

Raphael House

Moving Families From Crisis To Community



Dear Friends,

Raphael House was founded by people who volunteered their time to create a new service — the first family shelter in San Francisco. In our thirty-seventh year, we still are amazed at the volunteer spirit that envelops every aspect of our Residential and Children's Programs, the kitchen, the Thrift Store, special events and our many Board committees. If you are currently a volunteer — *thank you!* If you would like to start, give us a call.

Thank you so much,

Fr. David

Fr. David Lowell
Executive Director

Yes, Raphael House, There is a Santa Claus! His Name is Frank Rosenbach

Thirty years ago, Frank Rosenbach walked into Brother Juniper's restaurant and with his big, booming voice ordered a cup of hot chocolate. It was a cold Saturday afternoon in November. The restaurant was starting to empty, except for an elderly lady named Ella Rigney, the octogenarian Executive Director of Raphael House.

They struck up a conversation. Ella Rigney explained to him what Raphael House does for the families and asked him if he would volunteer. Frank agreed, and for the next three decades was our Santa Claus, passing out gifts to the children and their parents each Christmas morning.

Frank has dedicated his other talents as well. A Vice President of Morgan Guaranty, Frank became the Chair of our Finance Committee. Even when Morgan Guaranty moved him to New York City, Frank flew back every Christmas to be Santa Claus until his retirement returned him to the West Coast permanently.

Frank is still one of our closest friends. "One of the things I like about Raphael House — of the many



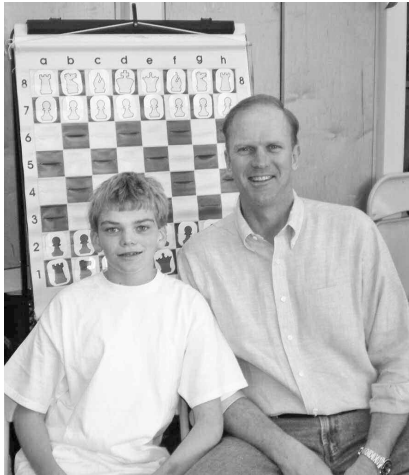
things I like about Raphael House — is that you read to the children, and that you teach mothers to do the same, starting when the children are toddlers. This is one of the best things any parent, rich or poor, can do from the very start." Frank has been a generous supporter of everything literary, especially in our Children's and After-School Programs.

Frank was sorry to see Brother Juniper's restaurant close ten years ago, but he loves what is now in the space — our After-School Program. Twenty to twenty-five children gather every afternoon during the school week for a hearty snack, homework, and reading before heading off to play.

Frank was our Santa Claus for thirty years, our Finance Committee Chairman for six years, and out of appreciation for his outstanding and continuing service to Raphael House, the board has elected him to be one of our Directors Emeriti.

Thank you Frank, for all of your love and service!

Father-Son Team Brings Chess to Raphael House



Fall 2007 marked the inauguration of the Raphael House Chess Club, a program conceived and implemented by a dynamic father-son team who wanted to bring chess to the Raphael House community. The Damons, longtime supporters of Raphael House, and our families meet monthly with a small group of committed children and staff members to explore and learn the game of chess. This exciting and unique program aims to introduce Residential and AfterCare children to chess taught through the eyes of a peer and under the supervision of a caring parent, Allen Damon. The Chess Club has exposed its members to both the fundamentals of chess, as well as important lessons in reasoning and respect, a message emphasized by the Raphael House Children's Program, staff, and our compassionate volunteers.

"I have enjoyed playing chess with the kids of Raphael House. It feels good that they are learning to love the game as much as I do."
— Sloan Damon, Chess Club Leader, Age 12

Corporate Chefs: Volunteers Test Their Abilities in the Kitchen

Is your main method of cooking the microwave? Have you burned every batch of cookies you've attempted to bake? Think you can't cut it in our industrial kitchen? Don't fret! Every chef is created equal in the Raphael House kitchen. No need to be an avid cook. Our cooks guide your team to create a well-balanced meal for an average of 50 residents, AfterCare families, and staff. Bring your corporate team, book club, or just your group of friends to enjoy this creative activity which is rewarding and great fun.

Corporate Chef Teams have the opportunity to prepare and serve a meal to our families on Mondays or Thursdays from 3:00 – 6:45pm each week. This fun team-building activity provides a vital service to the shelter. We are grateful to the number of corporations and other groups that return on a yearly, monthly, or weekly basis to be a part of the Raphael House family.



"Our Employees feel a close connection to Raphael House and are very eager to volunteer their time and energy to such a meaningful organization. As one employee told me, 'I always feel so energized when I leave Raphael House after cooking or serving a meal. The residents are always so appreciative and the staff so welcoming. It makes me want to sign up for the next event immediately.'"

— Pauline Roothman, Senior VP, Human Resources, LVMH

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Corporate Chefs Program: Preparing and Serving Dinner
- After-School: Tutoring, Supervising Activities
- Evening Family Program: Assisting Program Staff with activities for children and parents
- Residential and AfterCare Events: Day of Beauty, Thanksgiving and Christmas Celebrations, including Adopt-A-Family
- Thrift Store
- Board of Directors: Serving on Board Committees
- Special Events: Serving on Gala/Special Events Committees

"I've been inspired and awed by the families in residence, impressed and amazed by the dedicated staff, and invigorated and challenged by my fellow volunteers. In many ways, I too think of Raphael House as my home; it is filled with love, respect, dignity, and humanity in the way every home should be."

— Mary Wolfe, Chair of the Board of Directors

Program Volunteer Coordinator, Carol Field (415) 345-7265

Special Events Coordinator, Flavia Henrique (415) 345-7262

Corporate Relations Manager, Nicole Howell (415) 345-7263

The 2007 Holiday Season Was a Success!

Thanksgiving

- ❖ 253 AfterCare families received Thanksgiving food boxes, which included a pumpkin pie and a Safeway gift card
- ❖ 121 neighborhood seniors were served Thanksgiving Dinner in our Dining Room

Christmas

- ❖ 274 AfterCare families received gifts through the Adopt-A-Family Program, which included gifts for each child, a family gift, and a Safeway gift card
- ❖ 59 neighborhood seniors enjoyed Christmas Brunch followed by a Nativity play performed by the children

Children Experience a Winter Wonderland in Lake Tahoe

Who wouldn't like to spend a weekend in Lake Tahoe — watching the snow fall, sledding, ice skating, and sipping hot chocolate around the fireplace? This January, a group of Raphael House children from the Residential and AfterCare Programs got to do just that. Four staff members accompanied 14



children between the ages 5 and 12 years old to a cabin in Lake Tahoe to enjoy a weekend outside of the city. For most, this was their first brush with the beauty of winter and the magic of snow.

They awoke the first morning to postcard-perfect winter weather, complete with several feet of untouched snow, snow-laden trees, and flurries of snow magically falling, snowflake upon snowflake. The children were especially excited to see actual individual snowflakes. As one staff member recounted, they rushed outside in such a hurry to play that many of them had to be called back to put on jackets, boots, and mittens. Walking up the hill to

sled, kids and adults alike sank into the snow up to their waists; they were surprised by their sudden immobility, but eager to experience more!

They stayed in an area that had plenty of outside space for play, including a small hill right outside the kitchen window that was perfect for sledding. During the day they also made snow angels, got into snowball fights, explored the woods, and went ice skating. Evenings were spent around the fireplace, playing games, and putting the ping-pong and pool tables to good use.



San Franciscans don't often experience a dramatic change with each season, especially many Raphael House children who have rarely been outside the city. This summer, the same group of 14 children will have the opportunity to return to Lake Tahoe for another inspiring weekend in the mountains. This time they will experience the beauty of summer — and the glorious change of seasons — which should prove to be both fun and educational.



Desta and Nona Prepare to Embark on a New Life After Raphael House

Desta came to the Raphael House family just over five months ago. A recent domestic violence survivor, she brought her two year old daughter, Nona, to Raphael House after locating our program through Connecting Point. When Desta decided to leave her prior living situation, she was wary of entering the shelter system believing that she and her daughter would be forced into a dark hall filled with cots and rampant crime. Upon entering Raphael House and experiencing the clean and bright atmosphere that filled our home, she was engulfed by a feeling of calm.

While Desta has many joyous memories of her time at Raphael House, her most vivid memory occurred as she entered the Toddler Room for the first time. Nona rushed passed her toward the bright room, eager to play with the exciting new toys. Desta beamed, "the room was fit for a princess." Through her stay here she most values the way in which she and the other residents have been treated with dignity and respect, with a constant focus on the children and their well-being. She remembers arriving in her room and catching sight of the new handmade children's blanket for Nona. She was struck by the care that had been taken to prepare a space for her family.

Dest a and her daughter quickly settled into the routine of our household, embracing the calming



rhythms that govern daily life for our families. During her stay at Raphael House, Desta has been attending a certified nursing assistant program in the hopes of eventually becoming a registered nurse. She believes that Raphael House has helped to build a bridge between a troubled time in her life and a newer, brighter future where she and her daughter can thrive. During her stay here she read a book outlining the importance of early childhood experiences and is committed to maintaining the stability and warmth for Nona that began at Raphael House.

As Desta leaves Raphael House and begins a new and independent life, she says that she is going to carry on many of the Raphael House traditions including no TV, and more importantly, the time management plan that she and her caseworker formulated. While she is nervous about embarking on life outside of the Residential Program, she knows that she will always have a "family" at Raphael House; she looks forward to watching her young daughter engaging in all the services that AfterCare has to offer. Desta is excited to undertake the challenges that await her in San Francisco and beyond.



Raphael House of San Francisco

Mission

Raphael House is dedicated to helping at-risk children and their parents achieve stable housing and financial independence, while strengthening family bonds and personal dignity. Our mission is clear and permeates our work: helping families thrive. From the moment a family enters the doors of this home until long after they depart to stable housing, Raphael House offers the resources and relationships necessary for parents and children to embrace a secure and fulfilling life.

History

Established in 1971, as the first shelter in San Francisco for families experiencing homelessness, Raphael House has a dedicated staff and Board of Directors from the local community, along with a small core of live-in staff. By enlisting the support of the community in our work, Raphael House sets in motion the cycle of renewal.

Funding

Raphael House relies solely on private sources to meet its annual budget. Support is received from individuals, foundations, corporations, businesses, civic groups, churches, and synagogues that are committed to promoting stability for at-risk families. *We neither seek nor accept federal, state or municipal funding.*

Contact Us

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Development Office: (415) 474- 3245

Fax: (415) 771- 4251

Email: info@raphaelhouse.org

Programs

Residential Shelter Program

AfterCare Program

Children's Program

To learn more, please visit our website: www.raphaelhouse.org

Board of Directors

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How to Donate

- Mail a Check to:**
Raphael House
1065 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
- Donate Online:**
www.raphaelhouse.org
- Workplace Giving** — Your United Way or other workplace giving contribution can be designated to Raphael House. Simply write in the Raphael House name and address.
- Leave a Legacy**
- Stock Donations**
- In-Kind Gifts to the Thrift Store** — Donations go directly to Residential and AfterCare families; if donations cannot be used by families, they are sold at the Thrift Store to benefit Raphael House.
- Support and Attend the 2008 Gala**
- Corporate Partnerships**

Contact the **Development Office** to learn more about how to donate:
(415) 474-3245

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San Francisco, CA 94109-5817

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2008 Raphael House Gala "One Home, Many Hearts"

Thursday, May 8, 2008
Four Season Hotel, San Francisco

Champagne Reception and Dinner

Décor by Robert Fountain Design

Dancing with Napata and the Kisses
Silent & Live Auction
Benefit Drawing of Lufthansa Business Class Tickets

For further information please contact
Flavia Henrique at (415) 345-7262