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## RUBICON PROGRAMS INC. Begin the journey to change.

### June 2010 - Summer News

Dear Rubicon Friend,

Thanks to everyone who has supported Rubicon with a donation, a grant, in-kind giving, volunteering and advocating for our work - because of you, we've served over 4,000 individuals and families with employment, legal, housing and supportive services this fiscal year.

The economic recession has hit the Bay Area hard – with unemployment rates of 11.3% in Contra Costa County, 11.5% in Alameda County, and 18.3% in the City of Richmond (CA Employment Development Department, April 2010). In Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, Rubicon has witnessed a 30% increase in demand for services. Now more than ever, we're seeing an unprecedented need for jobs, housing, mental health and legal services to meet the basic needs of low-income families hardest hit during these challenging times.

If you haven't had a chance to support us this year, there is still time. [Click here to give generously now.](#)

I hope that you will take a moment to read Robin's story (below) to see how your contribution to Rubicon changes lives for the better every day.

Warmest Regards,

Jane Fischberg  
President and Executive Director

### Robin's Journey

After her husband's death, Robin fell into hopelessness and despair, losing her job and home. Unable to care emotionally and financially for her two children, she entrusted them to her sister in San Francisco, while Robin moved to the streets and shelters in Richmond.

Robin found her way to Rubicon, where counselors went the extra mile to help her with clothes for her first job interview, assistance finding a new apartment, and a first step back into the workforce. She found the courage to rebuild her life — one step at a time. Today, Robin works at Chevron where she's actively involved in Toastmasters and other employee groups. She has remarried and hopes to become a grandmother soon!



Rubicon serves as a beacon of hope to those in need. We provide accessible, integrated services for people with barriers to employment on a journey to self-sufficiency and people with mental illness on a path to recovery. [Together, we are helping people begin the journey to change.](#)

**"Rubicon gave me the ability to live life with purpose again, in every way. I am proof that Rubicon works."**

- Robin, on how Rubicon made an impact on her life.

### Upcoming Events

Summer is here! Please click here to visit our [Events page](#) for more details on these exciting events:

#### June 19, 2010 Richmond Juneteenth Family Festival

Rubicon is pleased to join the Richmond Community, as we take part in this year's 2010 Juneteenth Parade & Festival on Saturday, June 19, 2010 at Richmond's Nicholl Park. Stop by our booth to say hello, and learn more about our services!

#### August 3, 2010 National Night Out

In collaboration with the Richmond Richmore Village Neighborhood Council, Rubicon is pleased to host this year's "National Night Out." We look forward to celebrating the evening with our neighbors at 2500 Bissell Avenue.

#### August 21-22, 2010 Richmond Riviera Regatta

Special thanks to Margi, Scott and all of our friends at the Richmond Yacht Club! Their annual Richmond Riviera Regatta will be on August 21-22, 2010, and Rubicon is thankful to be one of the selected beneficiaries of their fundraising event. The events will be a lot of fun, and are an excellent way to support Richmond organizations, including Rubicon!

#### September 13-28, 2010 2010 Week of Caring

## Rubicon staff present at "Bridges Out of Homelessness: Vocations, Health and Housing" Conference

Steve Grolnic-McClurg, Rubicon's Director of Supportive Services, led the workshop, "Ending Homelessness for Individuals with Severe Mental Illness" along with Rubicon staff members Gary Cristofani, Judith Lorde, Raegan Joern, and participants in Bridges To Home, the MHSa Full Service Partnership for adults in West Contra Costa County.

The workshop highlighted the challenges and successes of our efforts, spotlighting recent work by our Bridges To Home MHSa team (BTH), which has moved more than 90 individuals and families into permanent housing in the past two years. [To learn more about the conference, please click here.](#)

## Rubicon Develops Prison-to-Employment Program

Approximately 40% of the more than 4,000 individuals Rubicon serves have criminal records. Based on our experience working with people released from prison, we know steady employment is one of the best predictors of success.

In March 2010, Rubicon began partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The model is unique, as it offers a targeted set of integrated services, including intensive case management, job readiness, vocational opportunities, and more.

Together, these services address the multiple barriers parolees face when they return from prison. Our Berkeley Workforce Services team is currently working with 25 individuals, and we project enrollment to increase to 60 individuals by the year's end. [You can learn more about the California New Start Program by visiting the the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation website.](#)

## Pathways to Recovery: Learning more about the Vicious Cycle board game

**Innovation.** It's one of our agency values, and integral to our work. The Vicious Cycle is an educational game about depression. The board game was developed by members of our Independent Living Services (ILS) program, which provides essential life skills classes as well as counseling, case management and pre-vocational training to help participants develop daily living skills and use community resources more effectively.



ILS participants designed the board game based on their own experiences, symptoms and coping strategies. While playing the game, one confronts various psychological, relational and social issues.

Through the game, players learn new facts about depression and discover new ways to achieve recovery. The game highlights the fact that one has a choice of how to cope with depression and gives players an opportunity to learn about short and long-term coping strategies.

Rubicon Programs is looking forward to welcoming back corporate volunteer teams from Chevron, Wells Fargo and other Bay Area companies. Visit our website this summer to keep track of how you and your company can contribute and become involved!

## Congratulations to Rubicon's President and Executive Director, Jane Fischberg!

On May 20, 2010, Jane was honored for her outstanding career in the nonprofit sector and presented with this year's Alumna of the Year Award from the Masters in Public Administration department at San Francisco State University.

## With a 30% increase in demand for services, your financial support is needed.

Make a secure donation on-line now. You may also contact the Development office at 510-231-3965.

# DONATE

Thanks to our donors, corporate and foundation partners who contributed last quarter.

[To view our full supporter list, please visit our website.](#)

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If you would like to learn more about the Vicious Cycle board game, please contact our Development Department at 510-231-3994.

## **LEADERSHIP: Spotlight on Kathryn Daniels, Treasurer, Rubicon Board of Directors**

We are proud to share reflections from Kathryn Daniels, Treasurer for Rubicon Board of Directors, and Senior Vice President and Client Manager with Bank of America's Government Banking Division, supporting municipalities and local agencies.

### **How did you become a member of Rubicon's Board of Directors?**



I have a family member with a serious mental health issue. Because of my history watching this person try to obtain appropriate services and support, I understand the need for holistic support of the entire family and individuals with mental health issues. I wanted to offer my time and support to an organization that I believe provides appropriate resources for those in need, and Rubicon is that organization.

### **What do you like most about Rubicon and the work it does?**

Rubicon is a well-run organization, with a very dedicated and committed staff. The employees of Rubicon recognize the need for their services, and my experience is that each and every employee at Rubicon "goes the extra mile" to make certain that the needs of their clients are met.

### **What do you like to do for fun?**

I love to travel, read and recently started country line dance for some exercise.

## **WISHLIST: A new van for our job training crew!**

Are you looking for a worthy agency to donate your soccer van to? Our Workforce Services team is in need of a van our landscape training programs in Berkeley.

We are currently using a passenger van limited to a crew of 5. We are in need of a van that will accommodate a group of 10. Please contact Rob Hope, Director Workforce Services, at 510-412-1706 and [robh@rubiconprograms.org](mailto:robh@rubiconprograms.org)

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## **GoodSearch and GoodShop!**

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate.

**Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!**

And if you download the GoodSearch – Rubicon Programs toolbar, we'll earn money every time you shop and search online - even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first!

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