
Rubicon Programs Newsletter
December 2010

Greetings!

As I write this letter, I think of all for which I am grateful: family and friends, a warm and safe home, good health, and fulfilling work. Perhaps you too are fortunate and have these essential pieces in place. I was reminded not to take these things for granted when I recently heard the stories of a few men and women who joined Bridges to Home, Rubicon's assertive community treatment program.

These individuals used to be homeless, living with untreated mental illness. Now they are on a journey of recovery.

Teresa, intense and articulate, reunited with her children, volunteering in the community, a youth minister in her church, spoke about how it felt to have a key to their own home, to be able to sleep soundly and not wake up regularly out of habit from sleeping in bus shelters, to make sure she was safe.

Dignified Renee described herself as formerly living like an animal, sleeping wherever she could, needing to knock on doors to use a bathroom, now being "able to brush her teeth all day long if that's what [she] wanted" and being trusted to take care of her two grandchildren, born since she acquired housing through Rubicon.

The impact of Bridges to Home for the 110 of people in it, as well as the community, is tremendous: 49% reduction of hospitalizations, 46% reduction of hospital days, 57% reduced visits to psychiatric crisis services.

Rubicon provides critical services for people with barriers to employment on a journey to self-sufficiency and people with serious mental illness on a path to recovery.

As the holidays approach, we are reminded of more plentiful years in the past. There are ample ways you can share your time and resources to help Rubicon families secure the greatest holiday gift of all -- hope. Thank you for being a part of the Rubicon family.

Warmest Regards,



Jane Fischberg
President and Executive Director

IN THE PRESS

Chevron awards Rubicon Programs \$175,000 to train and employ North Richmond residents

PRESS RELEASE

As part of our partnership with Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC), we will provide paid training and job preparation to up to 24 North Richmond residents at CHDC's affordable housing sites. "We'll be reaching out to very low-income folks who live in North Richmond, primarily folks 18 and up."

-- Jane Fischberg,
President and Executive
Director of Rubicon
Programs.

[Click here to learn more about the unique partnership in the Contra Costa Times.](#)

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THANK YOU!

Special thanks to the following 2010 Donors and Corporate and Foundation Partners

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**Meeting a Critical Need:
Rubicon Legal Services**

On Thursday, November 18th Rubicon's Legal Services team gathered with friends, partners and supporters at Levente East in Oakland. Rubicon was pleased to premiere the rebranding of Rubicon Legal Services, formerly known as the Hawkins Center, and also highlight the critical need for legal services in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

Through direct representation, counseling and advocacy, Rubicon Legal Services provides vital legal assistance to very low-income people in the East Bay. Our clients live with incomes below the federal poverty line, are living with disabilities, including mental illness, or are seeking to achieve financial independence through employment but face multiple barriers to successfully finding jobs and advancing careers.



Edward Hamilton,
Rubicon Legal Services client

Each year, Rubicon Legal Services represents more than 500 low-income clients, primarily in administrative proceedings, and also provide information and referral to more than 1,500 others.

We'd like to thank our honorary hosts, Steve Kaufhold from Akin Gump, and Christian Rowley and Sharon Rossi, from Seyfarth Shaw, for their tremendous support. Special thanks to Edward Hamilton, our guest speaker, who shared how Rubicon impacted his life by helping him resolve legal issues and find a job. Working closely with his Career Coach, Eva, and receiving legal services from Brian, a Staff Attorney, Edward now working full time.

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 Philip Monrad and Molly Sullivan
 Maria Murcia
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 Judith Peak

To learn more about Rubicon's Legal Services or how you can become involved in Pro Bono service, please contact our team: Kelly Dunn, General Counsel and Director of Legal Services 510-620-1160; kellyd@rubiconprograms.org and or Rosemary Dady, Managing Attorney 510-620-1144; rosemaryd@rubiconprograms.org.

Save the Date!

2011 Rubicon Honors Benefit Gala

Please save the date for our 2011 Rubicon Honors Benefit Gala and Auction on Saturday, April 9th at the Bellevue Club in Oakland. The evening will feature live music, a silent auction, dinner and dancing. We are looking forward to a festive evening. Rubicon is currently inviting Bay Area businesses to participate in the following sponsorship opportunities:

Premier - \$25,000
 Achievement - \$15,000
 Empowerment - \$10,000
 Renewal - \$5,000
 Hope - \$2,500

To receive promotional materials and receive more information about sponsorship benefits, please contact Lynn Peralta, Director of Development at (510) 231-3965 or lynnp@rubiconprograms.org.

Share Your Time. Share Your Talent. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Rubicon Programs is currently seeking volunteers to help low-income individuals and families file their tax return this upcoming tax season. We are seeking volunteers to greet, perform intake, and/or perform tax returns. We ask that volunteers devote at least 15 hours through the months of January to April.

If you have experience in accounting, taxes, law, finance, or just want to get involved, please contact us. We are also seeking bilingual volunteers who speak English and Spanish. Prior experience is not necessary.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (V.I.T.A.) is a national program providing free tax preparation assistance to low-income individuals and families. V.I.T.A. ensures that low-income tax filers receive tax benefits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, for which they may be eligible. The Earned Income Tax Credit (E.I.T.C.) is the largest anti-poverty program in the United States. The E.I.T.C. is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working households. The E.I.T.C. has been an effective tool in the fight against poverty, supplementing income and supporting economic opportunities among low-income families.

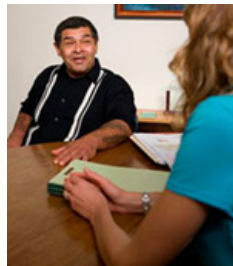
Rubicon's VITA site will be operating from January 17, 2011 through April 16, 2011 at our Richmond Office: 101 Broadway Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804.
 Mondays: 5pm-8pm
 Tuesdays: 5pm-8pm
 Saturdays: 12pm-4pm

To learn more, please contact Jovan Ludovice, Financial Stability and Employment Program Assistant, at (510) 412-1729 or jovanl@rubiconprograms.org.

Rubicon's Mental Health Legal Services Project (MHLSP)

With the help of an Equal Justice Works fellowship grant and support from the California Bar Foundation, we initiated the Mental Health Legal Services Project (MHLSP) in late 2009. MHLSP delivers legal services following a mental health-focused medical legal

partnership model to low-income residents of West Contra Costa County who are living with mental illness.



Rodney Castillo, Rubicon Legal Services client speaks with Rubicon Staff Attorney, Raegan Joern

In its first year, the MHLSP served 65 clients with legal issues ranging from unlawful detainers, temporary restraining orders, medical debt, and public benefits advocacy. Entering our second year, we expect to serve even more clients.

Within Rubicon, MHLSP works closely with the Bridges to Home program in our Mental Health and Wellness division. By working closely with these providers, MHLSP offers legal services that are integrated with mental health treatment, addressing issues that require legal expertise and advocacy. To learn more about MHLSP, please read recent articles in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) and the Daily Journal, and contact Raegan

Joern, Rubicon Staff Attorney, at (510) 620-1163.

Rubicon Programs was awarded a three-year federal Social Innovation Fund (SIF)

Lynn Peralta
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Pomerantz
Greg and Alison Powell
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Rose and Robert Wilson
Doug Wood
Emily and Danny Wu
Y & H Soda Foundation
Kelvin Yee
George and Lorri Zimmer

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And a very special thank you to Judy Morgan and Chris Phipps of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce for their support of Rubicon's Richmond Chamber of Commerce Mixer on October 14, 2010. Rubicon welcomed Chamber businesses and community leaders to 101 Broadway, home to our Economic Empowerment Site. Rob Hope, Director of Economic Empowerment, and Graham Thomas, Business Services Manager, discussed ways local businesses can partner with Rubicon to screen and hire employees. To learn more about the event, please visit our online Facebook Album.



2500 Bissell Avenue
Richmond CA 94804
(510) 235-1516
(510) 235-2025 Fax

MAKE A
DONATION

Rubicon Programs was awarded a three-year federal Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). This funding will enable Rubicon to launch a Financial Opportunity Center in Richmond. The grant is \$140,000 per year for three years, and we will match it with other private funds. Rubicon is one of 47 nonprofits across the nation to win this highly competitive award from LISC.

Rubicon's Richmond Financial Opportunity Center will provide a host of employment and financial stability services to help people find jobs, reduce debt, gain financial literacy and build assets. We are honored to receive this prestigious award.

The Social Innovation Fund, authorized under the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, is an innovative new federal program that addresses major challenges confronting communities by growing high-impact nonprofit organizations delivering proven solutions. It invests in effective community solutions across three issue areas, one of which is economic opportunity. For more information on the Social Innovation Fund, visit the [Corporation for National & Community Service website](#).

For more details on the LISC Social Innovation Fund grant recipients, [click here](#).

Leadership

**Spotlight on Virginia Davis, Secretary,
Rubicon Board of Directors**



Tell us about "Virginia's Live a Little"

"Virginia's Live a Little" is a gourmet food manufacturing company focusing on salad dressings and croutons. I started the company in January 1996 by making just a few bottles of dressing and bags of croutons and walking into small grocery stores to sell. On the weekends, I'd sample them out to customers, and they loved them. So I made more!

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

I became a board member when Daniel Lurie, CEO and Founder of the Tipping Point Community, recruited me.

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

What I like most about Rubicon is how we help the needy in many facets - housing, jobs, training, mental health. People living in severe poverty have many different kinds of barriers, and Rubicon helps people in so many different ways.

What do you like to do for fun?

For fun, I play golf and watch my kids play sports.

Rubicon's Mental Health and Wellness services highlighted in Street Spirit

Steven Grolnic-McClurg, Director of Mental Health and Wellness, discusses the impact of our mental health programs in the November 2010 issue of Street Spirit. Read more here:

[Rubicon's Innovative Aid to Homeless Mentally Disabled](#)

Support Our Work!

Rubicon Programs relies on financial support from individual, business and community members to help us achieve our mission. Click [here](#) to donate through our secure online donation form. *Please make your gift today, bringing hope and healing to families during this Holiday Season!*

