

New Renovations Enhance Life at Town Park Towers



After 19 months, the extensive renovations project at **Town Park Towers** (TPT), NCPHS' affordable housing community in San Jose, is nearing the finish line—and the results are outstanding!

During the project's final phase this spring and summer, TPT's exterior was transformed with new paint, security gates, landscaping and walkways, and back patio furniture. Colorful new artwork now adorns the walls of the community's renovated library, reception area, computer room, and conference rooms. Renovations to the final floor of TPT's 216 apartments are also complete.

TPT residents are now enjoying the many upgrades to their community, including a new computer room, reception area, exercise room, library, updated appliances, new HVAC system, and solar panels. Each apartment also received new paint and appliances, lights, and flooring. Twenty-two apartments were converted into Americans with Disabilities Act compliant units.

Residents are delighted with TPT's new look, says **Ken Yeung**, TPT Housing Administrator. "They're especially happy about their apartment updates, the improved air conditioning system, and the remodeled multipurpose room."

Tamalpais Parade Team Wins First Place

A spirited team of Tamalpais residents and staff took first place in the "Adult Motorized" category in this year's Corte Madera-Larkspur Fourth of July Parade. Decked out in red, white, and blue tie-dyed T-shirts, the group marched 2.25 miles and performed a skit 78 times along the parade route. Congratulations, Tam Team!



Photo credit: Rosemary Greenberg



Viamonte Senior Living Secures Nonprofit Status

We are proud to announce that Viamonte Senior Living has obtained its 501(c)3 tax-exempt status from the IRS. Viamonte Senior Living is now officially recognized as a nonprofit continuing care organization, just like NCPHS' other Continuing Care Retirement Communities.

San Francisco Senior Center Honored for 70 Years of Community Service

70th Anniversary Celebration nets \$39,500 to support San Francisco Senior Center's programs and activities

The **San Francisco Senior Center's** (SFSC) 70th Anniversary Celebration, held on May 12 at the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, was a tremendous success, netting \$39,500 for SFSC's programs that enrich the lives of thousands of seniors each year.

The night opened with a look back at the Center's impact, presentation of a series of civic honors, and a special recognition of the **Thomas and Eva Fong Family Foundation's** support. Senior Congressional Aide **Alex Lazar** read a proclamation from Congresswoman **Nancy Pelosi** that praised SFSC as "a model for other organizations throughout this great nation" and honored SFSC's invaluable service to older San Franciscans. After **Mayor Ed Lee** gave a toast to SFSC, guests dined on delicious cuisine and enjoyed comedian **Will Durst's** hilarious performance of "Boomer Aging: From LSD to OMG." After the raffle and auction winners were announced, guests danced the night away to music provided by **DJ Toast**.

"Seeing an over-packed house of happy celebrants who care about our work serving seniors and adults with disabilities was so uplifting for our staff and volunteers," said **Sue Horst**, SFSC Director. "We are inspired for the next seventy."

To learn more about SFSC or make a donation, please visit www.sfsenior.com.



State Senator Scott Wiener and Assemblymember David Chiu present a 70th Anniversary resolution to SFSC Director Sue Horst.

New NCPHS Websites Win Hermes Design Award



Did you know that **The Sequoias Portola Valley**, **The Sequoias San Francisco**, **The Tamalpais**, and **NCPHS Health Services** all have new websites? Designed by **Crescendo Agency**, the new sites feature updated content, vibrant photography, virtual tours, and a contemporary, mobile-friendly design.

Shortly after their launch, the websites received a Platinum Award for best websites in a nonprofit category from the Hermes Creative Awards, an international competition administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication. We love our new websites—visit them today and see what all the accolades are about!

TheSequoiasPV.org
TheSequoiasSF.org
TheTam.org
NCPHSHealthServices.org

AARP Experience Corps® Marin Celebrates 10 Years

Since 2007, Experience Corps® Marin tutors ages 55+ have helped elementary students become better readers

Ten years ago, **AARP Experience Corps® Marin** began with 30 volunteers, a single school, and a mission: to help young students who struggle with reading become proficient readers by the end of third grade. Today, more than 100 Experience Corps® Marin volunteers tutor 2,012 elementary school students—many of whom are English language learners from low-income families—in 87 classrooms in nine Marin County schools.

“Our volunteers are talented, caring people,” says **Judy Kramer**, Experience Corps® Marin Program Manager. “They understand there are children in need, and they roll up their sleeves and get involved.”

Experience Corps® Marin tutors come from a variety of backgrounds, including education, law, business, medicine, and the arts. They live throughout Marin County and range in age from 55 to 85. Thirteen volunteers have tutored with Experience Corps® Marin for seven years or more. They all share a love of reading and enjoy helping children in the greater community.

Volunteering with Experience Corps® benefits students, teachers, and volunteers alike. Students who work with Experience Corps® tutors show improved reading performance, participation, motivation, and academic self-confidence. They also enjoy having another caring adult in their lives.

Teachers greatly appreciate having an Experience Corps® volunteer in the classroom. “My children are so much happier and calmer in class now that they are able to read,” says one first grade teacher. “Several students have now moved on to second and even third grade reading levels.”

Experience Corps® volunteers say the program helps them stay mentally and physically healthy and gives them a greater



sense of purpose in life. “I feel most proud when the students are proud of their work,” one volunteer explains. “When they hold up their paper and tell me about their progress, I feel like I am making a difference.”

Even if you have never taught before, you can be a great Experience Corps® tutor. “We always need more volunteers,” Judy says. “Our staff provides volunteers with training and support. We work to find a perfect match for your personality, experience level, and availability.”

To learn how you can become an Experience Corps® Marin volunteer, or to schedule a presentation in your community, contact Judy Kramer at jkramer@ncphs.org or 415.464.1767. To donate to Experience Corps® Marin, visit www.seniorservicesnorcal.org/donate or call 415.351.3602.

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The Sequoias San Francisco's Rotunda Gallery Builds Community Through the Arts



Captivating black and white portraits. Intricate needlework and textiles. Evocative floral watercolors. These are just a sampling of the curated art shows that have been featured at **The Sequoias San Francisco's** (SSF) Rotunda Art Gallery.

The Rotunda Gallery highlights work by professional San Francisco artists as well as pieces created by SSF residents and employees. Art shows rotate about every seven weeks and represent a wide variety of media, including painting, photography, and fiber arts. Upcoming exhibitions include nature photography by Mitsu Yoshikawa and a selection of employee artwork.

"There are so many talented artists in San Francisco and here at The Sequoias," says resident **David Jamison**, who curates the shows together with his wife, **PJ**. "Our intention is to create high quality shows that people appreciate."

The gallery's compelling artwork sparks conversation and reflection from residents, staff, and community members. A recent show, "The Way We Were," invited SSF residents to submit photos from their past. Residents answered the call in spades, submitting nearly 200 photos to be part of the exhibit.

"The Rotunda Gallery's shows bring forth a sense of community, and create a sense of warmth and welcoming," says SSF Executive Director **Glen Goddard**. "It's powerful to see how art connects people."

A Stroll Through The Sequoias Portola Valley's Demonstration Gardens

Enjoy scenes from The Sequoias Portola Valley's new demonstration gardens, which feature native plants and drought-tolerant shrubs.



Sequoias Portola Valley residents George Wheaton, BJ Sorensen, and Sarah Wheaton savor the garden sunshine.



A Conversation with James Robinson

Get to Know NCPHS' New Vice President of Operations

We are delighted to welcome James Robinson to NCPHS as our new Vice President of Operations. James comes to NCPHS after serving as Executive Director of Deerfield, a Lifespace continuing care retirement community in Urbandale, Iowa.



How did you decide to pursue a career in senior living?

I don't recall exactly when, but when I was in college taking a developmental psychology class we visited a retirement community. The staff led us through interactive exercises about challenges to healthy aging. The team members were so passionate and energetic about their work that I was left with a very positive impression of the community. The experience must have stayed with me because after I graduated, I went on to work for that same company—working with some of the same team members who had led my tour years earlier!

Why did you decide to work at NCPHS?

I felt drawn to NCPHS' mission and work. I believe there is strength in a regional model like NCPHS has; we can be experts in the Northern California market. I was also impressed by the warmth and transparency at NCPHS. During my interview process, I was able to meet at least 20 people as well as board members, which was a great experience. There is also the location!

What are some of the projects you look forward to working on at NCPHS?

I'm looking forward to working with the different teams in our communities. I want to be a partner for their professional success and to work with team members to implement operational discipline that improves service and innovation. Being part of the Viamonte project well before it opens is a huge opportunity. I enjoy looking at ways to enhance residents' living environments, so I'm also eager to work with teams on our redevelopment projects.

What changes do you see happening in the senior living industry in the next five years?

I think there will be an even greater use of technology to improve the resident experience and improve efficiencies. We'll also see a greater emphasis on business outcomes, the speed to which we respond to market changes, and positioning ourselves to serve individuals outside of a CCRC setting.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy besides work?

Before moving to San Francisco, a lot of my time was spent with home improvement projects and maintaining our property. I look forward to spending time outdoors, especially fishing and cycling or just walking our dog Rusty. Indoors, I enjoy reading, particularly about history and leadership.

Meet Wes Bard, Executive Director of The Tamalpais

Working in senior living is filled with learning opportunities, says **Wes Bard**, Executive Director of The Tamalpais. "You can read history books, but here we have living history. Some of the smartest, most fascinating people you will ever meet are all around you."

A "people person" with an upbeat, energetic disposition, Wes brings more than 30 years of experience in senior living communities and health administration. Before coming to The Tamalpais, Wes served as Executive Director of St. James Houses, a CCRC in Baytown, Texas. He has also served as VP of Operations for Lutheran Homes of South Carolina, Executive Director of Park Shore in Seattle, and as President/CEO of Lutheran Home of Southbury, Connecticut.

NCPHS' foundation, mission, and nonprofit status resonate strongly with Wes's values and expertise. "It's an exciting time to be here," he explains. "The TAM has a great structure, great policies, and an awesome team."

In his spare time, Wes enjoys exploring the outdoors with his wife and trying new cuisine—"so the Bay Area is a great place for us," he says. A former wrestling competitor and coach, Wes is also an avid sports enthusiast and scholastic wrestling fan. Welcome, Wes!





FROM THE DESK OF DAVID BERG, NCPHS PRESIDENT & CEO

Looking Outward, Looking Inward, Looking Forward

For many of us at NCPHS, this summer is a time for both looking forward and looking within. We are eagerly anticipating the 2018 groundbreaking at Viamonte Walnut Creek, our bold new senior living community. Change is also on the horizon for Eastern Park Apartments, where upcoming renovations will upgrade our 37-year-old affordable housing community with improvements designed to enhance the lives of our residents and staff.

As we look toward the future, we are also turning our attention inward. Our continuing care retirement communities are using new online survey tools to obtain resident feedback more quickly and efficiently than ever before. In addition to our regular resident satisfaction surveys, we can now survey residents during major projects and use their feedback to make real-time adjustments, as we did during The Sequoias San Francisco's recent dining room remodel.

At NCPHS, we measure our success by how well we listen, reach out, and respond—not just by investing in our brick and mortar communities. Through the process of listening, we discover ways we can make our communities even better for the people we serve. I look forward to sharing these insights with you in the months ahead.

David Berg



Visit us online at www.ncphs.org

Please write to us if you do not wish to receive fundraising requests supporting NCPHS in the future.

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