Farm to Table Dinner

*a great success!*

With 110 supportive and caring people who love our work, how could the dinner NOT be a huge success? It was a lovely event… People showed up, participated in the auction, the farm tour, enjoyed the live music and especially the presentations from four of our participants. Surrounded by the beauty of Potrero Nuevo Farm, blessed by clear weather and a gorgeous sunset, the evening was loud with conversation and excitement.

Transforming Lives Through Meaningful Work

When you wake up each morning, ask yourself this one thing…

“WHAT WOULD LOVE HAVE ME DO TODAY?”

I was thinking about everything going on in our world; from international conflicts to our national struggles. I started contemplating our cultural values around problems and problem solving. It struck me as so strange that in movies, no matter how modern and advanced film technology gets, no matter how creatively a director uses Special Effects/CGI in movies from Mission Impossible to Avatar, the good guys always have something that fits in their hands and shoots a deadly projectile at the bad guy. As if that’s the way to solve a problem! I’m so distressed by what a limited version of reality and problem solving that is.

The conundrum, as far as I can tell, is about how we can become a community of healing and wholeness: rather than continuing the cycle of “hurt people hurting people,” how can we become people who acknowledge that we aren’t perfect, and just try to work together to make life better? Take a moment to think about your life and the life of a person without a home… and consider our shared values of identity, place, safety and hope. We all wrestle with our sense of identity; who am I, am I accepted, what does my life mean and am I OK? We all have a relationship with place; where is home, what does that mean, where are my roots, who are my people upon whom I rely? We all need to feel safe, secure, out of danger and at ease in order to function in a healthy way and not in fight/flight/freeze mode. And, of course, we all have a sense of the future and we need to know where we are going in life, is there hope, progress, development, growth and purpose? All of these elements are at play in all of our lives, all of the time. It doesn't matter if we are in an active war zone, or housed, or homeless in Half Moon Bay.

For those experiencing homelessness, life is a crisis every day: there is deep anxiety about identity, no place to call home, very little safety, and oftentimes feelings of no hope. At Abundant Grace, we seek to create a community of healing and wholeness around programming that offers physical labor, success, teamwork, a stipend, socialization, challenges, and friendship. We try to address the whole person, and use our time working together to slowly but intentionally get to know our participants and what their struggles are around our 5 outcome goals: Housing, Employment, Sobriety, Food Security and Mental and Physical Health.

Dorothy Day started working with the homeless in New York City in 1933. She worked through the 30’s, 40’s, 50’s, 60’s, 70’s and she died in 1980 - ironically the very year the term “homelessness” was coined! In her autobiography, after struggling for decades and trying everything she possibly could do on this issue she wrote, “The only solution is love. And that love comes with community.” At Abundant Grace, we try our best to operate programs whose spirit is love and we show that through our actions.
The video by Steve Maller captured our work and impact, and featured a special follow up about Juan, from last year. He has been sober for a full year, and has full-time work in town. Amazing. You can watch the video online here: https://bit.ly/46lDqHF

Legacy Gifts
A great way to support the work of Abundant Grace is to include us in your will or trust. A few people have done this, and I have to say that it was so moving for us to receive their gift, and be in touch with their families. Please contact Eric for info at 650-315-5932.

Stock Contributions
Another way to donate is through our stock account at Edward Jones. It’s very easy; just call Christopher Devcich at 650-726-4458 and he’ll take it from there!

Recurring Donations
Finally, consider clicking through our website donor button, and setting your donation to recur monthly. It is a huge help to us and our financial planning during lean months to know we have a baseline of income. It’s easy to calculate what you are comfortable with for the year and divide by 12 months.

Thank you!

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This profound and powerful notion of love is our deepest joy and, honestly, our greatest challenge. Jack Kornfield encourages us to begin each day asking ourselves, “What would love have me do today?” Try that for a week…. For us at Abundant Grace, Love calls us to be present to our participants, to listen with compassion, to encourage change and transformation. Along with that, we also work strategically through our many partnerships with Life Moves, Coastside Hope, ALAS, the city and county, Behavioral Health Services for mental health, the street medical team and more to achieve our goal of transforming lives. We try to be caring and loving people, but we also must be smart, strategic and connected to the resources that help our folks in ways we don’t.

In our programs, people hear their goodness, they awaken to a state of recognizing their amazing worth and potential. They start to become who they always have been and already are, and they start to accept that.

We all know it’s easy to love in dreams, in the abstract. It’s easy to love “humanity;” it’s tricky to love the humans! But we all know that’s the best part; it’s the heart of what we do, and it’s what makes our programming unique. Thankfully, we have an extraordinary staff who are truly dedicated to the people we serve, and so creative about how to carry out our work. Our employment programming is so much more complex than it was in the early days. Now we use the modalities of education, physical labor, meditation, and socialization to reach each person, and to work on their goals effectively.

This isn’t Mission Impossible and we don’t have hi-tech weapons to fight the “war on homelessness.” That was a ridiculous idea from the very start. We have tools, strategies, great staff, wonderful supporters, and an inspiring vision that yields results focused on housing, employment, sobriety, food security and health and wellness.

I love what we do, and it’s a gift to do it with our coastside community.

We really need your help: we need you to share our mission, to fund our mission, and to transform lives through meaningful work.

Thank you so much! Please be generous!

Eric and the staff and board of Abundant Grace

PS. Mark your calendars for November 28th: It’s “Giving Tuesday” right after Thanksgiving. Abundant Grace will be on KHMB Radio from 2-3pm that day sharing stories and bringing a few of our participants to be interviewed as well!

The only solution is love, and that love comes with community.

-Dorothy Day

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