But the new building is more than the Dining Room. In the months to come, the second floor will become home to St. Anthony’s Social Work Center and later to the Free Clothing Program, which will make it easier for our guests to access multiple services. We will continue to station social workers in the Dining Room – the main point of entry for most St. Anthony’s guests – to reach out to guests, identify their needs and opportunities, and connect them with other services, including the Free Clothing Program, Medical Clinic, Tenderloin Technology Lab, and the Fr. Alfred Center addiction recovery program, as well as other organizations that can help them.

This means that it will be easier for the most vulnerable guests to find more of what they need in one place and to move from one program to another. This comprehensive response will help guests achieve stability and lasting improvement in their lives.

The rest of the building consists of 90 units of affordable senior housing, built and operated by Mercy Housing California, and will provide wrap-around services to some of San Francisco’s most vulnerable residents. In these many ways, the new building will enable St. Anthony’s to serve more guests, more effectively than ever before.
Richard has been a teacher and a software engineer. Like thousands of Americans, he is also an addict. He is a survivor of child abuse and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Addiction and trauma led to violence, and violence led to prison.

Richard left prison with all the course work for an MA in Humanities completed. “It was the only degree that didn’t require the internet,” he explained. He finished his thesis in March. He has also been certified as a counselor by the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors.

Richard was placed in the Taylor Street Center for reentry, where extensive counseling and training are available to him. But it does mean that he keeps strict hours and submits to intense monitoring of his comings and goings. When he comes home at the end of the day, he takes a breathalyzer test to re-enter the house.

Richard is free to go any time he can find housing. And there’s the catch.

San Francisco has a severe shortage of housing for people with “Extremely Low Incomes” (defined by HUD as below $20,400 for a San Francisco household of one). The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates that in San Francisco, there are only 37 affordable units for every 100 Extremely Low Income renters, a shortfall of 36,000 units.

Richard’s income is zero. As long as he lives in the Taylor Street Center, he is not eligible for general assistance or food stamps. Once he moves out of the center, he can apply for assistance while he works on his recovery process and seeks employment. But it is very difficult to find low-income housing in San Francisco.

Managing a diagnosis of celiac disease, Richard was able to work out a gluten-free diet by careful selection at St. Anthony’s Dining Room. He also uses St. Anthony’s Free Clothing Program. “Everything I wear is from St. Anthony’s, including these shoes and this bag. It makes me look more professional.” So when his housing search seemed stalled, he went to St. Anthony’s Social Work Center for help.

With help from Sarah Spellman, a St. Anthony’s social worker, he is conducting a systematic housing search. The application process has been difficult for him, requiring some persistence from the client to keep things moving. “I have trouble with the emotions around it. It’s challenging when you’ve got all this fear. The fear feeds the anger and anger is not helpful.”

Sarah followed up for him and Richard got an interview with a supportive housing program. Now when he calls, “the lady who runs the waiting list recognizes my application.”

Social Work center clients may work with St. Anthony’s staff for years on the arduous process of obtaining safe and affordable housing. Classes on searching and applying for housing are among the most popular offered by St. Anthony’s in the Tenderloin Tech Lab.

But there is very little housing to be found. Stories like Richard’s are among the reasons St. Anthony’s conducts an advocacy program to inform public policy and practice. While our city has made progress in expanding housing opportunities for low-income people, we still have a long way to go. The Advocacy Program has worked to strengthen San Francisco’s shelter system, the “front door” to the long process of obtaining permanent housing. It has also supported campaigns to increase the supply of affordable housing, and worked for homelessness prevention and rental subsidy funding to help keep low-income San Franciscans housed.

Richard has begun interviewing for work that will use his education and new skills, possibly work as an educator in a rehabilitation program or corporate setting. He continues to look for housing. And like many of our guests, he worries about those less fortunate than he is.

“The one thing I have is I know how to negotiate resources,” Richard said. “What about the homeless? What do they do?”

St. Anthony’s Advocacy Program is grateful for support from MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger.
Since it was signed into law in 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has promised to reform healthcare and expand health insurance coverage. This legislation provides healthcare to low-income Americans through expanded eligibility for Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Programs. It removed a Medicaid exclusion for childless adults, and now includes coverage to adults making less than 138% of the Federal Poverty Level, or $16,000 annually. During the 2014 Open Enrollment Period, 12.8 million Americans, including more than 3 million Californians, enrolled in Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Programs, or private insurance. With 1,784,032 Children enrolled in Medi-Cal, At St. Anthony Medical Clinic, more people insured mean more appointments for low-income children.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) has promised to expand access and affordability for low-income Americans through expanded Medicaid eligibility. During the 2014 Open Enrollment Period, 12.8 million people enrolled in Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Programs, or private insurance. Since it was signed into law in 2010, the ACA has been working to expand health insurance coverage to low-income Americans.

St. Anthony’s outreach program for Clinic and ACA enrollment prioritizes women, children, and recent immigrants most in need. Once a month, Clinic staff members visit low-income housing in the neighborhood to present to tenants on the Affordable Care Act and health care opportunities in several languages.

The 2015 Open Enrollment period from November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015, promises to be an enormous undertaking for St. Anthony Medical Clinic. Despite the tremendous accomplishments of the 2014 Open Enrollment Period, 800,000 eligible Californians are still uninsured. The 2015 Open Enrollment Period targets outreach to culturally or linguistically isolated communities.

Fortunately, St. Anthony’s is also strong in “in-reach,” the ability to talk with guests in the Free Clothing Program, the Father Alfred Center, the Tenderloin Tech Lab, and St. Anthony’s Dining Room. To in-reach to St. Anthony’s guests, a Clinic Certified Enrollment Counselor will be placed in the new Dining Room to provide in-person information about ACA and enrollment opportunities.

The Tenderloin Tech Lab may also provide enrollment and education after a January renovation which will increase the number of computer stations and the amount of classroom space, enhancing St. Anthony’s ability to host learning and enrollment workshops.

As we celebrate the opening of this space, we celebrate a vision that sees brothers and sisters in all who join us for the meal. We are brothers and sisters in a city where, every once in a while, we catch a glimpse of the vision that we are all children of God.
Over the last few years, St. Anthony’s has witnessed a disturbing increase in the number of veterans accessing our programs. Last year, the Free Clothing Program alone served 443 veterans out of more than 10,000 guests. And the national numbers are even worse. Adelina is among the volunteers who has served in all three versions of St. Anthony’s Dining Room: the original at 45 Jones, the temporary at 150 Golden Gate, and the eagerly awaited new Dining Room at 121 Golden Gate. Adelina served in the original Dining Room when she was on sabbatical. “I had the time, and I wanted to give back. Serving meals to the guests allowed me to do that successfully. I loved it!” Returning to full time work in school administration demanded most of Adelina’s time, but when she was asked what she would do when she retired, her response was “I know exactly what I want to do!” She retired on October 1, 2013. Two days later, she resumed volunteering in the temporary Dining Room. “It was like a time warp: I felt like inside you!” As happens so often with neighbors, we talked and the more we talked the more we witnessed a disturbing increase in the number of homeless veterans, St. Anthony’s is able to provide not only a brand new suit and shoes to each veteran, but also image consulting and tailoring to make sure they look their best. As a Volunteer Coordinator, one of our veterans who attended last year’s give-away, put it: “This is the first time I’ve had a real suit, one that I can really smile about.”

Adelina has definitely noticed changes since her initial engagement in 2000. “I see more love listening to the guys from the recovery program who work in the Dining Room. I love listening to them and seeing how they are getting their lives back together.” Adelina also recognized a guest, and she remembered the feeling, “that positivity that everyone shares — the guests, the staff, the volunteers.”

“And I really love serving the bread! Everyone is so thankful and friendly. And I really love listening to the guys from the recovery program who work in the Dining Room. I love listening to them and seeing how they are getting their lives back together.”

One thing she does not expect to change as she continues to serve our guests in the New Dining Room is the sense of healing community. “One of the guests just told me: ‘looks like you’ve got that smile coming from inside you!’”

Volunteer

ST. ANTHONY’S BRINGS PEOPLE IN NEED TOGETHER. EVERY DAY, WE BUILD COMMUNITY BY BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS THAT SEPARATE HUMAN BEINGS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE DURING THE HOLIDAYS WHEN COMMUNITY AND COMPANY ARE ON ALL OF OUR MINDS. YOU CAN BE PART OF IT BY GETTING INVOLVED IN ONE OF THESE PROJECTS.

**TURNING THE TABLES: SERVING WITH T.L. CARE**

Dolby Laboratories, St. Anthony’s very newest neighbors at 1275 Market Street, have quickly engaged as part of our community. Thirty Dolby IT volunteers worked a total of 60 hours at our Free Clothing Program processing and performing quality control on donated items. Their work here helped families, veterans, seniors, and disabled people get much needed clothing for school or work, as well as basic items. “The team was struck by the great need in the community and impressed by the high level of organization at the Clothing Program” said Joan Scott, Director of Community Relations at Dolby. “The team has challenged themselves to accomplish even more when they return!”

But they didn’t stop there. While working they asked a lot of questions about what kind of help the Clothing Program needs most. Back at the office an email went out to the entire staff asking for help with all the most-needed donated items, and soon afterward Dolby volunteers began coming…and coming. As happens so often with neighbors, we talked and the more we talked the more we saw the values and concerns we shared. We told a Dolby donor about our Back to School Event and our need for new back packs. That launched yet another Dolby project. Dolby was able to donate 230 new back packs through Family Giving Tree. VOLUNTEER

**DONATE STOCK TO ST. ANTHONY’S**

When you donate long-term appreciated securities (stocks or mutual funds) directly to St. Anthony Foundation, you can receive a tax deduction of up to 30% of your adjusted gross income for the full fair market value of the property donated. By donating stock directly to St. Anthony’s, you can avoid paying capital gains taxes on the gain in value when the stock or mutual fund is sold. 

**KNIT FOR ST. ANTHONY’S**

Join thousands of crafters who send us hand-knit scarves and hats from around the world. Scarves and hats will be a source of comfort to those in our community who need it most. Knit or crochet on your own and send it in, or make a goal with your knitting group or friends and knit together. We need hats for men, women and children of all ages, so it’s crafters choice. Completed scarves and hats need to be received by December 21, 2014. For specifications, go to stanthonyssf.org/Knit.

**DONATE**

Drive by and drop off donations at our annual Curbside Donation Drive the week before Thanksgiving and the week before Christmas. You’ll find teams of volunteers in bright red jackets lining the sidewalk outside of our temporary Dining Room at 150 Golden Gate Avenue. This year, we are collecting turkey, hams, pantry items, unopened travel size hygiene items (especially shampoo, body wash, and toothbrushes and toothpaste), and new socks. We hope to collect 1,000 turkeys the week before Thanksgiving and 500 hams the week before Christmas. For more information, visit the events page on our website, stanthonyssf.org/Events, or LIKE us on Facebook to get the real-time turkey tally and other updates.

And of course, monetary gifts are always helpful. Visit stanthonyssf.org and click on Donate Now.

**DONATE STOCK**

**Get Involved**

**Volunteer**

**Donate**

**Advocate**

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