

# *Our Community* House of Hope

*A Loving Alternative for End-of-Life Care*  
*Serving Ventura and Northwestern Los Angeles counties FREE OF CHARGE*

## *Our Community House of Hope* *Will Open Fall, 2011!*

**Y**es, it's finally happened—OCHH has signed a lease on its first home! Thanks to each one of you, OCHH will soon be a reality in our community.

The OCHH Board has finalized the details of a lease to a beautiful four-bedroom home in Thousand Oaks. We could not have asked for a better fit. The house is already equipped and operational, satisfying our requirements and licensing needs. This means that very little work will need to go into getting the house ready for our first residents.

With an anticipated opening in early fall of this year, we will be ready to house four residents who need end-of-life care. OCHH will be licensed through the Department of Social Services as a Residential Care Facility for the Chronically Ill. Each of our residents will be under the care of a Community Medical Hospice for their medical needs. In keeping with our mission, OCHH will provide a peaceful, comfortable, and well-staffed home for those who are in their last three months of life and who may have no other alternatives for end-of-life care. We will be their loving family in their last chapter of life, providing care at NO COST.



With much gratitude we thank each one of you for having supported OCHH in its fundraising efforts. Now we must link arms and redouble those efforts to ensure that Our Community House of Hope continues to grow and flourish.

We appreciate your belief in our dream; that a community can step up and help its most vulnerable members in beautiful ways.

Thank you,  
**OCHH Board of Directors,**



*Top (l to r): Peter Wolf, Ellen Henahan, Bonnie Olson, Amyra Braha, Dr. John Horton & Barbara Harris*  
*Bottom (l to r): Patty Hayes, Kerrin Turrow, Hank Heister, Teresa Wolf (co-founder and president) & Ruth Klein (co-founder and staff administrator)*

## OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS



- It has been determined that **one day of a resident's care will be \$300; \$2,100 for one full week.** Your financial contributions are greatly needed and appreciated.
- **We are compiling our wish list of goods and services for the house.** Please look for this list in the near future in an upcoming Constant Contact e-mail from OCHH. *We will be registering at a few of the local retail stores, so you will be able to contribute by going to their gift registry.*
- **A computer & printer**
- **Non-profit software package**

# *A Letter from the President—*

*Dear Friend of OCHH,*

In her book, To Live Until We Say Goodbye, (1978, Prentiss-Hall International, Inc.) Elizabeth Kubler-Ross tells a moving story of a terminally ill young mother. Suffering separation from her children in the hospital, with a husband in anguish over her impending death, this woman was totally despondent over her unfinished business. Dr. Kubler-Ross arranged this woman's transfer home for her final days; facilitating her comfort-care in beloved familiar surroundings, preparation of her husband and children, and the reunion of her estranged extended family. She describes the impact of these actions.

*“With her favorite music playing, with candlelight on the table, with the children near, and with flowers next to her picked by her own children, she died a very different kind of death than had she stayed in the hospital. Those children will never associate death with loneliness, isolation...and deceit. They will remember it as a time of togetherness with their parents, grandparents, and friends who cared and were able to acknowledge their own anxieties and their own fears, and together were able to overcome them.”*

Thirty-three years later, Dr. Kubler-Ross's wisdom resonates louder than ever. The opportunities for peace, comfort, reconciliation, growth and learning are real and present at life's end, *especially with adequate support*. For many people, that support must include a place to live with hands to help—the *next best thing to home*. Answering this need is at the heart of the mission of OCHH: *to establish and operate a loving end-of-life care home for people in our community*.

OCHH will open its doors to residents at NO CHARGE FOR SERVICE. As we look ahead with much anticipation and excitement to opening our doors this fall, we call on you, our dedicated donors, to help us accomplish our mission. We have much work ahead in preparation for our opening this fall. With your support, OCHH stands poised to make its mission a reality—and we need your help!

Individual donors like you play a vital role in the support of our mission. We will depend upon your generous support to survive and flourish. Each day of every guest's care costs \$300 to provide. *Will you help us provide this opportunity to individuals and families in our community?* Your donation will enable the 24/7 compassionate care that will be freely given in the comfort of ***Our Community House of Hope***.

EVERY GIFT counts. You are making a difference in the lives of families when you partner with us to provide this loving care. Thank you so much for considering a gift of support today.

*With deepest gratitude,*



**Teresa Wolf,  
President**

*“The House of Hope will fill the gap for a community home where a terminally ill person can be cared for when family or friends are unable to meet their physical care needs. This non-profit home will provide a compassionate environment in which one can find peace and comfort during their final days.”*

*Andrea Doctor, LCSW,  
Buena Vista Hospice Care*



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Our Community House of Hope  
is a California non-profit  
501c (3) organization

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*Summer 2011 Edition*

**OUR MISSION**  
***is to establish and operate a loving end-of-life care home for people in our community; to provide quality care and access to hospice services at no cost to our residents and their families, and to develop an educational center for end-of-life care issues.***

*“LSS Community Care Centers has served those in need in Ventura County for over 25 years. In most recent years we have seen the population of seniors grow in numbers and in need. As a result, there is a growing demand for help at end-of-life for those we serve.*

*As our community ages and is affected by health issues, they are often left alone without a home or needed care in their crisis. We believe your program, “Our Community House of Hope,” offers a wonderful option for serving this segment of population as they face their final days.”*

Darlene Mees, Area Director  
Lutheran Social Services Community Care Center  
Ventura County