

# IMPACT!

How your investment is changing lives through housing, employment training & placement, supportive services, education and advocacy.



October 2015

**RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE!** 

#### <u>PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING</u> because of you...

The public Grand Opening of the Kaufmann Apartments at Step Up on Colorado on September 24<sup>th</sup>, marked the ENDING of homelessness for 32 of Santa Monica's most vulnerable neighbors experiencing mental health issues, and the completion of Step Up's 2010 Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Commitment-to-Action: Developing and operating 200 units of permanent supportive housing utilizing multiple green technologies.



Dana Hill speaks at Reception at Crossroads Kitchen.

And later that night at a private party hosted by CGI partner Steve Bing and Shangri-La Construction, Step Up announced it's 2015 CGI Commitment-to-Action: Creating permanent housing using public/private partnerships for veterans experiencing homelessness. "Step Up saved my life. As a result of housing and support, I am getting my life back on track", said guest speaker and Veteran Dana Hill. "I feel safe. My goal is to now help other veterans experiencing homelessness."

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING & PLACEMENT because of you...



Meet Chiji. From the San Francisco Bay Area, Chiji has a degree from UCLA and has been a member of Step Up since 2003. Several months ago Chiji was having a difficult time finding work in the community. Upon hearing of her efforts,

Chiji on the job at Step Up on Second

Step Up CEO Tod Lipka suggested she speak with Len Lovallo, Program Director for Vocational Services. Chiji started her training as a cashier in Fresh Start Café and Market in February 2015, and quickly transitioned into training at the reception desk. "Chiji has demonstrated what determination to succeed is all about", said Lovallo. "We couldn't be happier to have her on the Vocational team."

Step Up's Vocational Training Program assists 175 participants annually with training and supported employment. All participants desiring meaningful, community-competitive employment will be assisted in achieving that goal.

"I really enjoy serving the community in this way, and I feel lucky to be a part of such a great team", said Chiji. "I am really grateful for this opportunity!"

## MEMBER-DRIVEN SUPPORTIVE SERVICES because of you...



Step Up members enjoyed the Annual Picnic at Clover Park in Santa Monica.

The Annual Picnic is sponsored by the Member Advisory Committee (MAC), a member's group where ideas, goals, and concerns may be heard, addressed, and presented to staff for feedback and shared problem solving. The Annual Picnic provided an opportunity for members to meet new friends and catch up with old ones. There were several first-time attendees, along with those who have been attending since the 90s. The Annual Picnic is among the many ways Step Up provides opportunities for social connectedness.

#### Santa Monica:

Step Up (310) 394-6889 Daniel's Place (310) 392-5855

Transitional Aged Youth (18-28 years)

Hollywood:

General Information (323) 380-7590 x1330

**Beverly Hills:** 

Street Outreach Team: (310) 901-3020

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