



## Orange County Imposes New Barrier to Assisting the Homeless

The Orange County Commission to End Homelessness Prevention group has mandated that no rental assistance funds will go to pay for renting rooms without a lease or for rent at sober living facilities. Currently there is a severe shortage of affordable housing including rooms to rent. Those serving the homeless who believe in the Housing First model, which means taking people from the street and getting them into housing right away, need to be flexible to obtain housing to serve their clients.



Homeless clients normally do not have jobs so qualifying for a lease is not feasible nor is the cost of rent for an apartment. A study showed a person in Orange County would have to work 133 hours making minimum wage to afford a one bedroom apartment. Nonprofits dealing with scarce funds cannot afford to house all their homeless clients in apartments nor would it be prudent or financially feasible to guarantee or sign leases.

Often the best solution is to network and find a room to rent for the short or long term or rent a shared room in a sober living house short or long term. These options do not require or normally provide leases and are often paid month by month or week by week. They are very good solutions for the Housing First model.

Sober living places are also often a good solution for someone who has had a drug or alcohol problem in the past and wants to get their life on track and associate with others who want to do the same. In spite of this, the Prevention group has mandated these do not qualify for rental assistance and renting a room without a lease does not qualify for rental assistance.

Build Futures uses both these options to get our youth off the street right away and place them in stable housing so they can get a job and become self-sufficient. The problem is that once they do get a job it can take anywhere from five to 12 weeks to get their first paycheck. This means they need help paying the rent until their first paycheck which is how prevention rental assistance can be a tremendous help to help them remain stably housed until they can pay their own rent.

A policy like the one currently imposed restricts funds that could be available to keep people who are working hard and doing all the right things to become self-sufficient and off the street. Instead, it contributes to returning them to the street and homelessness.

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### GET INVOLVED:



### » DONATE

Just visit our website:  
[www.buildfutures.org](http://www.buildfutures.org)

Or make checks to:  
Build Futures  
19036 Stonehurst Lane  
Huntington Beach, CA  
92648

### » VOLUNTEER

To get involved with the youth, become a mentor, or offer a service email:  
[Kathy@BuildFutures.org](mailto:Kathy@BuildFutures.org)

Or sign-up online at:  
[www.buildfutures.org](http://www.buildfutures.org)

# JUDITH HENDLER JEWELRY & ART SALE

## *70% Of All Sales Will Benefit Build Futures*

Judith Hendler's designs have appeared in numerous fashion magazines, such as Harper's Bazaar, Vogue, Elle, Women's Wear Daily. Designs have also been hand picked for ad campaigns such as Elizabeth Arden cosmetics.

Fashion designers such as Nolan Miller, Alfred Fiandaca, Gregory Poe and James Reva select from her pieces to enhance and unite their clothing on the runway.

CERAMICS - MOSAICS - PRINTS - JEWELRY

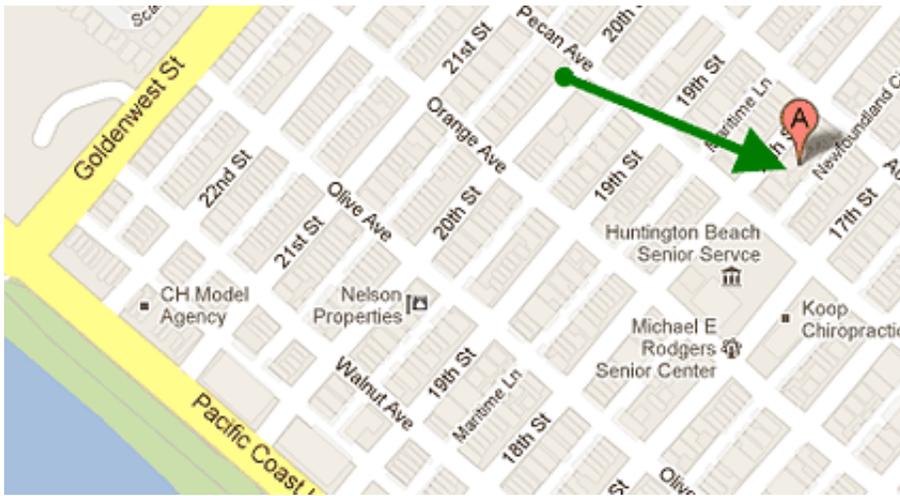


## **When and Where:**

**Sunday May 26, 2013**

**11 am to 4 pm**

Judith Hendler's Back Alley Art Studio  
514 18th St. #1 (in the alley around back)  
Huntington Beach



Across from the Rodgers Senior Center parking lot

## Build Futures has Relocated to Huntington Beach

Thanks to the generosity of Angeli Poonsaengsathit and the Monkey House Cafe who have donated office space to Build Futures we are now located in Huntington Beach.

We are very excited to be in the Huntington Beach community and work with our many community partners including the wonderful people in Kiwanis, who have been a continuous source of support in so many ways, Rotary Club, Saint Wilfrid's Episcopal Church, Huntington Beach Interfaith Council, our volunteers and many others. It is only with the communities help that we are able to help the homeless youth we serve.



## Volunteer Spotlight: A Small Donation Evolves

A few months ago, Cheryl Ennis saw a Facebook message posted on a friend's page asking for donations for an organization called Build Futures. She took a brief look at the website and thought the mission looked noble, and being the holiday season, she was inspired to make a small donation. She had no idea what she was in for!



Over the next few weeks, Cheryl continued to think about the statistics, stories, and need discussed on Build Futures website and decided to take a closer look at the available volunteer opportunities. There was a long list of opportunities and areas where they needed help, so she took the next logical step and filled out a form to express her interest. With her many years of experience managing and mentoring people throughout her corporate career, coupled with her experience coaching young adults, Cheryl was especially interested in exploring how she could work directly with the homeless young

adults (clients) that Build Futures serves.

She met with Kathy, Build Futures founder and executive director, the first week in January and was immediately impressed by her passion, dedication and vast knowledge of the problem of homelessness in Orange County, as well as the available resources and how to use them. Cheryl was also astonished by the statistics. "I had no idea that there are 5,400 homeless high school students in Orange County, and that the number has been steadily climbing," says Cheryl. "I also thought, as I suspect most people do, that homeless young adults are the result of 18 year-olds coming out of the foster care system, which is not the case."

Cheryl came to understand that Build Futures clients are a vastly underserved population, with few social services at their disposal, particularly for housing. In addition, the resources that are available are difficult to navigate without help, which is where the organization comes in. Kathy has developed a network of resources and the expertise to help clients become self-sufficient in the shortest amount of time possible.

During that first meeting, Cheryl decided this opportunity was right up her alley, and as it turned out, Kathy's most desperate need was for help working with the young adults. At any given time Build Futures has as many as 30-50 active clients. Volunteers are needed to mentor these young adults and deal directly with them to become self-sufficient. "I was happy to think that I could take on part of that effort. I was also eager to have such an impactful role," said Cheryl.

Since that first week in January Cheryl has jumped in feet first, learning as much as possible about the resources available and slowly taking on the responsibility to work directly with some of the clients. "I won't lie; taking this on is not for the faint of heart. It is very challenging to work with a population that is accustomed to a life of homelessness and poverty," explained Cheryl. "Many have left abusive situations, and some have the added challenges of substance abuse and/or a criminal record. They often have a hard time taking on the responsibility for doing what is required to get out of the hole they are in and start moving along the road to self-sufficiency...it's tough! Having said all of that, I go to bed every night feeling like I am making a difference in someone's life. I am making an impact. Many of my clients will never tell me that. They may not even recognize it. But I know, and that is enough."

## Client Spotlight: If Given a Chance

When Michael\* came to us, he had just completed a three-month long rehabilitation program designed to help him recover from his alcohol addiction. At 24 years old, he had held a few jobs, but had also been in and out of rehab. At three months sober, he was determined to change his life for the better and get on the road to self-sufficiency.



Unlike many of the young adults served by Build Futures, Michael already had his high school diploma, an ID, social security card, and some good work experience. But, he needed housing and help until he could find another job. He had no place to live and no resources at his disposal to support himself. There is no funding in the county for paying rent for rooms to rent or sober living which are the only available options for the kids we serve who do not qualify for leases on even a studio apartment.

Build Futures paid Michael's rent and sent him to an employment agency to apply for work. We advised him to be the first one there and to ask to do whatever testing they required that day. The approach was successful and they had Michael come back to do some additional testing and then sent him to interview with the prospective employer. Michael is now working at a good job, making well above minimum wage, and is on his way to being a productive, self-supporting member of society. To accomplish this he needed rent covered for five weeks for the time he took to get his job and before he received his first paycheck, the rent was covered by Build Futures.

Build Futures works to eliminate barriers for these kids striving toward independent living. Without funding from our community to pay for housing, bus passes and phones these kids would not have had a stable place to live to begin their path to self sufficiency.

## **Build Futures provides the safety net for homeless youth 18 to 24 who have:**

- No Family No Friends
- No Church
- No Community
- No Safe Place to Sleep
- No Healthy Place to Eat

**NO HOPE!**

They are alone, afraid and cold.

Build Futures goes to these kids in the street and assists them to become safe and self-sufficient.

## **[DONATE NOW](#)**

On behalf of BUILD FUTURES and our all volunteer staff, we thank you for your generosity, as we could not accomplish our mission without the support of our amazing donors and supporters.

**Build Futures offers hope to youth in crisis.**

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Build Futures is a non-profit 501c3 organization whose mission is to help homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth ages 18 to 24 achieve their maximum potential and lead fulfilling lives within our community.

For more information, visit [www.buildfutures.org](http://www.buildfutures.org)

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