

## Letter from Our Board President



*Dear Friends-*

*HCEB turns 20 this year! As we bring in our new year and ring in yours- I want to take a moment to reflect on all we've accomplished and all we still have yet to accomplish. HCEB has grown from a volunteer run, advocacy group to a full-fledged housing organization focused on development and management of special needs housing. We have 33 properties housing nearly 400 individuals. Through our tremendous partnerships, we are providing housing that doesn't get built otherwise- small scale, community based housing for people with disabilities and those transitioning out of homelessness.*

**"Five years ago, I was homeless and lived in a women's shelter for a short time. Because I did not have identification I was put out and ended up back on the streets. Through a referral at another shelter I learned about a housing lottery, applied and received the number one ranking for my current home."**

*~ Rebecca, Ashland NSP resident*

**"I didn't have any hope prior to living in my home. Things were rough. I was living in dirty shelters where there were bugs and many places were kept poorly. It took a long time to get acclimated to my new home because I didn't think it was going to last. I had never heard of permanent housing. I thought that housing was only temporary and I never felt stable. "**

*~ Cedric, Ashland NSP resident*

*Our tenants have come from the streets, from institutions, into housing that allows them to be part of their communities and live their lives to their fullest abilities. Last year, we were excited by the long awaited opening of Arboleda in Walnut Creek- 15 units for DD, with availability for those exiting a developmental center and most recently, McLeod Apartments in Livermore for formerly homeless adults with serious mental illness.*

**"After living in the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) for many years, I was fortunate to move to Lincoln Oaks Apartments and began living independently for the *first* time. This is my first apartment and has turned into a home for me. I feel safe and secure here with the other tenants, my community and my landlord HCEB. I am happy and enjoy my new apartment and new community here. "**

*~ Debbie, Lincoln Oaks Apartments resident*



**“I now live with my roommate Debbie who has a similar disability as me. Living at Lincoln Oaks Apartments has changed my life a lot. I feel much happier, more secure and comfortable.”**

**~ Kim, Lincoln Oaks Apartments resident**

*As we enter our 20<sup>th</sup> year, we’ve got a lot to look forward to. We have several properties in the pipeline, such as a multi-family project that includes developmentally disabled adults in Livermore and the development of housing in Hayward for disabled individuals exiting skilled nursing facilities.*

*We have a lot more work ahead of us, which is why we have developed a new strategic plan to see us through the next 3+ years. The need for affordable housing in the bay area is greater than ever. I hope you’ll support us as we continue this journey. We depend on individual contributions to make our contributions toward creating a more inclusive, supportive bay area.*

*Thank you for supporting us and we hope you’ll save the date March 24, 2016 at Ed Roberts Campus for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration! Please watch for updates via email and on our website.*

**“My experience prior to moving to Magnolia Terrace was a difficult time in my life. I resided in transitional housing in East Oakland. Living at Magnolia Terrace has been a pleasant and refreshing experience. The property is beautiful, clean and safe. Everything is completely remodeled with new and updated fixtures and appliances. My unit has special art work done by a local community based day program. The neighborhood is good and I enjoy all of the local amenities.”**

**~ Rosemarie, Magnolia Terrace resident**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kristy Feck'.

Kristy Feck  
Board President