and he turned to his once addicted father for support.

Oscar Marrujo, a drug and substance abuse counselor and 19 years sober, had a new client – his son. "I had to treat my client as my own kid and now I'm treating my son as my own client. It took patience." Five months later, Paul regained custody of both kids and moved in with Dad. Paul and his daughters found their own home with the assistance of Volunteers of America. And dad, Oscar, is a Service Coordinator for Step Up in the Inland Empire. Thank you for sharing your story of hope and healing Oscar and Paul!

### LEARN MORE ABOUT STEP UP Take a Tour! New Times!



**Santa Monica • Step Up on Colorado**  
Thursday, March 5  
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

**Hollywood • Step Up on Vine**  
Wednesday, March 25  
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

For more information, please contact  
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