It is hard to believe it has been more than three months since the fire on April 5, 2011. Fortunately there were only minor injuries. Unfortunately, 124 low-income people were evacuated from their homes without warning. Many residents rushed out with nothing more than the clothes on their back, and they have had severely limited access to their units and belongings since. Many residents of the Franciscan Towers were living their financial lives from week-to-week. Everything they owned fit into their SRO unit – and now much or all of it is gone. For some, this was their first real home after years of homelessness. For these residents, the prospect of facing homelessness again is devastating.

As an organization, we are slowly putting the pieces back together. TASP has moved back in to its regular location, and our smoke damaged corporate offices have been repaired. Within two weeks of the fire, all residents had been relocated from shelters set up by TNDC to spaces with friends, family or in temporary housing in vacant TNDC apartments and those provided by nearby partners. TNDC is bearing the entire cost of fire victims’ temporary housing, and we are well underway to finding them permanent permanent...
Planning for All Possible Futures

“Plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.”

--George Patton

Having marked our 30th anniversary with some reflections about TNDC’s evolution since 1981, I’d like to share a vision for the next 30 years. After all, leaders point the way; so what better time to envision the future and articulate TNDC’s role and goals?

In 2007, TNDC initiated its five year strategic planning process, culminating in our 2008-12 plan that outlined our ambitious goals and methodology. The ink was barely dry when the economy crashed and the world turned upside down. The assumptions that underlay it no longer applied, and TNDC was forced to think differently about its future.

TNDC adapted, finding new ways to generate revenue and meet our mission. We have now embarked on our first below-market rate homeownership development at 10th and Mission Streets. And we have been working intensely on replacing disappearing public financing with private capital in the form of a mixed-income, market-rate and affordable development never before done in San Francisco. In this new era, TNDC continues to thrive.

As we begin the strategic planning process again, we are aware that the world is changing at an increasing pace, and our assumptions about the future – even five years out – can not be relied on. Every aspect of our current environment is evolving. What that means to TNDC: as we think about the future, the emphasis should not be on a plan, but on planning. We will need to be equipped to respond to all futures. Yes, we will generate a document that constitutes a 2013-17 strategic plan, but our focus in the next 18 months will be to strengthen the tools, mechanisms, processes, abilities and organizational capacity to undertake strategic planning in an on-going way. We will articulate a vision, revisit our values and reaffirm who we are. This will lay the foundation for us to make strategic decisions in real time, in response to whatever circumstances the world presents us. This is the essence of contemporary strategic planning.

And a view for the next 30 years? In 1981 who could havepredicted that TNDC would own nearly $500 million in real estate, employ 275 people, and operate in five San Francisco neighborhoods? Who could have foreseen that 4,000 children and youth would call the Tenderloin home, or that more than 25% of those homes would be operated by nonprofits and the public sector? The term “social developments” will result in skyrocketing housing costs, increase unemployment, and exacerbate homelessness,” said Lorenzo Listana. Lorenzo and his family are residents of TNDC’s Curran House.

Both Siu and Lorenzo spoke toward the critical need for affordable housing and led the crowd of 500 in chanting: “Affordable Housing, Protect! Protect!”

Cuts in Affordable Housing Funds

On February 15, 2011 more than 100 TNDC residents traveled to Sacramento, along with hundreds more from around the state, to protest the elimination of over $1 billion in funding for affordable housing. Seniors, immigrants, and longtime Tenderloin SRO residents all jumped on buses to visit the steps of the state capitol and rally support for affordable housing. Afterward, residents entered a meeting of state legislators where policy makers discussed the fate of one of California’s largest sources of affordable housing funds.

Residents made sure to pack the room and demonstrate that our community is listening to what they have to say.

Executive Director Don Falk

At the rally, the Tenderloin community and TNDC were well represented. Two of TNDC’s staff, Siu Cheung and Lorenzo Listana, stepped up to the podium to speak to the crowd.

“I am a formerly homeless person who lives and works in San Francisco. I work as an Activities Coordinator at TNDC, but still cannot afford market-rate rent, and I have to live in illegal housing with my family. I worry everyday because that housing is unsafe,” said Siu, a long-time San Francisco resident.

“Governor Brown’s proposal to eliminate the Redevelopment Agency and the $1 billion funding for affordable housing construction will greatly affect low-income communities. This proposal will result in skyrocketing housing costs, increase unemployment, and exacerbate homelessness,” said Lorenzo Listana. Lorenzo and his family are residents of TNDC’s Curran House.

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“Future Planning can’t be on page 4

Volunteer Shoppers Needed!

TNDC is looking for volunteers who can go “shopping” at the San Francisco Food Bank on Friday mornings once a month for about three hours.

Each week, volunteers and TNDC staff “shop” at the SF Food Bank to select packaged groceries and fresh produce that are delivered and distributed to our lowest-income residents each week.

We will provide you with a list, a budget, and make sure the food is delivered where it needs to go. All you need to do is be able to lift up to 30 pounds and be able to get to the SF Food Bank warehouse in Potrero Hill (easily accessible by public transit).

If you are interested, please contact Julie Doherty at 415-358-3965 or jdoherty@tndc.org.
RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Lorenzo Listana: a passionate advocate for change

Lorenzo has been a resident at TNDC’s Curran House since 2005 when he and his children moved from the Philippines to join his wife who was already living in a small apartment South of Market and working in San Francisco.

Lorenzo found work at a factory and as a part-time administrative assistant for a local home for children with disabilities. Since then, Lorenzo has become an employee at TNDC and a community leader and advocate for his neighbors in the Tenderloin.

Lorenzo started as a part-time employee helping with the 2010 Census. Through a partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation and an AmeriCorps grant, Lorenzo was hired “We here in the Tenderloin – we would like this community to be improved — but with us in it. We want to be included in making the community better.” - Lorenzo Listana, TNDC Resident

to lead a team of residents to conduct census canvassing and outreach to encourage people to participate in the census count. Lorenzo and his team went door-to-door informing Tenderloin residents about the importance of participating in the 2010 Census. He encouraged them to be counted and make their voices heard. In two short months, Lorenzo and his team had knocked on more than 5,000 doors.

Working on the Census helped Lorenzo get to know his neighbors and discover his passion for community organizing. In the process of going door-to-door, he learned there were a significant number of Filipino residents living in the Tenderloin – often in very poor conditions. It was his desire to help his fellow Filipinos that motivated Lorenzo to work at TNDC after the census because he says, “TNDC is a catalyst. They are a pro-active organization. They don’t just wait – they act when they see a need.”

Today, Lorenzo works for Steve Woo as the Community Outreach Coordinator in TNDC’s Community Organizing Department. Lorenzo works to ensure that housing and jobs stay available to residents of the Tenderloin – and that the residents feel safe in their neighborhood. He says he enjoys mobilizing people because “they feel empowered. They get to express their feelings. It makes a difference in their daily lives.”

For ticket and sponsorship information visit www.tndc.org or contact Jane Hatch, Director of Fund Development at (415) 358-3946 or jhatch@tndc.org

Our resident spotlight this month shines on Lorenzo Listana.

Lorenzo is currently working on improving access to healthy food in the Tenderloin and coordinates the Tenderloin People’s Garden. The Garden has provided more than 1,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to residents since January and is becoming a positive community gathering place.

Community organizing is important to Lorenzo because he believes, “If we are organized, then we can make whatever is being planned help improve our situation – and improve the community.”

Lorenzo also gives back to his community outside of work. In his free time, Lorenzo is a founding member of the Tenderloin Filipino-American Community Association (TFCA). Last December, with the help from members of TFCA, Lorenzo organized Parol Lantern Making Workshops for the residents and staff at TNDC. The workshops brightened the holidays for many residents, and gave Lorenzo an opportunity to share his Filipino heritage with his neighbors. Lorenzo and his group entered their lantern into the San Francisco Parol Festival and won the Grand Prize.

As a resident for more than six years, Lorenzo has had the opportunity to make a tremendous impact at TNDC and in the Tenderloin community. He is passionate about community organizing and has a strong vision for a vital, thriving Tenderloin neighborhood — one that ensures a home for everyone, regardless of their income or circumstances. When asked what he wanted people to know about the Tenderloin he said: “We here in the Tenderloin – we would like this community to be improved – but with us in it. We want to be included in making the community better.”

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, October 11, 2011
Poolside at
The Phoenix Hotel/Chambers Eat + Drink
6pm – 10pm

Co-Hosts: Suzanne Whang & Cindy Williams
Benefiting TNDC’s After-School Program and other support services for youth and families in the Tenderloin.

For ticket and sponsorship information visit www.tndc.org or contact Jane Hatch, Director of Fund Development at (415) 358-3946 or jhatch@tndc.org

Fire Update cont’d from page 1

Similarly, our Property Management staff has coordinated the removal, cleaning and storage of all of the belongings in each unit not damaged by the fire. These residents have been given keys to their storage units so they can go through their belongings and determine what they want moved to their new housing. TNDC is working on finding the resources to cover these storage and moving expenses for residents. We will certainly bear a substantial cost that insurance will not reimburse.

Restoring the building will be a formidable challenge. The damage is substantial, and as we plan to perform additional improvements beyond the fire-related repairs, we estimate that we will not be able to move residents back in for at least two years. We are in the process of securing funding for the renovation, and if you stop by the Franciscan Towers, you will see the scaffolding, dumpsters and construction crews excavating the smoked damaged interiors of the SRO units.

The fire has shown us what it means to be a “safety net” organization, and we are working aggressively to restore the Franciscan Towers so that it can once again be home to people so desperately in need of a place to live.

www.tndc.org 10 August 2011

www.tndc.org 3 August 2011
Garden District as well as the Presbytery Louisiana State Museum. They sampled Creole food and were exposed to a wide variety of music played by local street musicians. These activities help TASP youth explore new and diverse cultures beyond their neighborhood, and to gain confidence and a sense of personal identity away from family and friends.

The program also places a high value on helping others and teaching equity and social justice. While in New Orleans, participants spent a day volunteering at the New Orleans Youth Development Center. The youth were motivated to participate by the need for volunteers in the area. The tour participants heard from several young people about their experiences volunteering and the impact it had on them. They also worked on projects that benefited the community, such as painting murals and planting a community garden.

“A Legacy Lives On

Historic 220 Golden Gate Avenue to be named Kelly Cullen Community

On March 11, 2011 at TNDC's 30th Anniversary Dinner, Executive Director Don Falk announced that the TNDC Board of Directors voted to name the former Central YMCA located at 220 Golden Gate Avenue after Brother Kelly Cullen. Built in 1908, the former Central YMCA is a historic nine-story building located on the corner of Golden Gate and Leavenworth Avenues in the Tenderloin neighborhood. Construction is underway and includes substantial rehabilitation and historic preservation, of a historic auditorium, lobby, attic, mezzanine and grand entry staircase.

Set to open in 2012 – Kelly Cullen Community will provide housing to 172 formerly homeless people and will be home to a Department of Public Health Medical and Wellness Clinic. In addition to these services, the historic theater and common spaces at Kelly Cullen Community, including a library and roof garden, will provide social activities and recreational opportunities for residents of the Tenderloin.

Kelly dedicated his life to providing the people of the Tenderloin with opportunities for a brighter future. His boundless energy and natural leadership helped grow TNDC’s base of philanthropic support and political influence. Kelly’s passion for the poor, fierce pride in the Tenderloin, and his drive to see TNDC provide a comprehensive set of services lives on at TNDC. The Kelly Cullen Community will honor his legacy as a unique community gathering place, and will be a living embodiment of the values so important to Kelly.

Thank you again to the Adobe Foundation for helping TNDC provide safe, affordable housing with support services for low-income individuals. In addition to grants, the Adobe Foundation has also donated more than $10,000 worth of Adobe software, including InDesign – which was used to create the newsletter you are reading today. Through our Youth Services Grants Program, the Adobe Foundation provides support for the critical services that young people need to learn and be engaged members in their community,” says Jessamine Chin, Philanthropy Program Manager, “Adobe believes in supporting the communities in which we live and work. Adobe believes in supporting the communities in which we live and work.

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Your support and belief in those values stand as inspiration for us to persevere and thrive, and we thank you sincerely for it.

Best regards,

Donald S. Falk
Executive Director

On the Tour you get to learn about the poor, a thirst for continuous improvement, a love of diversity – and ready ourselves for whatever the future brings.

The program also places a high value on helping others and teaching equity and social justice. While in New Orleans, participants spent a day volunteering at the New Orleans Youth Development Center. The youth were motivated to participate by the need for volunteers in the area. The tour participants heard from several young people about their experiences volunteering and the impact it had on them. They also worked on projects that benefited the community, such as painting murals and planting a community garden.

“On the Tour you get to learn and grow – to practice research and apply what you learn. The tour participants were challenged to think critically about the issues they encountered and to develop solutions. The tour also included visits to local museums, cultural centers, and historic sites. Participants were able to learn about the rich history and culture of New Orleans and gain knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT
The Thachers: making philanthropy a family tradition

Gladys Thacher and her son Will in front of TNDC’s Dalt Hotel

It would be hard to imagine San Francisco without the inspired contributions and hands-on involvement of the many generations of the Thacher family. For most of her adult life, matriarch Gladys Thacher’s passion for improving the city of San Francisco has driven her volunteerism and philanthropy in the areas of local arts, early childhood education, and affordable housing development. It is a passion she has passed on to her children and the younger generations of her extended family. The family has been supporting TNDC with individual gifts, corporate contributions and foundation grants for most of our 30-year history.

Gladys Thacher first learned about TNDC more than a decade ago while serving as a Trustee of the San Francisco Foundation. “The San Francisco Foundation considered TNDC an anchor non-profit for grants to the homeless,” she says. An accomplished and serial funder herself, Gladys is in a position to recognize effective models and capable leadership when she sees them. “Permanent housing with rehab assistance moves people out of homelessness and encourages independent living.” She notes, “TNDC’s compassionate and supportive approach is uniquely informed by its Franciscan roots and that sets it apart from other housing nonprofits.” These closely held values were passed on to Gladys’s adult children, nieces and nephews, who in turn are inspired to support TNDC’s work, and who attend the annual Celebration Dinner as a family.

Her son Will Thacher grew up exploring the Tenderloin and other neighborhoods in the City and is inspired by the community connection that happens at the annual event. “The Dinner is an opportunity to bring together people from all different sectors who share enthusiasm for problem-solving and changing lives for the better.” He was immediately touched by hearing testimonials from those whose lives have been improved by TNDC’s supportive housing. Will continues to keep informed about TNDC’s newer development projects like Curran House and the current renovation of the Kelly Cullen Community at 220 Golden Gate.

Being part of a large family with eight children, Will is also quick to point out the value of early childhood education. The Tenderloin After-School Program in particular provides the resources young people need to excel. “TASP provides a safe and secure environment to nurture young minds, build self-confidence and hope for a better future. It’s exactly what all parents want for their children.” The annual College Tour “provides a safe and secure environment to nurture young minds, build self-confidence and hope for a better future. It’s exactly what all parents want for their children.” - Will Thacher

Will is proud to lead the next generation of his family’s impactful civic engagement, and is enthusiastic about TNDC’s role in the revitalization of the Tenderloin and adjacent neighborhoods. “Your organization is able to provide such broad outreach to diverse populations – young people, senior citizens, those coming out of homelessness and hard-working families. It’s inspiring to watch TNDC’s success over time, and our family hopes to remain involved long into the future.”

Our deepest thanks go to the Thacher family who enthusiastically support our mission and help to make our City a better place for all San Franciscans.

College Tour participants on New Orleans Cemetery Tour

Now in its eleventh year, the college readiness curriculum and the Annual College Tour are building an environment at TASP where participants can see college as a real and accessible choice. The program is able to take responsibility to get the information that I am going to need,” says Erika, a senior in high school.

For many of the students, the tour is their first time away from home and the first time on a plane. Traveling can be an eye-opening experience. Erika says, “I learned that I am very interested in going outside of my usual comfort area. With traveling, I learned about other places, and I had to think about what they had to offer.”

On the tour, TASP staff spends quality time with participants and provides positive adult influence. The one-on-one time also helps to build trust. Trust that Laura Choe says is vital to engaging youth, especially over the long-term. “Later on, when I am working with a student on something difficult or outside of their comfort zone, the trust and knowledge built during the College Tour contribute to more successful outcomes. I can say, ‘Remember when you said you wanted this?’ and they hear me,” - Laura Choe

Currently 10 TASP youth who previously participated in the College Tour are enrolled in a community or four-year college including Jessica, who will be entering Mt. Holyoke University in Massachusetts this fall. Five former TASP participants have graduated with a college degree or a professional program. The majority of these young adults are the first in their family to go to college.

If you would like to help TNDC provide opportunities like the College Tour to low-income youth and teens in San Francisco, contact Jane Hatch, Director of Fund Development at (415) 358-3946 or jhatch@tndc.org

www.tndc.org  8 August 2011
30 Years of Building Homes and Hope: 

Anniversary Dinner Raises over $290,000 to provide affordable housing and support services to low-income people in San Francisco

On May 11, 2011, TNDC celebrated its 30th Anniversary at the historic Fairmont Hotel. More than 500 guests attended the event, including corporate and community partners, civic and community leaders, and supporters like you. We are proud to announce that the event raised more than $290,000 to provide safe, affordable housing and support services to low-income people in the Tenderloin and beyond.

Highlights of the evening included KGO-TV’s Cheryl Jennings, who joined us as Mistress of Ceremonies. Mayor Edwin M. Lee praised TNDC for its hard work over the years, and Father John Hardin accepted the annual Brother Kelly Cullen Community Service Award on behalf of this year’s winners the Franciscan Friars of St. Barbara Province. Event goers were treated to a wonderful dinner and festive dancing accompanied by live music from the Robert Vickers Orchestra.

The evening concluded in traditional TNDC fashion with raised glasses, a lit birthday cake, and a special rendition of “Happy Birthday” sung by Misa Malone of Beach Blanket Babylon. Music by the Robert Vickers Orchestra

The event was festive, heartwarming, and demonstrated what TNDC, in conjunction with community support, can achieve. With more than 30 years of service, we are truly building homes and hope for generations to come.

Please see the Events page at www.tndc.org for a list of our supporters.

30 Years, 30 Buildings, and 3,000 Tenants

Excerpt from Executive Director Don Falk’s speech at the 30th Anniversary Dinner

For any organization to survive, much less thrive, for 30 years is a profound thing. I think back to when TNDC was conceived, and how the world has changed since then.

The first group of housing nonprofits was in its infancy, and none were in the Tenderloin. A group of residents, with the critical support of the Franciscan community, saw the poverty, and they also saw powerful economic forces that could one day gut the neighborhood and displace the people who called the Tenderloin home. They got their hands on an abandoned building, the Aarti Hotel. Actually, it wasn’t abandoned – squatters were living in it. They kicked out the squatters, arranged for dumpsters, pulled out their sledgehammers, and the seed of TNDC was now in the soil.

30 years later, TNDC has grown to 2,500 homes, with 20 social workers on its staff and over 200 children and youth enrolled in its after-school programs. But we haven’t forgotten our roots. 80% of TNDC’s 3,000 residents live with incomes under $1,000 a month. We have changed their odds in an economy so stacked against them.

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It’s the people; the generations of staff, the 100 people who have served on TNDC’s Board over these 30 years; and all of you. Thank you for everything you do to make TNDC what it is.

I can’t conclude without saying a word about the fire at the Franciscan Towers, which had housed not only 124 low-income people, but also our home office and after-school program.

The fire was devastating. It’s unimaginable to anyone who’s never been burned out of their home.

For me, this has been a personal moment. I’ve come to understand a few things about TNDC that even after 17 years of working here, I really had not fully appreciated.

I understand now what it means to be a safety net organization. Many residents were living from week-to-week, with no buffer of any kind, everything they owned in an efficiency apartment now gone. By law landlords don’t have any responsibility – not for their possessions, not for their food, not for their temporary housing, not for their re-housing. But that’s our community and we have to help in every way that we can.

I understand now what it means for TNDC to be a community-based organization, because I saw the whole San Francisco community rally to come to the residents’ aid, through TNDC. And although I thought I understood what a great staff TNDC has, I cannot believe what I’ve seen our people rise to in these past six weeks.

The fire got me, and everyone, thinking about the mission in a deep way. 124 people, all with their own stories, their own needs. Yes, TNDC needs systems and procedures, but let me tell you, each person has his or her own unique story, and there is no generic solution, no cookie-cutter response to the very personal and private challenges that came out of this.

TNDC is a substantial organization now. Yet we need to put ourselves back into that mind-set of 30 years ago, when a small group of people saw a need and moved to fill it. We need to keep alive the spirit that planted that seed at the Aarti 30 years ago. This is our challenge for the future. I’ll see you here in 30 years.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT
The Thachers: making philanthropy a family tradition

It would be hard to imagine San Francisco without the inspired contributions and hands-on involvement of the many generations of the Thacher family. For most of her adult life, matriarch Glady Thacher’s passion for improving the city of San Francisco Foundation considered TNDC an anchor nonprofit for grants to the homeless.” - Glady Thacher

Glady Thacher and her son Will in front of TNDC’s Dall Hotel

Francisco has driven her volunteerism and philanthropy in the areas of local arts, early childhood education, and affordable housing development. It is a passion she has passed on to her children and the younger generations of her extended family. The family has been supporting TNDC with individual gifts, corporate contributions and foundation grants for most of our 30-year history.

Gladly Thacher first learned about TNDC more than a decade ago while serving as a Trustee of the San Francisco Foundation. “The San Francisco Foundation considered TNDC an anchor nonprofit for grants to the homeless,” she says. An accomplished and serial fundraiser, Gladly is in a position to recognize effective models and capable leadership when she sees them. “Permanent housing with rehab assistance moves people out of homelessness and encourages independent living.” She notes, “TNDC’s compassionate and supportive approach is uniquely informed by its Franciscan roots and that sets it apart from other housing nonprofits.” These closely held values were passed on to Gladly’s adult children, nieces and nephews, who in turn are inspired to support TNDC’s work, and who attend the annual Celebration Dinner as a family.

Her son Will Thacher grew up exploring the Tenderloin and other neighborhoods in the City and is inspired by the community connection that happens at the annual event. “The Dinner is an opportunity to bring together people from all different sectors who share enthusiasm for problem-solving and changing lives for the better.” He was immediately touched by hearing testimonials from those whose lives have been improved by TNDC’s supportive housing. Will continues to keep informed about TNDC’s newer development projects like Curran House and the current renovation of the Kelly Cullen Community at 220 Golden Gate. Being part of a large family with eight children, Will is also quick to point out the value of early childhood education. The Tenderloin After-School Program in particular provides the resources young people need to excel. “TASP provides a safe and secure environment to nurture young minds, build self-confidence and hope for a better future. It’s exactly what all parents want for their children.” The annual College Tour “TASP provides a safe and secure environment to nurture young minds, build self-confidence and hope for a better future. It’s exactly what all parents want for their children.” - Will Thacher remains a big inspiration as it encourages teens to explore college life and become whatever they want to be. Will is proud to lead the next generation of his family’s impactful civic engagement, and is enthusiastic about TNDC’s work, and is currently serving as a Trustee of the San Francisco Foundation.

During the campus tours, you have to ask questions about what you want to know and not expect others to ask those questions for you. So I have to take responsibility to get the information that I am going to need.” - Erika, a senior in high school.

To try to be more independent and more responsible. For example, we have to wake up and be ready by a certain time; we have to stay with the group and not get lost. During the campus tours, you have to ask questions about what you want to know and not expect others to ask those questions for you. So I have to take responsibility to get the information that I am going to need,” says Erika, a senior in high school.

For many of the students, the tour is their first time away from home and the first time on a plane. Traveling can be an eye-opening experience. Erika says, “I learned that I am very interested in going outside of my usual comfort area. With traveling, I learned about other places, and I had to think about what they had to offer.”

On the tour, TASP staff spends quality time with participants and provides positive adult influence. The one-on-one time also helps to build trust. Trust that Laura Choe says is vital to engaging youth, especially over the long-term. “Later on, when I am working with a student on something difficult or outside of their comfort zone, the trust and knowledge built during the College Tour contribute to more successful outcomes. I can say, ‘Remember when you said you wanted this?’ and they hear me,” - Laura Choe

Opening doors to new experiences and opportunities.

Erika says, “I would recommend the College Tour, and I would tell people that it’s a great chance to go somewhere where you wouldn’t usually go. I got to learn about the history. I learned about Katrina and also all about Mardi Gras. I got to see all the preparations that go into this huge event.”

Currently 10 TASP youth who previously participated in the College Tour are enrolled in a community or four-year college including Jessica, who will be entering Mt. Holyoke University in Massachusetts this fall. Five former TASP participants have graduated with a college degree or a professional program. The majority of these young adults are the first in their family to go to college.

Now in its eleventh year, the college preparedness curriculum and the Annual College Tour are building an environment at TASP where participants can see college as a real and accessible choice. The program is also motivated to improve their grades to be able to go on the tour, and many when they get back, are more motivated to stay engaged in school so that they can too go on to college.

“Later on, when I am working with a student on something difficult or outside of their comfort zone, the trust and knowledge built during the College Tour contribute to more successful outcomes. I can say, ‘Remember when you said you wanted this?’ and they hear me,” - Laura Choe

On the tour, TASP staff spends quality time with participants and provides positive adult influence. The one-on-one time also helps to build trust. Trust that Laura Choe says is vital to engaging youth, especially over the long-term. “Later on, when I am working with a student on something difficult or outside of their comfort zone, the trust and knowledge built during the College Tour contribute to more successful outcomes. I can say, ‘Remember when you said you wanted this?’ and they hear me,” - Laura Choe

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“During the campus tours, you have to ask questions about what you want to know and not expect others to ask those questions for you. So I have to take responsibility to get the information that I am going to need,” - Erika, a senior in high school.

The San Francisco Foundation considered TNDC an anchor nonprofit for grants to the homeless.” - Glady Thacher

For many of the students, the tour is their first time away from home and the first time on a plane. Traveling can be an eye-opening experience. Erika says, “I learned that I am very interested in going outside of my usual comfort area. With traveling, I learned about other places, and I had to think about what they had to offer.”

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Opening doors to new experiences and opportunities.

Erika says, “I would recommend the College Tour, and I would tell people that it’s a great chance to go somewhere where you wouldn’t usually go. I got to learn about the history. I learned about Katrina and also all about Mardi Gras and how it started a long time ago and
The future is opaque, and so TNDC’s approach will mimic that old Zen riddle: How do you paint a perfect picture? Make yourself perfect, and paint.

We will be guided by our values – compassion for the poor, a thirst for continuous improvement, a love of diversity – and ready ourselves for whatever the future brings.

Your support and belief in those values stand as inspiration for us to persevere and thrive, and we thank you sincerely for it.

Best regards,

Donald S. Falk
Executive Director

A Legacy Lives On

On March 11, 2011 at TNDC’s 30th Anniversary Dinner, Executive Director Don Falk announced that the TNDC Board of Directors voted to name the former Central YMCA located at 220 Golden Gate Avenue after Brother Kelly Cullen.

Built in 1908, the former Central YMCA is a historic nine-story building located on the corner of Golden Gate and Leavenworth Avenues in the Tenderloin neighborhood. Construction is underway and includes substantial rehabilitation and historic preservation, of a historic auditorium, lobby, attiar, mezzanine and grand entry staircase.

Set to open in 2012 – Kelly Cullen Community will provide housing to 172 formerly homeless people and will be home to a Department of Public Health Medical and Wellness Clinic. In addition to these services, the historic theater and common spaces at Kelly Cullen Community, including a library and roof garden, will provide social activities and recreational opportunities for residents of the Tenderloin.

Kelly dedicated his life to providing the people of the Tenderloin with opportunities for a brighter future. His boundless energy and natural leadership helped grow TNDC’s base of philanthropic support and political influence. Kelly’s passion for the poor, fierce pride in the Tenderloin, and his drive to see TNDC provide a comprehensive set of services lives on at TNDC. The Kelly Cullen Community will honor his legacy as a unique community gathering place, and will be a living embodiment of the values so important to Kelly.

The program also places a high value on helping others and teaching equity and social justice. While in New Orleans, participants spent a day volunteering at the New Orleans Museum of Art gallery, pulling weeds and tending to the outdoor art installations. The Tour also helps the students develop their personal power, and their sense of control over what happens to them in their daily lives. Whether they decide to go on to college or not, college tour participants feel more optimistic about their personal future.

“The Tour helps the students develop their personal power, and their sense of control over what happens to them in their daily lives. Whether they decide to go on to college or not, college tour participants feel more optimistic about their personal future.” - Laura Choe, TASP Program Manager.

In addition to grants, the Adobe Foundation has also donated more than $70,000 over the last three years has helped provide safe, clean homes to more than 3,000 low-income individuals in San Francisco. Their most recent gift through their Youth Services Grant Program will go to support youth and families in the Tenderloin.

“Adobe believes in supporting the communities in which we live and work. Through our Youth Services Grants Program, the Adobe Foundation provides support for the critical services that young people need to learn and be engaged members in their community,” says Jessamine Chin, Philanthropy Program Manager. “TND is a leader in making the Tenderloin a better place to live - the Adobe Foundation believes in their unique approach and supports the great work they do for the community.”

Thank you again to the Adobe Foundation for helping TNDC provide safe, affordable housing with support services for low-income people in the Tenderloin and beyond.

We will be guided by our values – compassion for the poor, a thirst for continuous improvement, a love of diversity – and ready ourselves for whatever the future brings.

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Future Planning can’t from page 1

Life Lessons can’t from page 1

shops on researching colleges, applying for financial aid, and SAT preparation, TASP staff guide the participants through a thoughtful exploration of their own future.

Students practice researching what is available to them, weighing their options, and making choices about what they feel is best for them. Assignments such as planning an activity for the trip with a set budget and writing personal statements help students practice planning ahead and prioritizing. By working in groups and presenting together, students build sensitivity and friendship skills and also gain knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

This year fifteen TASP participants completed the college workshop series and traveled to New Orleans to visit Xavier University, the University of New Orleans, Dillard University, and Tulane University. This selection of colleges allowed TASP youth to experience large, small, public and private campuses. On each campus, participants met with admissions staff, toured the college grounds, received information on majors, visited dorm rooms, and ate lunch in the student cafeterias. In the afternoons and evenings they got to experience the rich culture and history of New Orleans. Students visited the French Quarter and the Garden District as well as the Presbytery Louisiana State Museum. They sampled Creole food and were exposed to a wide variety of music played by local street musicians. These activities help TASP youth explore new and diverse cultures beyond their neighborhood, and to gain confidence and a sense of personal identity away from family and friends.

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In addition to grants, the Adobe Foundation has also donated more than $10,000 worth of Adobe software, including InDesign – which was used to create the newsletter you are reading today.

Thank you again to the Adobe Foundation for helping TNDC provide safe, affordable housing with support services for low-income people in the Tenderloin and beyond.
RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT
Lorenzo Listana: a passionate advocate for change

Lorenzo has been a resident at TNDC’s Curran House since 2005 when he and his children moved from the Philippines to join his wife who was already living in a small apartment South of Market and working in San Francisco.

Lorenzo found work at a factory and as a part-time administrative assistant for a local home for children with disabilities. Since then, Lorenzo has become an employee at TNDC and a community leader and advocate for his neighbors in the Tenderloin.

Lorenzo started as a part-time employee helping with the 2010 Census. Through a partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation and an AmeriCorps grant, Lorenzo was hired “We here in the Tenderloin – we would like this community to be improved — but with us in it. We want to be included in making the community better.” - Lorenzo Listana, TNDC Resident

to lead a team of residents to conduct census canvassing and outreach to encourage people to participate in the census count. Lorenzo and his team went door-to-door informing Tenderloin residents about the importance of participating in the 2010 Census. He encouraged them to be counted and make their voices heard.

In two short months, Lorenzo and his team knocked on more than 5,000 doors. Working on the Census helped Lorenzo get to know his neighbors and discover his passion for community organizing.

Community organizing is important to Lorenzo because he believes, “If we are organized, then we can make whatever is being planned help improve our situation — and improve the community.”

In his free time, Lorenzo is a founding member of the Tenderloin Filipino-American Community Association (TFCA). Last December, with the help from members of TFCA, Lorenzo organized Parol Lantern Making Workshops for the residents and staff at TNDC. The workshops brightened the holidays for many residents, and gave Lorenzo an opportunity to share his Filipino heritage with his neighbors.

Lorenzo and his group entered their lantern into the San Francisco Parol Festival and won the Grand Prize. As a resident for more than six years, Lorenzo has had the opportunity to make a tremendous impact at TNDC and in the Tenderloin community. He is passionate about community organizing and has a strong vision for a vital, thriving Tenderloin neighborhood — one that ensures a home for everyone, regardless of their income or circumstances. When asked what he wanted people to know about the Tenderloin he said: “We here in the Tenderloin — we would like this community to be improved — but with us in it. We want to be included in making the community better.”

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Fire Update cont’d from page 1

housing while restoring the building so residents can eventually return home.

Simultaneously, our Property Management staff has coordinated the removal, cleaning and storage of all of the belongings in each unit not damaged by the fire. These residents have been given keys to their storage units so they can go through their belongings and determine what they want moved to their new housing.

TNDC is working on finding the resources to cover these storage and moving expenses for residents. We will certainly bear a substantial cost that insurance will not reimburse.

Restoring the building will be a formidable challenge. The damage is substantial, and as we plan to perform additional improvements beyond the fire-related repairs, we estimate that we will not be able to move residents back in for at least two years. We are in the process of securing funding for the renovation, and if you stop by the Franciscan Towers, you will see the scaffolding, dumpsters and construction crews excavating the soot-damaged interiors of the SRO units.

The fire has shown us what it means to be a “safety net” organization, and we are working aggressively to restore the Franciscan Towers so that it can once again be home to people so desperately in need of a place to live.

www.tndc.org 3 August 2011
TNDC Residents Make Their Voices Heard in Sacramento

Community Organizing Department Mobilizes 100 Residents to Protest Cuts in Affordable Housing Funds

On February 15, 2011 more than 100 TNDC residents traveled to Sacramento, along with hundreds more from around the state, to protest the elimination of over $1 billion in funding for affordable housing. Seniors, immigrants, and longtime Tenderloin SRO residents all jumped on buses to visit the steps of the state capitol and rally support for affordable housing. Afterward, residents entered a meeting of state legislators where policy makers discussed the fate of one of California’s largest sources of affordable housing funds. Residents made sure to pack the room and demonstrate that our community is listening to what they have to say.

At the rally, the Tenderloin community and TNDC were well represented. Two of TNDC’s staff, Siu Cheung and Lorenzo Listana, stepped up to the podium to speak to the crowd.

“I am a formerly homeless person who lives and works in San Francisco. I work as an Activities Coordinator at TNDC, but still cannot afford market-rate rent, and have to live in illegal housing with my family. I worry everyday because that housing is unsafe,” said Siu, a long-time San Francisco resident.

Both Siu and Lorenzo spoke toward the critical need for affordable housing and led the crowd of 500 in chanting: “Affordable Housing, Protect! Protect! Protect!”

Governor Brown’s proposal to eliminate the Redevelopment Agency and the $1.1 billion funding for affordable housing construction will greatly affect low-income communities. This proposal will result in skyrocketing housing costs, increase unemployment, and exacerbate homelessness,” said Lorenzo Listana.

Siu Cheung speaks on the steps of the Capital

Volunteer Shoppers Needed!

TNDC is looking for volunteers who can go “shopping” at the San Francisco Food Bank on Friday mornings one a month for about three hours.

Each week, volunteers and TNDC staff “shop” at the SF Food Bank to select packaged groceries and fresh produce that are delivered and distributed to our lowest-income residents each week.

We will provide you with a list, a budget, and make sure the food is delivered where it needs to go. All you need to do is be able to lift up to 30 pounds and be able to get to the SF Food Bank warehouse in Potrero Hill (easily accessible by public transit).

If you are interested, please contact Julie Doherty at 415-358-3965 or jdoherty@tndc.org
After the Fire: Rebuilding Franciscan Towers

It is hard to believe it has been more than three months since the fire on April 5, 2011. Fortunately there were only minor injuries. Unfortunately, 124 low-income people were evacuated from their homes without warning. Many residents rushed out with nothing more than the clothes on their back, and they have had severely limited access to their units and belongings since. Many residents of the Franciscan Towers were living their financial lives from week-to-week. Everything they owned fit into their SRO unit – and now much or all of it is gone. For some, this was their first real home after years of homelessness. For these residents, the prospect of facing homelessness again is devastating.

As an organization, we are slowly putting the pieces back together. TASP has moved back in to its regular location, and our smoke damaged corporate offices have been repaired. Within two weeks of the fire, all residents had been relocated from shelters set up by TNDC to spaces with friends, family or in temporary housing in vacant TNDC apartments and those provided by nearby partners. TNDC is bearing the entire cost of fire victims’ temporary housing, and we are well underway to finding them permanent...

The Franciscan Towers

TASP Youth Experience Empowering Life Lessons

Each spring the teenage participants at our Tenderloin After School Program (TASP) begin a ten-week college workshop series that includes guest speakers and assignments that teach the realities of applying for and getting into college. For the participants who attend all the workshops, have the minimum GPA, and complete all of the assignments, the reward is the opportunity to go on the Annual College Tour. The tour is a week-long trip, often across country, that includes tours of college campuses, cultural activities, leadership experiences, and service learning projects.

The purpose of the ten-week series and the Tour is to increase access to post-secondary education by promoting college as a real and accessible option for low-income youth. “Part of what goes on in this process is not just exposing youth to college campuses but building a foundation of skills that will help them make an informed choice, and ensure a more successful future whether they choose college or not,” says Laura Choe, TASP Program Manager.

The curriculum is designed to help strengthen social competencies like planning and decision making, as well as interpersonal communications and cultural competence. Through work-

TASP participants toured four colleges this year in New Orleans including Xavier University of Louisiana.