In these times of polarization and dissonance, this Imagine LA Times shines a different spotlight — a spotlight on people coming together and helping each other. We highlight people embracing the desire to end family homelessness and poverty in our city: people of different backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures coming alongside each other to learn skills, build relationships, and flourish. Inspiring news!

Thanks to so many mentors, funders, strategic partners and our amazing Board and staff, in 2017 we saw our Family Empowerment & Mentorship model grow in different settings, from individual apartments scattered across Metro and South LA, to whole buildings of formerly homeless families in South LA and the Rampart area. We are also working with an increasing number of very young vulnerable families — youth exiting the foster system with children of their own. Plus we trained the amazing community of Whittier and the wonderful Whole Child agency to utilize our model and create Imagine Whittier — our first licensee!

Happily, the Department of Health Services has also become part of the Imagine LA family. They, through Measure H dollars, are helping fuel our growth by providing a long-term sustainable source of funding. But the magic of Imagine LA is people working together! People from all walks are raising their hands, whether to say yes to becoming a mentor, yes to providing funding to our savings matching program, yes to providing dentistry or car repair or an internship. This is the Imagine LA family and together we are making Los Angeles better, one family at a time.

Join us and make 2018 full of more inspiring news!

Jill Bauman, President & CEO     David Goodenough, Board Chairman

“Mentors gave my children something that even words cannot explain: having people that cared, people that motivated and encouraged them.

— Kim, Imagine LA Family Participant
We help families get access to great health, career and education resources.

Housing First
Mentoring Second

We give heartfelt thanks to our generous financial donors.

INSPIRE $50,000 +
Ahmanson Foundation
Karisma Foundation
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
Weingart Foundation

IMAGINE $25,000 - $49,999
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Timothy B. McCaffrey Jr.
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Dennis and Fran Slutsky
Union Bank Foundation

THE FAMILY EMPowerment & Mentorship Model

Housing First
Mentoring Second

We help families get access to great health, career and education resources.

Imagine LA professional staff of MSWs trains and guides family and mentor teams.

Every family gets a financial wellness mentor and each family member over five gets his/her own mentor.

RESULTS: 100% remain housed; earned income is up 71%; savings is up 68%; all are utilizing regular healthcare; 100% graduate from high school and go on to college!

I can honestly say if it wasn’t for this program I wouldn’t be where I am today. There were so many things I feared I’d never be able to overcome, never be able to accomplish, and always had to deal with on my own... It seemed so much easier to face, being surrounded by a group of people who had no other intentions but to genuinely want to help me get there.

— A.P., Imagine LA Family Member, Emancipated Foster Youth Parent
Our hardworking families got to enjoy a little indulgence at our first annual Love Yourself event on Valentine’s Day.

In May we gathered all our families — mentors, mentees, Board, staff and partners — at Lakeside Golf Club to celebrate our work together and have some fun.

In partnership with St. Annes, we will soon be providing our Family Empowerment and Mentorship model to Beverly Terrace, their permanent supportive housing complex (developed with A Community of Friends and almost ready for occupancy).

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Cristina Carlis, who heads up U.S. operations for Amgen, joined our Board in November. She brings deep expertise in strategic brand growth.

In October, we launched Imagine Whittier with community partners The Whole Child, Greenleaf Consortium of Churches, and the Whittier Consortium on Homelessness. Whittier is the first community to replicate our model; mentors will begin working with families in January.

Early this year we began partnering with A Community of Friends in Compton and have a satellite office at one of their buildings, which provides permanent supportive housing to 44 families.

DHS awarded us a Master Service Contract and wants us to grow the number of families we serve as fast as we can.

Our 4th annual fundraiser provided guests an intimate evening of musical performances and comedy at The Peppermint Club in West Hollywood. Actor / comedian Tom Arnold emceed on October 12th, and the uber talented David Foster performed alongside many others.

In late October, we packed up and moved into our fantastic new office space in the historic Granada Buildings near Lafayette Park.

It was standing room only at the Ebell of Los Angeles in October for our expert panel on Ending Homelessness, created and moderated by Jill Bauman. The goal: To educate the community about the state of homelessness in Los Angeles, show how various organizations are addressing the problem, and share ways to help and engage. For easily shareable tips and resources on best ways to help, view this document.

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Imagine LA is a place where families and youth come together to build better lives, where the tools we need to really help are within reach. Imagine LA provides us with guidance to a kid who’s lost his father and support for me to help someone in a very direct way. There is a team to support you and structures and guidelines. We have clear goals that are attainable and impactful. Providing guidance to a kid who’s lost his father and is coming out of homelessness sounds so daunting, but Imagine LA provides us with the tools we need to really help.

— Seth Kaplan, Mentor

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Senior Vice President, UBS
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Clinical Psychologist
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Imagine LA collaborates with the best Partners

Our partners include permanent supportive housing developers, companies, social service agencies, transitional housing resource providers, faith communities, donors, volunteers and community groups.

Mentors Are Our Magic

As we grow from serving 100 families to serving hundreds more, our need for volunteer mentors grows exponentially.

1-2 HOURS A WEEK WILL CHANGE SOMEONE’S LIFE AND YOURS.

Please consider becoming a mentor in 2018. Contact ciera@imaginela.org.

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Family Referral Partners

A Community of Friends
Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
Door of Hope
First Place for Youth
Good Shepherd Center
Harvest Home
Hollywood Community Housing
Homeless Outreach Program
Integrated Care System (HOPICS)
Koreatown Youth and Community Center
L.A. Family Housing
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)
Family Support Centers
Minamis House
San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission
South Los Angeles Child Welfare Initiative
St. Annes
St. Joseph Center
Union Station Homeless Service
West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation
Westwood Transitional Village/The Salvation Army

Community Volunteer Partners

Allegro Creative Design
All Saints Episcopal Church
All Saints Pasadena Foster Care Project
Alliance of Moms (part of Alliance for Children’s Rights)
Bel Air Presbyterian Church
Beth Shir Shalom
Cedars Sinai Medical Center
City National Bank
Cornerstone West LA
Faithful Central Bible Church
First Congregational Church of Glendale
Gensler

Greeter Emanuel Temple
Hollywood Seventh Day Adventist Church
Holy Family Catholic Church
Inner City Law Center
Kehillat Israel
LA Gay Rotary Club of Los Angeles
Lake Avenue Church
Law Office of Lisa L. Maki
Leo Baecq Temple
Kolea Seventh-day Adventist Church
Kiesel Law LLP
Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church
New Life Christian Church
Northrop Grumman
Pacific Crossroads Church
Rose City Church
Rotary Club of Beverly Hills
St. Augustines by the Sea Episcopal Church
St. Cross by the Sea Episcopal Church
St. Edmunds Episcopal Church
St. Marks Episcopal Church
St. Marks United Methodist Church
St. Michael and All Angels Church
Salem Lutheran Church
St. George’s Episcopal Church
Stephen S. Wise Temple
Temple Ahavat Shamol
Temple Beth Am
Temple Beth Hillel
Temple Emanuel
Temple Kol Tikvah
Thad’s
Valley Beth Shalom
Verdugo Community Free Methodist Church
Vintage Church
West Los Angeles United Methodist Church
Westwood United Methodist Church
Wilshire Rotary Club
Woodland Hills Presbyterian Church
Wilshire Blvd. Temple

Resource Partners

20th Century Fox
BabbyBaby
Boccato’s Groceries
Behavior Therapy Clinic
Bel Air Presbyterian Church
Big Sunday
Camp Max Strauss
Camp Whittie (YMCA)
Canoga Park Family Source Center (FSC)
Cedars Sinai Medical Center
Chrysalis
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
Crystal Stairs Inc
Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services
Dress for Success
Elks Lodge
Guadalupe Community Center
Guest Inc
JVS Health Works
Law Office of Lisa Maki
Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center
Lido Bakery
Los Angeles Public Library
Manatts Phillips & Phillips, LLC
Moving Families Forward
Needlepoint Guild of America
Hancock Park
Phillips Lerner A Law Corporation
Public Counsel
Ralphs
Shelter Partnership
Starbucks
Target
TOMS
Trader Joe’s
Valley Food Bank
Vons
The Wallis
Whole Foods
Zimmer Children’s Museum
Thanks to NGA-Hancock Park, our Winter Wonderland Open House this year was magical!

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www.imaginela.org

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

→ Mentor!
→ Sponsor a family’s journey through our program
→ Provide an internship or job opportunity
→ Host a fun event or outing for our families
→ Volunteer at our quarterly family events:
  Valentine’s Day Pampering, Back to School,
  Imagine LA's Birthday, Winter Wonderland

DONATE

““ When you see our homeless neighbors sleeping on the streets, know that most of them have been homeless before. Programs like Imagine LA that work to really end a person’s cycle of homelessness and poverty aren’t just a solution, they’re also a prevention.

— Chris Ko, Director, Homeless Initiatives, United Way of Greater Los Angeles and Home for Good

Imagine LA Staff