IMPACT!
How your investment is changing the future for individuals experiencing mental health conditions through permanent supportive housing, vocational training & placement, and a sense of belonging. …leading the way to life in recovery!

STEP UP NAMED CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR
Step Up has been named California Nonprofit of the Year by State Senator Ben Allen, District 26. Step Up President & CEO Tod Lipka acknowledged, “It is an honor to be recognized as nonprofit of the year by Senator Ben Allen. Senator Allen has been a leader in Sacramento on the issues of homelessness and mental health.”

Jan Masaoka, CEO of the California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits) explains, “Nonprofits make California communities stronger, yet we’re often so busy that we don’t boast our own horns about the work we’re doing. California Nonprofits Day is an opportunity for our elected officials to recognize the good work they see nonprofits doing in their districts, and it also demonstrates the larger collective impact of nonprofits throughout California.”

At left, David Tavlin, Step Up Vice President Clinical Programs, Mia Serrano, Senator Ben Allen, and Tod Lipka, Step Up President & CEO.

PERMANENT SUPPORT HOUSING
The #1 requested supportive service...
Denise K. has been a Step Up member for many years while experiencing homelessness for six years in Santa Monica. She has struggled with many incidents of violence and has been housed for three months in Venice. She continues to build healthy relationships with community members and peers in her new neighborhood.

She is consistently consulting with her therapist and developing new goals with her case managers.

Denise K. is focusing on reducing some impulsive behaviors, developing and implementing a routine and further healing from trauma and isolation. She has managed to work diligently with different members of her team to overcome these hurdles. While Denise K. struggles with addiction and mental health conditions, there have been many triumphs and successes. Denise K. continues to strive towards wellness and find “peace in her life” with support of family, Step Up staff and friends.

A SENSE OF BELONGING
Mutuality, safety, and respect...
One year ago, Building 209 on the VA Campus opened, providing housing for 54 veterans who had experienced homelessness. It has been a year of adjusting from survival mode to engaging and socializing with others. Many are appreciative to be in a place and time in their lives where they can now give back to their fellow Veterans in need. Chelsea Silverman and Mark Phelan are Step Up’s onsite service coordinators who work directly with Building 209 residents.

“I’ve had the privilege to help them expand their goals to focus on their overall well-being as they discover or rediscover their purpose,” says Chelsea Silverman (pictured above). Mark Phelan adds, “As a son of a disabled Vet, my goal is to empower these men and women as they re-imagine their lives. Onwards!” Thank you Step Up team!

Denise K., third from left, with Step Up Staff

Step Up thanks Santa Monica Bay Woman’s Club for their generous gift!

Kelly Martin, Step Up Grants Manager with Marcia Stein, Santa Monica Bay Woman’s Club member.