



Spring/Summer 2014

Lighting the pathways that lead to home

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SPRING...when you shake off the chill of Winter and look around with a renewed sense of ambition and promise for the season to come. A time when you also share the accomplishments of the past few months and marvel at the progress. So put away those heavy coats, polish up your golf clubs, get out there and plant something, build something and join STAR as we embrace the season.



STAR House 3 Update

When we started our construction project last year, we had little idea of what lay in store for us. Although the road to where the project stands to date has not been as smooth as we had hoped, we are making definite progress and truly feel that the remainder of the project will proceed as expected. Currently, construction is well underway and the framing is almost complete. The rough electrical and plumbing systems have been installed and approved, the heating and air conditioning installation is underway, and the roof is finished.

Any construction project comes with its own set of challenges, but this project has held many more surprises than we could ever have anticipated. During the demolition phase, we discovered many things that drove costs over what had been budgeted for.

The abatement company found additional asbestos that had to be removed, the demolition company found stucco inside the interior walls of the structure, and these discoveries drove those line items over budget. We had planned on keeping the back patio as it was, but upon investigation, we realized that the patio was comprised only of a thin layer of concrete not capable of supporting a wheelchair ramp. Similarly, during demolition it was discovered that the "foundation" in the front of the house was merely a thin layer of concrete over asphalt. It is suspected that this area used to be the garage and was remodeled without addressing the foundation properly. This generated additional fees for the demo and hauling of the existing foundation and extra concrete costs for pouring a new one. The inspector called for additional testing in other areas of the house to ensure the entire foundation was up to code, and we were faced with the costs of this unforeseen testing.



Also, while trying to bolt into the corners of the structure, the framers discovered that there were no footings in the front of the house. The corners of the house were not anchored into the foundation, so the inspector required the architect to draw up another page of plans to address the issue and be approved by the City. These issues have all been resolved at this point. *(Continued on Page 2.)*

STAR House 3 Update

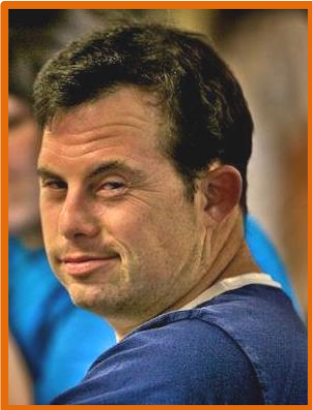
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Due to the fact that we experienced several challenges during the demolition phase of the construction project, we looked to develop strategies for cutting costs in some other areas. This provided us with a unique opportunity to reach out to and reconnect with several members of our community.

During our previous construction projects, we established a relationship with the manager of our local Lowe's store, Gus Wahhab. After deciding upon the appropriate appliances to include in the home, we went to Lowe's, found these items, and sat down with Gus to talk numbers. He went to his distributors to inquire as to what discounts they could give directly, and he even gave us his manager's discount on top of that. With Gus's help, we were able to purchase all appliances for the kitchen for half the cost of what we budgeted. And with only a washer and dryer left to purchase under this line item, we should be under budget. Our finish carpenter gave us his contractor's discount, saving us about \$1000 on materials, and the company producing our cabinets gave us an additional discount, saving us considerable funds in that area. Our electrician helped us to sell all of the copper plumbing that was in the demolished structure and we have kept all of the old appliances for sale at our annual yard sale to further offset costs.

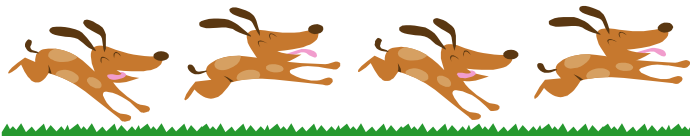
Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is a success." Combined with the love, enthusiasm and support for this project by every person involved, STAR House 3 is destined to be a success!!!

"STARRING" Our Residents !



STAR House 1 resident, Larry, was featured along with other California Abilities Network (ICAN) clients on an episode of the CBS series, *Lucky Dog*. In this episode, Larry and the other ICAN clients help a rescued dog learn how to trust and help others. It

was a lovely, heartwarming story. Larry and company did a superb job. If you would like to see this episode, go to the website: <http://cbsdreamteam.com/lucky-dog/episodes/coco/>



THE STAR HOUSE RESIDENTS ARE QUITE BUSY WITH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES: WORK, DAY PROGRAMS, SPORTS, MOVIES, AND EVEN HANGING-OUT WITH THEIR ROOMMATES AT HOME! EVERYONE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SPRING/SUMMER ACTIVITIES—AND THEY ARE ESPECIALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS!

Remembering When . . .

In October, 1985, escrow closed On **STAR** 1/Ben Scalabrini House. Using mostly volunteer labor and materials, parents and friends of **STAR** spent over a year remodeling this home. On April 4, 1988 the first of six male residents moved into this four-bedroom ranch-style home.



Fast Forward 29 years.....



Pam Broderick shares our vision for STAR House 3 with students from Notre Dame's Urban Plunge Program. "Urban Plunge" is a winter-break seminar offered by the South Bend, IN University in 39 cities across the country. In early January, students came to the Los Angeles area to give them

exposure to a cross-section of issues by visiting 10-15 agencies in hopes that each student will "... gain a sense of the scope and depth of the issues facing our society, that the people they meet and service will put a human face and a personal story on the issues, and that they will be impacted to act on their faith in their own lives in some meaningful way based on this experience." Once again STAR was honored to have these students visit the STAR Houses and meet the staff and residents.



It's  ee Time

Are you ready for some golf? Are you ready for some fun? Please join us for the 25th Annual Charity Golf Tournament and Dinner on Friday, May 30th, 2014 sponsored by the SERTOMA Club of Torrance and Los Angeles Fire Department Sertoma Club. (Please note—you are welcome to attend the dinner even if you do not golf!) Please see the attached information and registration form for more details. Donations of auction and raffle prizes are also needed. If you would like to donate an item or if you need more information, please contact the STAR office at 310-542-8895 or email us at star.homes@verizon.net. Thank you . . . and we look forward to seeing you on May 30th.

WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE BECOMES A MEMORY, THAT MEMORY BECOMES A WONDERFUL TREASURE TO ALWAYS HOLD IN YOUR HEART.



Sharing a life with a person who has special needs is a unique experience . . . the influence this person has on the lives of his or her parents, family, and

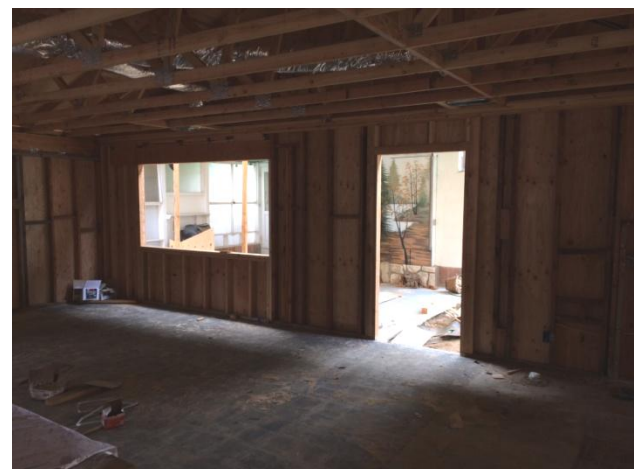
friends is indescribable. There is such an emotional bond—an intense and focused way of living. When one loses a person with special needs, the grief is also unique. How does one live without the unconditional love that is shared; the spirit of determination to succeed in the mainstream world; the friendliness that warms the coldest of hearts; the need to protect them—not only as children, but even more so as adults? STAR wishes to express our deepest condolences to the families of Louise Brown, Joe Pecora, Jr. (Joey), and Jimmy Wiater. Louise Brown was a good friend to many of the STAR House residents and a joy to all who knew her. We had the pleasure of meeting Joey Pecora and his family through good times at the Centinela Valley Lodge, where his friendliness and that adorable smile will always be remembered. And finally, Jimmy Wiater was a member of the STAR family. His mother, Eleanor "Tess" Wiater was one of the original founders of STAR. Although Jimmy never resided in a STAR Home, he was the motivation and inspiration for the goodness shown to many by the Wiater Family. We know Dr. Ed and Tess are happy to have their Jimmy home with them.



Looking for a "new" spring ensemble? Know a friend who could use a delightful gift at a reasonable price to perk up their day? How about just being good to yourself? The dedicated volunteers at Palos Verdes Resale Thrift Shop continue to support STAR homes . Now is a great time to take a trip, either real or virtual, to their location at 2321 Pacific Coast Hwy, Lomita, CA 90717 (between Crenshaw Blvd and Narbonne Ave). Call 310-534-1722 or check out palosverdesresale.com



More pictures from STAR House 3



**Sons of Italy
Centinela Valley Lodge #1991**

**1744 W. Carson Street
Torrance, CA 90501**

Announces the dates for these two annual festivities held for the benefit of *STAR* Homes. Join us for two distinctly delicious and fun evenings! For additional information please contact Annette Porter @310-371-1041.

July 27, 2014
PASTA FOR PEOPLE

November 22, 2014
**Country & Western
Dinner Dance &
Auction**



WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY that continues to support our vision and goals. *Please* consider including a gift to *STAR* in your will or living trust. Some charitable giving strategies that you might consider:

- ☆ A gift to *STAR* through your will or living trust of a specific amount, a percentage of your estate or all or a portion of what is left after first providing for loved ones.
- ☆ By naming *STAR* to receive all or a portion of the remainder of retirement plan accounts that would be subject to taxes if received by heirs.
- ☆ By providing for a gift to *STAR* from the proceeds of life insurance policies no longer needed for their original purpose.

STAR, Inc. Newsletter Winter 2013
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