



Miracle
Messages



2023

Annual Report

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Acknowledgements

This report was compiled, edited, and designed by Julia Ip and Dylan Hatch, under the guidance of Miracle Messages' leadership team.



Letter from our Founder

Dear Friends,

Fleeing an unstable situation in his home country, Andres arrived in the United States in September 2021 hoping to find work, asylum, and a new beginning. Instead, Andres found himself alone at a shelter in Oakland, waiting patiently for his papers.

Feeling isolated, Andres decided on a whim to sign up for Miracle Friends, Miracle Messages' phone buddy program that matches individuals experiencing homelessness like Andres from across the country with caring volunteers from around the world for weekly phone calls and text messages.

I was lucky enough to be matched with Andres. Although I've had the honor of leading Miracle Messages for the past 10 years, I was still pretty nervous when I dialed Andres' phone number for the first time back in January 2023: *What would I say? Would it be helpful? Would I be able to understand his accent? Or more accurately, would he be able to decipher my rusty Spanish?*

Within the first few weeks of our phone calls, my concerns went away, replaced with laughter, discussions of our shared faith, some indecipherability (mostly on my part, *pienso*), and singing our favorite canciones together – mine: *Los Caminos de la Vida* (translation: the paths of life); his: *Cuando Vuelvas A Casa* (translation: when you return home).

Within a month of getting matched, we met up in person, one of several get-togethers we enjoyed in 2023, in addition to our calls and texts. Most recently, I had the privilege of chauffeuring Andres around San Francisco as I gallantly tried to offer a sightseeing tour worthy of my friend's first visit to the City by the Bay, culminating in Andres' birthday dinner at a Brazilian steakhouse with my dad.

And Andres has more than reciprocated the gift of friendship to me: he has helped me gain confidence in my Spanish as an unfailingly patient language partner, he has listened with tenderness as I shared the pain I felt in losing my mom to breast cancer when I was 23 years old, he has helped me see the diversity and the housing crisis in the Bay Area in a new light, and he has prayed for me and my family, and asked for God's blessings for our work at Miracle Messages.



I love Andres, as if he were a member of my own family. And so, I was thrilled when Andres was randomly selected for Miracle Money, the \$2.1 million basic income (BI) program by Miracle Messages, created in partnership with Google.org, Scott Layne and Kim Lynch, and many other generous funders, as part of a randomized controlled trial led by Professor Ben Henwood and his research team at the USC Dworak-Peck School of Social Work.

Andres is now receiving \$750 a month for 12 months, no strings attached, as one of our 100+ BI recipients across California. According to Andres, the money has made a big difference: he has used it on food, new clothes, a bicycle, charitable gifts, family emergencies, and savings, which he hopes to put toward an apartment.

And finally, after a few months of calls and texts getting to know each other, Andres shared with me his biggest dream of all: four decades ago, his mom also crossed into the United States. But he never found out if she made it across the border alive. "Could you help me find out what happened?"

I gathered some information from Andres using Miracle Messages' online referral form for our family and friend reunification services. Then, our community of digital detectives got to work. Within a week, we found Andres' mom. She was alive in Texas. When we got her on the phone, she was very skeptical of who we were. When we got Andres on the phone, she was doubtful, and began interrogating him with questions. After a few moments of his responses, she burst into tears: "Mi hijo!" Andres and his mom now talk and text every single day.

This is who we are at Miracle Messages. This is why we do what we do. And this is what your support makes possible: unlikely friendships that change both lives, direct cash transfers that offer dignity instead of distrust, and miraculous reunifications between long-lost loved ones.

Together, we can foster a world where no one goes through homelessness alone, and where no one feels helpless on this human rights crisis in our communities.

2024 promises to be the most exciting year yet for our movement. And with your support, we will make many miracles happen. But before we get too far into the new year, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate some of the milestones that we achieved in 2023, thanks to YOU:

- Miracle Money: California – our USC-led, Google.org-funded basic income and social support randomized control trial in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland – reached full enrollment!



- Miracle Messages expanded to Santa Cruz, thanks to the generous support of 1440 Foundation, Housing Matters, Community Action Board, Santa Cruz County Housing for Health Partnership, and others.
- We received media features in [The Guardian](#), [LA Times](#), and [USA Today](#)!
- We updated our internal systems to Salesforce, enabling us to improve efficiency, reporting to external stakeholders, data management, and a streamlined volunteer portal.
- We matched a record-breaking 300+ new phone buddies and facilitated 170+ reunions.
- My new book on homelessness, [When We Walk By](#), was published! Publishers Weekly called it "a must-read for anyone interested in solving the problem of homelessness."

Everyone is someone's somebody.
Thanks for being someone special to us.



Kevin F. Adler
Founder & CEO

About Us

Miracle Messages (MM) is an award-winning 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that helps people experiencing homelessness rebuild their social support systems and financial security, primarily through family reunion services, a phone buddy program, and basic income pilots. We are on a mission to end relational poverty on the streets, and mobilize “housed” people everywhere to connect with their unhoused neighbors as neighbors.

Reunion Services

Reconnecting unhoused individuals with their loved ones (and vice versa).

Miracle Friends

Connecting volunteers with unhoused neighbors 1:1 as phone buddies for weekly calls and texts.

Miracle Money

A direct cash transfer program for select individuals in our Miracle Friends program.

Narrative Change

Shifting public perceptions of homelessness through storytelling and mobilizing volunteers.

We envision a world where no one goes through homelessness alone, and where no one feels helpless on this issue.



Photo: John (right) with Zee (center) and Orly (left) of @OrlyListeningTable

Executive Summary

In 2023, we reached some significant milestones - we passed the midway point for our \$2.1 million basic income plus social support program, Miracle Money: California, with promising preliminary results. Kevin released a book, "When We Walk By", shedding light on the role we all play in ending homelessness in America.

To date, we've facilitated:

900+ Total reunions
(170 this year)

300+ Total Miracle Friends matches

103 recipients of \$750/month for 1 year as part of M\$: California



March
Started our journey in the Stand Together Foundation (STF) Catalyst Program.

Earned our 2023 Platinum Seal with Candid.

May
Featured on the front page of the LA Times

September
Welcomed Kari Kaplan to our Board of Directors.

November
Held our 4th Annual Miracle Friendsgiving for our unhoused neighbors.

Kevin released his book, "When We Walk By" and spoke at the Commonwealth Club book launch event.

February

Launched our new volunteer tracking system on Salesforce.

Hosted our first in-person volunteer mixer in LA.

April

Gathered with like-minded changemakers at the STF Catalyst event in Nashville.



June

Ran an outreach event with the National Coalition for the Homeless

July

Completed enrollment for our Miracle Money: California pilot, with 103 recipients.

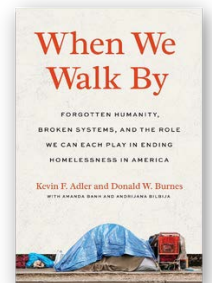
October

Hired Debra Sun, our Santa Cruz Outreach Specialist

Hosted our Board of Directors retreat in-person in SF

December

Featured in the Guardian, LA Times, and USA Today



#WHENWEWALKBY

In November, Kevin F. Adler and Donald W. Burnes released their book - When We Walk By. For anyone who finds themselves no longer able to turn their back on our unhoused neighbors, When We Walk By offers a compassionate and practical path forward. Both a thorough analysis of America's homelessness crisis and a research-based, solutions-focused guide to ending it, When We Walk By is the first book of its kind.

Beautifully written, practical, deeply compassionate, and grounded in combined decades of scholarship, community based work and advocacy, When We Walk By offers meaningful solutions to ending homelessness—and a roadmap back to our collective humanity.

"A compelling story of rediscovering our own humanity - and a roadmap on how we can make large-scale changes that improve everyone's way of life. Read this book to understand how being connected can save us all."

- Andrew Yang, entrepreneur and former 2020 presidential candidate

[ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!](#)

In the News

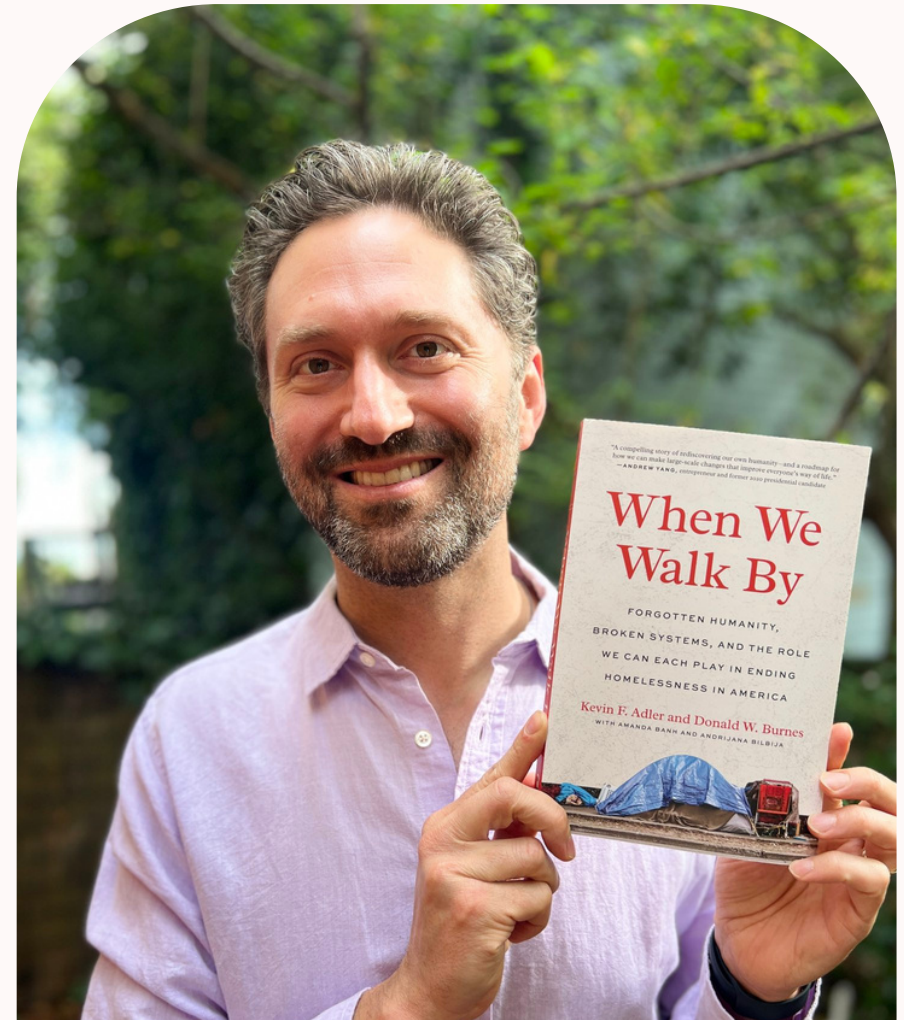
LIT
HUB



Forbes



Psychology Today



Programs

Reunion Services

Miracle Friends

Miracle Money

Narrative Change

Photo: Nelly (left) conducting outreach at a Tiny Homes site

Reunion Services

We hired a Santa Cruz Outreach Specialist!

In October, we hired an outreach specialist, Debra Sun, to strengthen Miracle Messages' services in Santa Cruz. She has been key to helping us expand our presence in Santa Cruz, partnering with local organizations to bring our services to people experiencing homelessness.

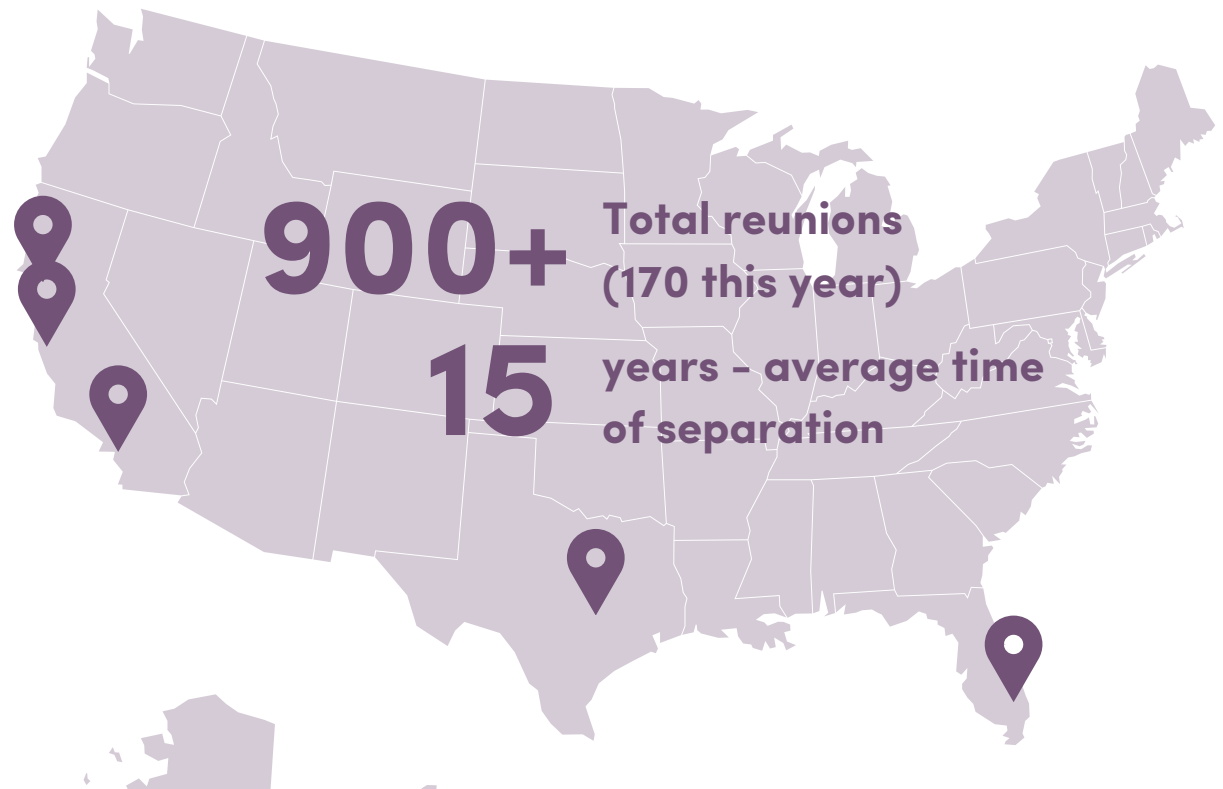


Photo: Nelly (right) speaking with Sheila, who is looking to reconnect with her older brother

Rebuilt & Relunched the Case Solving Community

We recently revamped our technology, tightened up our processes, and reassessed our best practices, enabling our "digital detectives" to work more effectively. We are back to weekly meetings as a major component of the Case Solving Community!

Want to help reunite loved ones?
[BECOME A DIGITAL DETECTIVE HERE.](#)



Feature: Felipe

When we first met Felipe, he had been without housing for almost ten years and had not seen his family in 15–20 years. What little contact the family had ended abruptly years ago, when Felipe lost his cell phone on the streets – and with it, his entire book of contacts.

At age 57, Felipe had given up on ever reconnecting with his family, long before the night he met our team member Gabby at a South Florida meal service she was leading. With Gabby's encouragement and support, Felipe made the emotional decision for one final effort. Going off what little information we had on his family's last known whereabouts, Shelly, one of our volunteer digital detectives, got to work. Miraculously, within a week, they tracked down Felipe's sister in New Mexico and got in touch!

Back on the streets with Felipe, Gabby helped him dial his sister Brenda's number and stood at his side as the two tearfully reconnected. Their sudden disconnection all those years ago meant the family did not know if their beloved Felipe was alive or dead; they were overjoyed to hear his voice again, and most of all that he was in good health and good spirits.

Watch Felipe's special reunion moment on our Instagram and TikTok account @MiracleMessages!



Photos: Gabby and Felipe

Miracle Friends

Miracle Friends facilitates connections between unhoused individuals and volunteers globally, with regular check-ins and friendly exchanges through weekly phone calls and texts. This entirely virtual program operates remotely, welcoming volunteers from any corner of the globe. We have been able to build a dedicated community of volunteers, with over 100 volunteers who have been in the program for more than a year, improving lives through personal connections.

300+ matches made to date

20,000+ interactions logged

163,591 minutes of heartfelt conversation

We always need more volunteers!

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

Feel free to send around the link to others!



Photo: John (left) and MF volunteer Lance at our first ever in-person LA volunteer meetup



Photo: Bob (left) and Janet (right)

Feature: Bob & Janet

Bob and Janet's connection through Miracle Messages proves the transformative power of a friendship. Their journey began in October 2021 when they were paired up, Janet residing in a motel in Pittsburgh, California. Bob, a compassionate volunteer, began a journey to support Janet through her challenging times. "Conversations were difficult because she was so angry. At times I would have to tell her that if she didn't calm down I would not keep communicating." Bob says.

Despite initial difficulties from Janet's health issues and frustration at her living situation, Bob stood by her side, diligently working to navigate different systems and aid options that could improve her situation. His commitment and guidance led Janet to secure a subsidized housing voucher in May of 2022, enabling her to move into an apartment in Martinez, California, which Janet refers to as her "dream apartment".

With support from Miracle Messages, Bob, and his daughter, Janet happily furnished her new space, enjoying her newfound sense of stability. "I don't know if I would have made it to where I am if it had not been for Miracle Messages/Friends, and Bob's encouraging confidence in me is how I was saved." Janet explains. Their regular communication, and genuine care have created a lasting and meaningful friendship.

Miracle Money

Miracle Money: California - Preliminary results are out!

In early 2022, we partnered with researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) to conduct a randomized controlled trial to study the impact of our Miracle Money: California pilot program. The study, led by Ben Henwood, aims to examine the impact of reducing financial and relational poverty on long-term solutions to homelessness. Since then, 103 people experiencing homelessness in either the San Francisco Bay Area or Los Angeles County started receiving \$750 per month for 1 year, based on random selection.

[Full Nov 2023 Interim Report](#)
[News Article](#)

Impact

Researchers at USC released an interim report on this program with positive results:

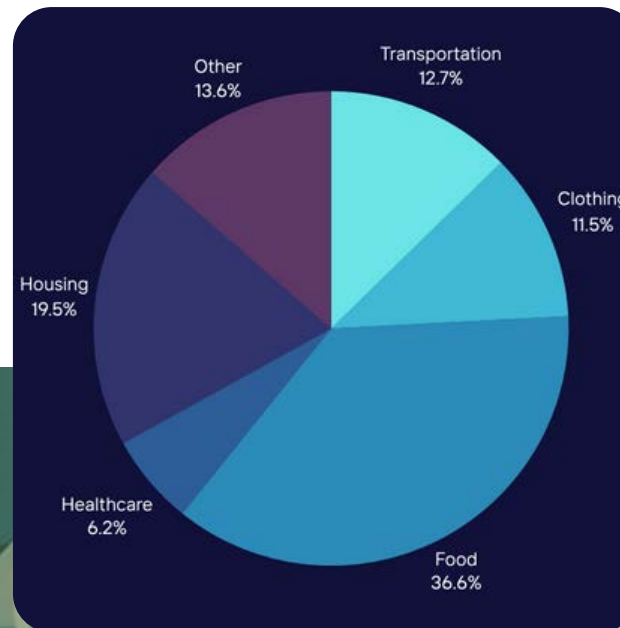


The proportion of M\$ recipients who reported spending time unsheltered in the past month decreased from 30% at baseline to under 12% at the 6-month follow-up (a statistically significant change, $p < .05$). For those in the control group, a modest decrease from 28% to 23% was not statistically significant.



After 6 months, people who received M\$ reported being closer to having enough money to meet all of their basic needs as compared to the control group.

Use of Funds



"I live in a Tiny Homes Site and the food here is not diabetic friendly. And so now I can buy healthier food, eat a salad or something healthier." - Miracle Money Recipient

Feature: Stephen Hardy

Last New Year's Eve, 61-year-old Stephen Hardy found himself standing at an off-ramp on a freeway, holding a sign that read: "Homeless U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. Anything Helps." Hardy's life had taken a drastic turn. Growing up in New York, serving in the Marine Corps, and later pursuing higher education, he became a forklift driver in California. However, when the pandemic hit, work dried up, leading to the loss of his home and car. After couch-surfing for as long as he could, Hardy found himself on the streets. "I never thought I'd be in this situation," he admitted.

Amidst the challenges and loneliness, Hardy decided to try our Miracle Friends program and was paired with Nancy, a volunteer phone buddy from upstate New York. "It lets me know that there's somebody who knows my situation that isn't judging me, who isn't looking down on me," Hardy expressed, highlighting the emotional support he found in this unexpected connection.

Eventually, Hardy was able to also participate in our Miracle Money: California pilot, and started receiving \$750 a month, no strings attached. Hardy, hopeful for the future, shares his aspirations of moving into his own place soon.

"As long as I'm able to come home at night, make a little meal, lay down, watch some TV, I'm ready for the next day," Hardy said, embodying the resilience and determination fostered by the support of Miracle Messages and the Miracle Money program.



Photos: Stephen chatting with the Miracle Messages team



Narrative Change

Storytelling helps shatter the stigma surrounding homelessness, build empathy for those living on the streets, and convey the vision of our organization to others. Our team had some great media opportunities this year:

Feb 11 - Good News Network



Unique Nonprofit to Provide 'Basic Income' to California Homeless in 12-Month Study Funded by Google

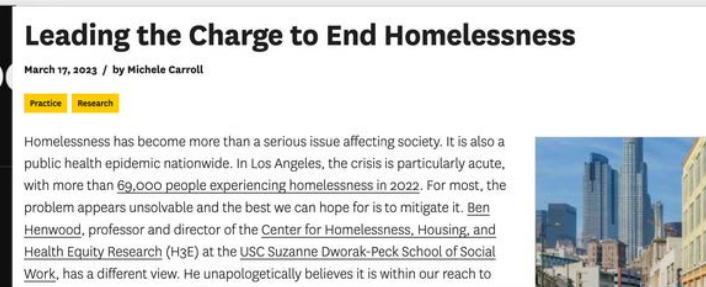
March 1 - KPIX - CBS Bay Area



JA: Nonprofit donates basic income to 10 people experiencing homelessness

By Sharon Chin
Updated on: March 1, 2023 / 5:37 PM PST / CBS San Francisco

March 17 - USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck



Leading the Charge to End Homelessness

March 17, 2023 / by Michele Carroll

Practice Research

Homelessness has become more than a serious issue affecting society. It is also a public health epidemic nationwide. In Los Angeles, the crisis is particularly acute, with more than 69,000 people experiencing homelessness in 2022. For most, the problem appears unsolvable and the best we can hope for is to mitigate it. Ben Henwood, professor and director of the Center for Homelessness, Housing, and Health Equity Research (H3E) at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, has a different view. He unapologetically believes it is within our reach to



April 2 - LA Eastsider



A Phone Call, A Lifeline: Echo Park volunteer stays connected to the homeless

By Brenda Rees · Apr 2, 2023 · 0



Listen to this article now

Powered by Trinity Audio

00:00



April 10 - SF Chronicle



S.F. used to give homeless people bus tickets home. Why did it stop pushing the program?

By Heather Knight

Updated April 10, 2023 10:21 a.m.



April 27 - KCRW - The Helpers



Pairing unhoused Angelenos with 'phone buddies' to fight loneliness

By Zoie Matthew · Apr. 27, 2023

THE HELPERS



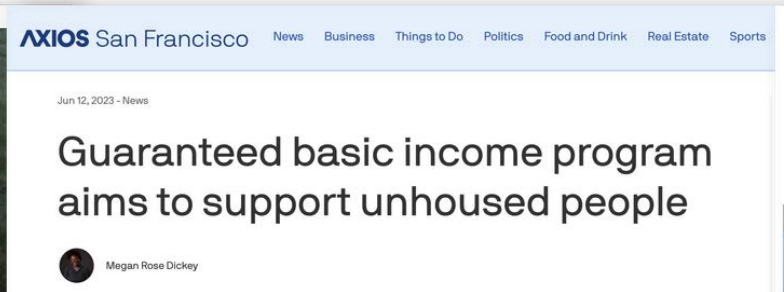
May 1 - Good News Network



MIRACLE MONDAY: Homeless Uncle Inspired Him to Reunite the Unhoused with Families Before It's Too Late

By Miracle Messages · May 1, 2023

June 12 - Axios SF



AXIOS San Francisco News Business Things to Do Politics Food and Drink Real Estate Sports

Jun 12, 2023 - News

Guaranteed basic income program aims to support unhoused people

Megan Rose Dickey

June 24 - Boston Globe



A 'doom loop' narrative has taken over San Francisco. Here's what it means for Boston.

How the City by the Bay has fallen since COVID and hopes to bounce back, and what the capital of the Bay State could learn from watching

By Janelle Nanas Globe Staff. Updated June 24, 2023, 2:22 p.m.

437

Avoiding an "urban doom loop" in Boston

Miracle Messages in the News

May 8th - LA Times FRONT PAGE!

Fighting the 'isolation' of homelessness, with the companionship of volunteer friends



July 10 - CBS News SF

Addressing relational poverty: Help for unhoused people can begin with a simple phone call

By Itay Hod
July 10, 2023 / 6:00 PM PDT / CBS San Francisco



August 16 - Diario AS

FINANCIAL NEWS

Universal Basic Income: Which US cities have these monthly payments

The welfare proposal would give Americans would receive a set amount of money regardless of being in or out of work.

Oliver Povey X Olabolob
Update: Aug 16th, 2023 10:25 EDT

November 24 - Santa Cruz Sentinel

LATEST HEADLINES

Benefit dinner brings 'Miracle Messages' to Santa Cruz County Fundraiser raising awareness of homeless phone buddy, reunification program



NEWS RELEASE 14-DEC-2023

Basic monthly income trial at USC shows promise with significant reduction in homelessness

Participants in the Miracle Money study of a guaranteed monthly income reported a decrease in time spent unsheltered from 30% to under 12% after six months, USC researchers find

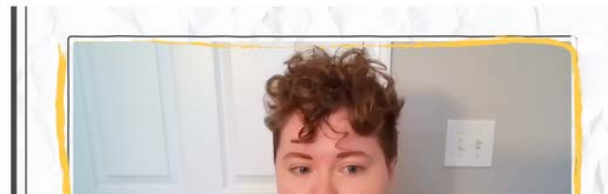
Reports and Proceedings
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

December 20 - USA Today

How \$750 a month changed the lives of a group of homeless people in California

Krystal Nurse
USA TODAY

Published 12:52 a.m. ET Dec. 20, 2023 | Updated 4:18 p.m. ET Dec. 24, 2023



December 20 - Business Insider

ECONOMY

\$750 a month was given to homeless people in California. What they reported spending it on is more evidence that universal basic income works.

Natalie Musumeci Dec 20, 2023, 1:05 PM EST

Share Save





Feature: Timothy

A former firefighter from Seattle, Timothy was one of Miracle Money's first recipients. Timothy had been homeless for ten months despite being employed. During this time, with over 46 rejected rental applications, he had to move between two dozen hotels to stay off the streets of San Francisco. "I slept on the ground for 47 days, and on day 47, they took a clunk out of the back of my head with a nine iron," Timothy shuddered, describing the assault.

Miracle Money became a beacon of hope for Timothy. With the \$750 monthly stipend, Timothy was finally able to secure housing. Expressing gratitude to Adler, Timothy shared, "You made it so I could sign a lease last Thursday." Timothy tried to articulate how he felt. "Housed! You can't describe the feeling. You're safe." he said.

Thank you to our community!

Partners

Donors

Volunteers

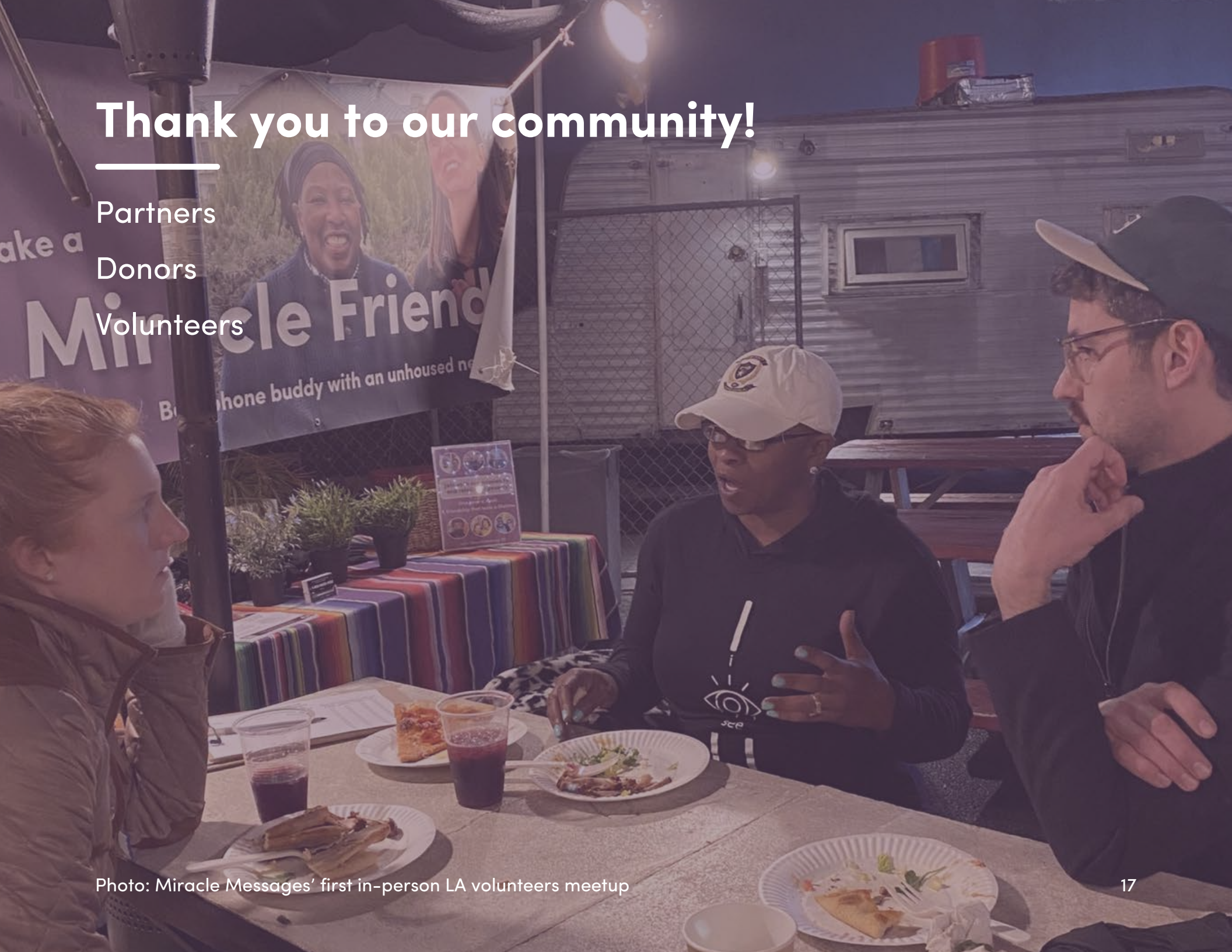


Photo: Miracle Messages' first in-person LA volunteers meetup

Thank you partners!

From various nonprofits, city officials and government workers, and corporate sponsors, we appreciate the support and collaborative spirit from our partners!

South Florida

Broward Health Services/Medical Centre
Camillus House
Choose Love Foundation
HCA Florida Kendall Hospital
HOPE South Florida
North Broward Hospital District
Our Father's House Soup Kitchen
Ruth's Ministries
Sarasota HOT
Showering Love
Sisters of Charity
Taskforce For Ending Homelessness
Tent City Helpers
The Lord's Gift House
Turning Point, St. Petersburg, FL

Arizona

St. Vincent de Paul, ASU
Human Services Campus, Arizona
Justa Center

San Antonio, Texas

Haven for Hope

Austin, Texas

Community First! Village
Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center
New Bridge Shelter, Austin, TX

Los Angeles

April Parker Foundation
Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP)
Better Angels LA
California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
Changing the Faces of Homelessness
FAAAM Outreach Foundation
God's Property
Healthcare In Action
Hollywood Food on Foot
Home At Last CDC
Homeless Health Care Los Angeles
Hope The Mission
Housing For Health
Inside Safe
Inner City Visions
LA County Department of Health Services (DHS)
LA County Department of Mental Health (DMH)
LA County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
LA Family Housing (LAFH)
LAHSA
LavaMae
Los Angeles Mission
Los Angeles Public Library
Los Angeles Central Providers Collaborative (LACPC)

Mt Tabor Missionary Baptist Church
Mutual Aid LA Network
People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)
ProjectQ
Restoration CDC
Safe Parking LA
Safe Place For Youth (S.P.Y.)
Salvation Army
SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition
Serenity Recuperative Care
SSG / HOPICS
St. Francis Center
St. Vincent De Paul Society
The Giving Spirit
The Midnight Mission
The People Concern
The Source (LA Public Library)
The Weingart Foundation
Union Station Homeless Services
United States Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Affairs of Los Angeles
Water Drop LA

San Francisco Bay Area

Curry Senior Center
Dignity Moves
Dolores St. Community Services
DowntownSF Partnership
Downtown Streets Team (DST)
Dream Center
Episcopal Community Services
Five Keys

Thank you partners!

San Francisco Bay Area (continued)

Hamilton Families
HomeBase
Hospitality House
Institute on Aging
Lake Merritt Lodge
Lava Mae
LifeLong Medical Care TRUST Health Center
Mandela Community Cabins
Project Homeless Connect
San Francisco Department of Public Health
San Francisco General Hospital
San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team
The Salvation Army
UCSF Citywide Case Management
University of California San Francisco -
Citywide Case Management
Urban Alchemy
Urban Vision Alliance
West Oakland Punks with Lunch
Youth With A Mission - San Francisco

Santa Cruz

1440 Foundation
Community Action Board
Free Guide - Santa Cruz
Housing Matters
Housing for Health
The Salvation Army

Seattle/Tacoma

Nightwatch
Saint Vincent de Paul
Seattle Public Library
King County Library System
Associated Ministries
Catholic Community Services
King County
Tacoma Rescue Mission
SeaMar Health
Recovery Cafe
Comprehensive Life Resources
R.I.S.E . Center
Tacoma Public Library
PDA King County
Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to
End Homelessness

University Partners



Corporate Partners



Thank you donors!

To date, your generosity has enabled us to reunite 900+ families, facilitate 300+ life-changing friendships, and provide 103 unhoused neighbors with \$750/month for a year through Miracle Money: California. Thank you!

In 2023...

- 311 Individual Donors
- 11 Corporate Donors
- 12 Foundations

helped us raise...

\$1,191,211



Photo: Kent (YWAM Staff, Left) and Nolan (M\$ Recipient, Right)

Our Team



Kevin F. Adler, Founder & CEO

Kevin started Miracle Messages in December 2014. Motivated by his late mother's work teaching at underserved adult schools and his late uncle's 30 years living on the streets with severe mental illness, Kevin is dedicated to a world where everyone is seen as invaluable and interconnected. Kevin has pioneered the concept of "relational poverty" as an overlooked form of poverty severely affecting unhoused individuals. He is an award-winning social entrepreneur and the author of the new book, "When We Walk By: Forgotten Humanity, Broken Systems, and the Role We Can Each Play in Ending Homelessness in America". Kevin has been honored as a Presidential Leadership Scholar, TED Resident and Speaker, and Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. Previously, Kevin co-founded three EdTech startups, and authored *Natural Disasters as a Catalyst for Social Capital* (Rowman & Littlefield 2015). Kevin holds a Masters in Sociology from Cambridge and a Bachelors in Politics from Occidental College.



Colette Lay, Chief of Staff

Colette brings a lifelong commitment to community service and volunteering to the Miracle Messages team. She earned a Master's degree in Psychology with a focus on behavioral genetics and has volunteered in some capacity since her first year of college. As a past club president and current Rotarian and Asst. Governor, she applies the "Service above Self" Rotary motto in all she does. After hearing Kevin give a presentation in 2018, she became an immediate fan of how well Miracle Messages fit her values and ensures that no one has to feel helpless on the issue of homelessness.



Madeline Mazzocchi, Director of Programs and Operations

Madeline brings decades of experience in information technology, operations, and social service to the team. After graduating from college with a degree in Political Science and Computer Science, she spent her career as an information technology professional, retiring in 2019 as Director of Information Technology. She used her passion for helping others during her retirement by volunteering for several non-profit organizations, including Miracle Messages. While watching an interview with Kevin in the spring of 2019, she discovered she could use her IT skills and her desire to help our unhoused neighbors as a volunteer digital detective. Seeing the strong impact Miracle Messages and their volunteers had in every interaction convinced Madeline to come out of retirement to accept the position of Director of Programs and Operations.



Mark Askins, Lead Digital Detective

Since December 2017, Mark has applied his abilities of 30+ years as a private investigator on over 100 cases. He actively works to find the loved ones of those experiencing homelessness and end relational poverty. Mark has facilitated some of Miracle Messages most touching reunions and believes that, "Miracle Messages provides hope and perspective to our most vulnerable neighbors, and helps to shatter stigmas and restore dignity, and agency to our neighbors experiencing housing insecurity. We give people who are on the streets a chance to break the stigma of homelessness!" In June 2023 Mark launched Miracle Messages' expansion to the greater Seattle Tacoma area where he lives with his wife Mary and his daughters, Emily and Julia.



Gabriela Cordell, Program Manager, Reunion Services

Gabby first came to Miracle Messages in early 2016 after seeing a sibling reunion highlighted on a local news show. She contacted Kevin and immediately started offering Miracle Messages to her unhoused friends in the community. Because of her personal experience in seeing the magic of Miracle Messages and how its unique reconnection service profoundly impacts those she was already serving, when Miracle Messages formally expanded to South Florida, Gabby was determined to make herself the chosen candidate. She continues to expand on the work that the team had begun in South Florida. Gabby has been an active member of the homeless service provider community in South Florida through her work with the Choose Love Foundation for over 10 years and has helped us bring Miracle Messages deeper into the community by partnering with other service providers such as, HOPE South Florida, Sisters of Charity, Jubilee Center of Hollywood, Showering Love, Our Father's House, The Lord's Gift House, and where it all began, Choose Love Foundation.



Nelly Stastny, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Growing up in a small town in California, Nelly always knew a strong sense of community and the positive effects from it. This coupled with her passion to work with disenfranchised communities brought her to Miracle Messages. Nelly brings her years of case management expertise from working with people experiencing chronic homelessness in Sonoma County where she first learned of the Miracles Messages' mission while utilizing it for her clients. Immediately, she knew it was something she wanted to be a part of. Doing outreach on the streets of San Francisco, Nelly is not only sharing the programs of Miracle Messages and Miracle Friends, but also smiles and conversations with our unhoused neighbors.



John Ma, Director of Product

John helps oversee how our unhoused program participants, volunteers, and donors discover, experience, and support our programs, both in-person and virtually. He works on the ground in Los Angeles County with unhoused individuals, service providers, government agencies, and community groups, while managing broader communication and growth strategies. As an LA resident of 16 years, he holds elected office as President of the West Adams Neighborhood Council, and is a board member of the City and County electoral and community organizing group Ground Game LA. In his personal life, he enjoys weightlifting and recreational circus arts, year-round ocean swims, and quality time with family and friends.



Rosalie Silva, Program Assistant

Rosalie started as a volunteer with Miracle Messages in January 2022. She has a background in Human Services and Chemical Dependency counseling. She is an advocate for Mental Health and Domestic Violence Awareness. Her life experiences help her bring empathy and compassion to her role as Miracle Friends Program Assistant. Rosalie loves spending time with her family and volunteering in her community.



Debra Sun, Santa Cruz Outreach Specialist

Debra is the newest member of the team and based in Santa Cruz, California. She has a background in health care, as a Clinical Nurse Educator, a Health and Wellness Coach and has a Master's Degree in Nursing from San Jose State University. She also has extensive training in mediation, empathy, and compassionate communication. She was inspired to join the team by the idea of ending relational poverty and providing family reunification to those in need. She believes in the power of connection to improve health and well-being and is passionate about helping vulnerable populations. She believes in the power of kindness and loves to bring people together to create positive change.



Photo: Nelly, Gabby, and John at the Stand Together Conference in Ohio

Case Solving Community

- Amy Ward
- Austen Woods
- Chaelee Chavez
- Corrine Allard
- Gabby Cordell
- Jane Allen
- Karen Carter
- Karen Kendzierski
- Kimberly Young
- Liz Breuilly
- Lori Gilder
- Louis Alvarez

- Melina Morris
- Nana Bruce-Amanquah
- Nelly Stastny
- Patrick Spell
- Richard Regino
- Robin McMillan
- Roger Kahn
- Sharon Moyer
- Shelly Firebaugh
- Travis Mann
- Vidhya Sai Annem

Other Volunteers

- Aihan Nguyen
- Alisha Collaco
- Apneet Kaur
- Ben Pack
- David Kim
- Dylan Hatch
- Emily Artiano
- Emma Hagen
- Geetika Yelugoti
- Hansi Perera
- Jahnabi Dekka
- James Bradbury
- Joany Martinez

- Johnson Wu
- Julia Ip
- Liz Gurch
- Maddie Roth
- Margaret Bates
- Neelanjana Chandabarty
- Nihal Shantigram
- Tharani Waduwara
- Udayan Deka
- Vennila Satheesh
- Ximena Alvarado

Finance & Legal

- Beth Attebery and Nathan Diaz,
Partners at The Henry Levy
Group, a CPA firm
- Brandon Salesberry Founder &
Principal Salesberry Group, LLC
- Mark Donig
- Natalie Oveyssi
- Covington & Burling LLP

Miracle Friends

Aden Bertisch
Ahmad Abdelkhalek
Aleksandar Marre
Alex Blue
Alisha Alisha
Alison Huetter
Alka Mulakaluri
Amanda O'Brien
Amna Imtiaz
Amy Stein
Amy Ward
Andre Mendez
Andrea Harsma
Angelica Limcaco Matthews
Anil Kashyap
Anna Xing
Annette Batey
Anton Guo
Apneet Kaur
April Weiland
Athena Watson
Austen Woods
Avdeep Dhillon
Barb Brown
Ben Hughes
Beth Nintzel
Bevin Donahue
Bill Boehner
Bill Elfsten
Bruce Armstrong
Camille Ede
Carole Campbell

Caroline Drysdale
Caroline Gathogo
Caroline Kagan
Cary Beckelheimer
Catalina Colling
Chaelee Chavez
Chloe Moore
Chris Dobson
Christina Hellmich
Claire Offenberger
Co Nguyen
Colette Lay
Connie Yang
Corrine Allard
Courtney Fong
Cristie Drew
Dana Wang
Danette Sheppard-Vaughn
Dani Janklow
Danielle Baus
Darlene Durfee
Darlene Valle
Dartanyan Tzanetopoulos
David Willmore
Debbie Brucks
Debby Bright
Debi Sample
Deborah Coleman
Debórah Walker
Denise Gastineau
Denise Horn
Derek Lee
Dhruv Jani
Eileen Johnson

Elizabeth Gurch
Emily Khzrtian
Enis Harrison
Eric Rehm
Erika Dutcher
Erika Siao
Erin Boyle
Erin Feeney
Eugin Koh
Fernando Bremer
Frances Musgrove
Francine Tansey
Frank Moore
Gabby Cordell
Gabriela Estrada
Gem Nigay
Georgina Davidson
Gloria Miranda
Golumanikkage Hansi
Perera
Hamsini Mahadevan
Hang Nguyen
Hannah Tate
Harriet Pepper
Hema-Valelia
Didierlaurent
Hilary Armstrong
Holly Longworth
Ian Burgess
Jae Grymes
Jane Allen
Jane Njuguna
Jaroslava Dockalova
Jaslin Yu

Jeanne Slinn
Jen Roy
Jennie Palmer
Jennifer Long
Jessica Uhlig
Joan Scott
Joanne Hoemberg
Joh M
Jordana Abitbol
Josh Reiman
Jude O'Reilley
Julia Ip
Justin Kim
Kalli VandenHeuvel
Kapil Kanagasabai
Karen Carter
Kat Berumen
Kat Newcombe
Kathy Corazza
Katie Chung
Keerthana Kamboji
Kelly LaMont
Kelsey Liber
Kevin Adler
Kim Richardson
Kimberly Lynch
Kimberly Pettus
Kimberly Young
Lamar Toker
Lars Deutz
Lauren Warner
Leslye Lynford
Linda Beckman
Linda Hoff

Linda Mensinga
Linda Stremel
Lindsey Rubin
Lisa Arrington
Lisa Marut
Lisa Wilkinson
Loretta Donelan
Louis Alvarez
Lucy Gomez
Luke Shapiro
Lumu Manandhar
Madeline Wilson
Margaret Wong
Mariano Svidler
Marilyn Spence
Mark DoNovan
Mark Haynes
Mary Bishop
Mary Gentile
Mary Klineman
Maryam
Vandergriff-Shuja
Matthew McGloin
Maxine Wolf
Maya Tokuyama
Megan Raphael
Meghan Elfsten
Micaela Esguerra
Michael Jed
Michael Perlstein
Michael Ressler
Mischelle Hodge
Molly Cowan
Nadia Khalil

Miracle Friends (cont'd)

Nancy Bacon	Quinh Li	Sarah Wolfish	Steven Joyce	Tonia Trapp
Nancy LeBaron	Rachelle Simon	Sari Reis	Steven Liu	Tony Diaz
Nann White	Rebecca Giguere	Saurabh Raman	Sukey Lilienthal	Tracey Pruitt
Natalie Liu	Rebecca Shuere	Scott Layne	Susan McCord	Travis Mann
Neelanjana Chakrabarty	Richard Gallo	Sharoon Solomon	Sybil Fisher	Tyler Martin
Nicole Ortega	Robert Dulsky	Shelby Layne	Sylvie Puig	Udayan Deka
Nivedhita Nagarajan	Robin Adams	Shruthi Aravindan	Tabo Stekelenburg	Veronica Crass
Noemi Ramos	Roger Kahn	Shujing Guo	Taher Rupawala	Vincent Musser
Patricia Martin	Rosalie Silva	Simon Brooke	Tamyra Henderson	Vlad Popescu
Patrick Spell	Sadhika Senthilkumar	Sindre Carlsen	Thomas Fitzgerald	Wayne Cerullo
Patty Modellmog	Sam Nackman	Sneha Kesavan	Tiffany Daniel	Weijie Gu
Paul Swanson	Sandra Dickinson	Sonja Aletter	Tigran Karakhanyan	William Drabkin
Peter Golden	Sandy Freed	Soumya Thotakura	Tim Hunt	Ximena Alvarado
Poo Shin Mu	Sara Coon	Stacy Osborne-Fry	Tina Christopher	Yousuf Din
Pranavi Garlapati	Sarah Gleason	Stella Tran	Tad Sova	



Photo: Miracle Messages and Housing Matters team

In Memoriam

We would like to honor our unhoused friends and volunteers who passed away this year. While they are no longer physically with us, they will always be in our hearts and memories.

Calvin
Candy K.
Casey
Colleen B.
Cynthia M.
Dave G.
Garfield C.
Howard J.
Jerrod D.
Kathy
Robert G.
Terence W.
Tim E.

"I miss my friend Kathy. She passed away recently, but she lived many lives. She sometimes told me stories of her youth- eating delicious cakes that her elders made, running wild in Florida catching snakes, being able to ace every math test in high school. She told me stories of being a young adult- being a bouncer in a nightclub, serving in the military, being an extra in a Hollywood movie. She told me stories of being an adult- being a proud transgender woman, meeting people in the Tenderloin, caring for her beloved dog Gracie. She loved to make me smile and laugh with these stories. She championed me for being a teacher and a mom. She was eager to share what was going on in her life. She had amazing perspectives about religion, politics, and science. She was unique and special and she was my friend. She often said that she felt like a pinball in a pinball machine bouncing from one obstacle to the next. I hope that she is at peace now."

-Jessie (MF volunteer)

