

From 6 to 370



The Growth of Lifeshouse

Joe Spinelli, as a Lifeshouse parent and Board member since the 1960s, has seen all the change and growth these past 50 years.

Dr. Joseph Spinelli retired from the Lifeshouse Board in July 2021, having served on and off since 1968. Joe graciously agreed to continue serving the Board of Directors as Director Emeritus in an advisory role. His expertise is truly expansive and his involvement since the early days of Lifeshouse gives Joe a unique perspective on the exciting changes that Lifeshouse has made across five decades of supporting our community.

Joe began his involvement with Lifeshouse (then known as MARC) as a parent of Stephen, who was born with a developmental disability. Stephen attended KMR, a preschool for children with developmental disabilities, where Joe was later elected President of the parents group in 1967. Here he met Charlie Martin, who was then a Board member at Lifeshouse and he recruited Joe to join the board. They joined forces in their support and development of Lifeshouse programs.

During Joe's board service, it was decided that the primary function of Lifeshouse should be the operation of programs, with the argument that program development would solidify the agency's mission of supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in our community and help the organization stay financially viable. When Joe began his service in 1967, there were no programs in operation by Lifeshouse. By 1973, the organization had developed a respite program, a work program for landscaping, a group home for women, and an Intermediate Care Facility program for people with multiple disabilities. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Lifeshouse developed additional programs as more people sought

services. The organization slowly became financially viable, and in 1994 the first Supported Living Program was opened in Novato. This program of supporting an individual in their own apartment proved to be one of the most successful and sought after programs, enabling Lifeshouse a path to financial and programmatic growth.

Throughout Joe's involvement, he has seen the growth of Lifeshouse as an organization and a positive force in the community. The first program at Lifeshouse, in addition to the preschool that opened in 1954, was a group home in Corte Madera supporting six women. Lifeshouse now supports over 370 individuals with I/DD. Some of these individuals have been with Lifeshouse since the beginning. Our newest program is Great Expectations, an inclusive preschool developed in collaboration with Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) and Dominican University.

Joe recognizes the enormous responsibility to the people we support in helping them create an independent and full life. With a growing need for creative and quality support services, Lifeshouse steps up to this challenge. We are halfway through the "Home for Life" Capital Campaign that has allowed us to purchase and renovate an office building in San Rafael, ensuring our place in the community. With this permanent home for Lifeshouse, more funds are now available for the continued growth of Lifeshouse services. Lifeshouse will continue to offer opportunities for a full and independent life to people with I/DD, and with Joe as Director Emeritus, we are certain his guidance will help us further this goal.

The President's Corner

Dear Friends,

While this past year and a half has been filled with unprecedented challenges, it has also served as a powerful reminder of the essential work that Lifehouse carries out each and every day.

The pandemic has slowed and closed many businesses, however it certainly did not stop Lifehouse. In the past fiscal year, Lifehouse has had amazing growth in support of our community. We hired and trained 140 new staff this past year due to the increased demand for day support, bringing us to now employing over 500 employees. The Lifehouse Technology Center has grown dramatically to provide and maintain online connections to family, friends and the community.

We are settled into our new headquarters at 18 Professional Center Parkway in San Rafael and we look forward to fully utilizing the many amenities available in this new office space that is set up for continued expansion and growth. We are halfway through the "Home for Life" Capital Campaign for the purchase and renovation of our building. As Lifehouse decreases its mortgage debt, funds are being freed up to develop and enhance new programs and services.

I look forward to connecting with you in the near future and anticipate hosting the Lifehouse Awards Banquet to honor our community. At this time, we have scheduled Thursday, December 9, 2021 at the Embassy Suites for our Banquet with a limited number of guests. I will update you as we come closer to that date. Great Chefs & Wineries is scheduled for April 23, 2022 at Peacock Gap. We look forward to coming together to celebrate Lifehouse in person! We miss our community gatherings and hope to see you when it is safe!

For all the challenges, this time will go down in history as the year we embraced change and welcomed growth! Most importantly, for those we support, the dreams and aspirations to live a full life remain front and center to our mission and our daily work.

As always, I appreciate your support of Lifehouse. Donations of any amount are always greatly appreciated and help to ensure our permanent place in this community. Thank you for your generosity!

Warmest wishes,



Nancy Dow Moody
President & CEO

Lifehouse Board of Directors

Stephen Meeker Chair	Nancy Dow Moody Lifehouse President & CEO	Susan McFadden
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	Mark Jackson	* New Board Members

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Advisory Council



Board of Directors



Ginny Quick

Please welcome Ginny Quick to the Lifehouse Board of Directors. Ginny is a Lifehouse parent of Kyle Quick and serves on the Lifehouse Great Chefs and Wineries Steering Committee.

Ginny has many years of financial and investment management for nonprofits. She was the CFO at Sierra Club Foundation and previously for the Marine Mammal Center. Through her work and other volunteer roles, Ginny has experience working closely with boards, executive directors, consultants, attorneys, volunteers, managers and staff. We look forward to having Ginny's expertise on the Lifehouse Board.



Marsha Treadwell

Please welcome back Marsha Treadwell to the Lifehouse Board. Marsha is a Lifehouse parent and former board Chair.

Marsha is a Professor of Pediatrics/Division of Hematology, a Health Services Researcher and the Co-Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals. As mother of Teodos, she is active in advocating for people with developmental disabilities and is an active parent in the Lifehouse community. We look forward to having Marsha's expertise on the Lifehouse Board of Directors.

Staff Promotions

Congratulations to our talented staff who have been promoted to take on additional responsibilities to ensure the quality and efficiency of Lifehouse now and going forward!

Lisa Ann Carbone, Associate Director
Directing compliance and accident/incident report review

Christine Leider, Associate Director QIDP/Administrator
Directing the selection and implementation of new intradepartmental software and coordinate trainings

Olivia Vain, Program Manager Administrator
Program management of SLS caseload, oversee billing, schedule of supports and IHSS utilization/eligibility

Holly Skidmore, SLP Manager
Management of Supported Living Services caseload

Claudia Silva, QA/PCT Manager
Oversee Person Centered Thinking (PCT) implementation, coordinate trainings, and insure QA in Supported Living programs

Mario Newton, Manager of Programs/PCT Mentor
Mentor new PCT Coaches and implement action of PCT agency-wide

Mike Sus, SLS Manager/ PCT Mentor
Mentor new PCT Coaches and implement action of PCT agency-wide

Anja Hansen, Program Manager
Increased role in supporting referrals for ILS services in addition to current SLS caseload

Erin Loftus, Office Manager/Development Assistant
Manage the Lifehouse Marin office and support the Development team



Anja



Mario



Olivia



Claudia



Christine



Mike



Holly



Erin

Fire Season Trainings

As fire season is upon us, we are preparing staff and the people we support to stay safe and be aware.

Lifehouse provides training for our staff on a monthly basis. The fire season has started early due to the serious drought conditions and we have adapted our training curriculum to address fire preparation and response. Kate O'Connor, Director of Programs and Operations, works with the program management team to develop fire safety curriculum. The curriculum includes: teaching basic protocols for fire safety, including PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) preparedness, fire preparation, and evacuation planning. There are more detailed emergency training procedures at the three Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) group homes. These residents need extensive support and staff training and efficiency is crucial in order to maintain maximum safety for the residents.

Our program management team has found creative ways to respond rapidly to fire danger. The team developed an evacuation map that shows where the people we support and the program staff live. This evacuation map overlays with county fire maps so we can determine who will need to be evacuated. We work to evacuate people earlier than the mandatory evacuations occur because the people we support need additional transition time. Early preparation is done to determine where people will go in case of evacuation. People are taught to utilize community relations and resources to help them in the event of an emergency.

Another important aspect of fire safety is to have emergency go-kits. The emergency go-kit consists of important items: flashlight, clothes, water, batteries, hand-crank radio, first aid kit, and non-perishable foods. Our staff add items to the emergency go-kit such as identification documents, medications, and things the individual likes to do, such as cards, crosswords, or puzzles. These emergency go-kits are crucial for fire safety readiness, and we are working on having a go-kit available for each person we support. **If you would like to make a donation towards emergency go-kits, which on average costs \$100 each, please visit our website and designate your donation towards emergency go-kits at lifehouseagency.org/donate. If you prefer to write a check, please indicate "emergency kits" on the memo line.**

EMERGENCY KITS FOR LIFEHOUSE RESIDENTS

Your support will help everyone stay safe. Consider helping us reach our goal!

lifehouseagency.org/donate

COST PER EMERGENCY KIT

\$100

TOTAL EMERGENCY KITS NEEDED

200

TOTAL FUNDS NEEDED

\$2,000

Anja Hansen first substituted with Lifehouse in 1999 to cover a caseload for a counselor in the Community Living Program (CLP). She officially joined the team in 2008 as a Supervisor for the Supported Living Services (SLS) program. With her experience and initiative, Anja was promoted to SLS Program Manager in 2017. She is now responsible for vetting referrals for Independent Living Skills (ILS) services in addition to her SLS responsibilities and maintains oversight of the North Bay SLS Program.

Throughout her 22 years of experience in the field, 14 have been with Lifehouse. Anja has contributed to the tremendous growth of Lifehouse services in the North Bay, which has seen growth from 26 residents in 2017 to 117 in 2021. She values the diversity across caseloads and programs and is excited about the opportunity for training and skill development of her staff, utilizing the training room at the new Lifehouse building.

Congratulations Anja!



ANJA HANSEN

Staff Spotlight

Community at its Best

Pacific Sun
BEST VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER



L to R: Claudia Silva, QA/PCT Manager, Lifehouse Residents Katie Buster & Jennifer Auffenberg, Linna Ten, DSP



Teodros singing at the virtual auction

Marin Magazine
BEST CHARITY



Lifehouse is honored to have been voted **the best** not once but twice this year! **Marin Magazine** named Lifehouse the "**Best Charity**" for their annual "Best of County" and **Pacific Sun Weekly** named the Great Chefs and Wineries event as the "**Best Virtual Fundraising Event**" in 2021. Our staff truly makes Lifehouse the best because of their amazing dedication in support of Lifehouse residents, and embodying the Lifehouse mission to its fullest. Great Chefs & Wineries is successful thanks to our community who continue to support us in our mission of providing compassionate support to people with I/DD.

We are forever grateful for this community that lifts us up, even in the most challenging of times. Your support means that individuals with I/DD have the opportunity to continue to lead full and independent lives. There is no limit to what we can accomplish together!



Root Vegetable Salad, Insalata's



Thank You to Our Community

This year, we launched Great Chefs & Wineries as a Virtual Auction on April 3rd. We received generous auction donations from the community, including our wonderful restaurant and winery partners. It has been a challenging year for everyone, and we appreciate all the support that we have received.



Heidi Kraehling, Insalata's & Ann Elias, Director of Development, Lifehouse

With the talent of **Heidi Kraehling**, owner and Executive Chef at Insalata's and our own **Ann Elias**, Director of Development at Lifehouse, coordinating the project, we've created the **Great Chefs & Wineries Cookbook**. This exclusive cookbook features luscious recipes submitted from our restaurant partners, paired with amazing award-winning wines from our winery partners. Having authored several best-selling cookbooks of her own, Heidi was the perfect person to collaborate with on this project. She provided the Forward for our limited edition cookbook and submitted **Insalata's Root Vegetable Salad and Swordfish Salmoriglio**. All partners and sponsors of the cookbook were gifted copies, but there are still some available for purchase. If you would like to purchase a copy, please reach out to Erin Loftus at mail@lifehouseagency.org or call 415-526-5300.

We are planning our **Great Chefs & Wineries 2022** in-person event for Saturday, April 23rd at Peacock Gap! We hope to see you there. In the meantime, please support our local businesses, and the amazing restaurants and wineries that support our community.

Poggio Trattoria

Larry Mindel, the proprietor, and **Ben Balesteri**, the Executive Chef of Poggio Trattoria, have been longtime supporters of Great Chefs & Wineries. When approached to contribute to the Great Chefs & Wineries Cookbook, Chef Ben generously submitted their **Corn Sformatino**. In the cookbook, this delicious appetizer is paired with **Twomey Cellars Merino Sauvignon Blanc**. In addition to participating in the Great Chefs & Wineries Cookbook, Poggio also donated the exciting auction package: **Dinner for Six with Huey Lewis & Bud E Luv at Poggio Trattoria**. This highly sought after and popular package was paired with Hall/BACA/WALT Wines. We are thrilled to announce that this highly anticipated auction package generated the highest bid of the virtual event. We are truly grateful for their generous support.

Poggio Trattoria is located on the waterfront in Sausalito and is a classic Italian trattoria using the best local ingredients for their daily changing menu featuring classic recipes from Northern Italy. Poggio is currently open for in-person dining, so take a night off from cooking and enjoy Poggio to try their amazing classics!



Ben Balesteri, Larry Mindel, Poggio Trattoria

Great Chefs & Wineries

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Frank Family Vineyards

Frank Family Vineyards has been a longtime Lifehouse supporter. Housed in Napa Valley's historic Larkmead Winery, Frank Family Vineyards handcrafts their wines and makes a limited number of reserve and sparkling wines that are only available at the winery and on select restaurant wine lists.

When approached to contribute to the Great Chefs & Wineries Cookbook, Frank Family Vineyards graciously gave us their **2019 Carneros Pinot Noir** to pair with **Il Davide's Insalata di Barbanietole Con Rucola E Gorgonzola recipe**. Frank Family Vineyards also donated wine pairings for dinner for six at Il Davide to benefit the Great Chefs & Wineries auction, as well as a 3 liter **2014 Reserve Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon**.

Frank Family Vineyards is currently open for tastings and following county safety guidelines.

MORE INFORMATION: www.frankfamilyvineyards.com

Save the Date

Great Chefs & Wineries

DATE April 23, 2022

VENUE The Clubhouse at Peacock Gap

HONORARY CHAIRMAN Huey Lewis

CULINARY CHAIR Heidi Insalata Kraehling

MUSICAL GUEST Jefferson Starship

We hope to see you next year! We will proceed with caution as necessary and follow all steps to make the event safe and comfortable for everyone.

Thank you

Thank you to our community partners who donated auction items valued over \$1000

Il Davide
Allan Herzog
Poggio Trattoria
Rio Crest Winery
Bivalve Dairy
Karen Worth
Charles and Kathleen Elliott
Enriquez Estate Wines
Keenan Winery
Paper Street Vineyard

Sushi Ran
Archie and Janet Held
Duckhorn Wine Company
Peju Province Winery
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Frank Family Vineyards
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Linked Vineyards



Home For Life

Capital Campaign



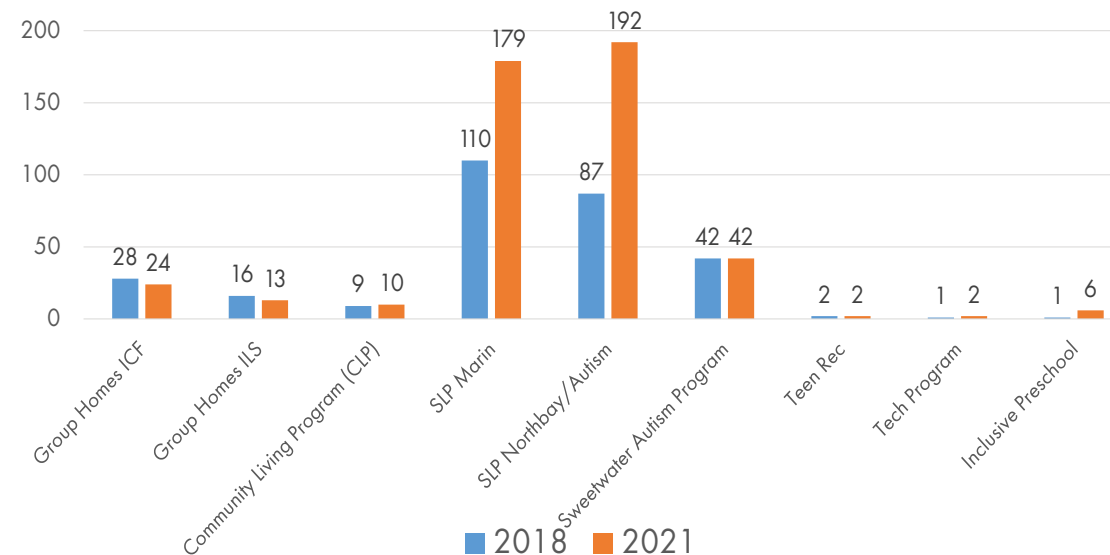
Lifehouse is embarking on its second phase of the Home for Life Capital Campaign to retire the loan incurred to purchase and renovate the building at 18 Professional Parkway in San Rafael. Lifehouse now pays less for our mortgage than we would pay for rent. We have increased our space and the money saved will be used to enhance programs!

Lifehouse is now the largest agency supporting individuals with I/DD in the Bay Area. The need for these essential services was especially magnified during the onset of COVID-19. We hired over 140 new staff to meet the demand of increased daytime support hours, and have accepted 44 new individuals in need of support services.

The Home for Life Capital Campaign enables Lifehouse to have a permanent home, while supporting growth and freeing up funds for cutting edge programs, technologies, and services. This creates an opportunity for the organization to stay focused and relevant to the changing needs of the individuals we support. The new Lifehouse headquarters serves as a symbol of diversity, optimism, and dignity to a traditionally "unseen" community. Individuals with I/DD and their families will always know that there is a place dedicated to ensuring they have the opportunity to lead full lives.

For more information, to schedule a tour, or to make a donation to the Home for Life Capital Campaign, please contact Nancy Dow Moody, President & CEO. 415.526.5300 | ndmoody@lifehouseagency.org

Lifehouse Employees by Program
2018 vs. 2021



A Full Life

"A Full Life" series is an on-going narrative throughout Lifehouse. The goal is to help the community discover the creativity, expression and confidence within each individual that Lifehouse supports.

LIFEHOUSE MISSION
Enabling the People we Support to Live a Full Life



STACEY BOWEN

There is nothing quite like the confidence that Stacey brings to the table. Being born with a disability comes with obstacles that many of us could never imagine but Stacey is a firm believer in manifesting her dreams! This self-determination has led her to make several positive changes in her life this last year. She works hard at staying active and healthy and took the first steps to develop her own jewelry making business. She made her first sale of earrings at the new Lifehouse office this month!

Stay tuned this August for the next chapter of our "Full Life" series. Stacey talks about her journey of self-discovery, her childhood, and how Lifehouse has helped her live an intentional life full of joy and purpose in a community that lifts her up.



COMING SOON

WATCH STACEY'S INTERVIEW
lifehouseagency.org/media

Great Expectations Preschool

Where Children of all Abilities
Learn and Grow

Great Expectations, Marin's first inclusive preschool, just completed its third school year and is excited to welcome Elizabeth Jones as the new Preschool Director. Elizabeth brings over 35 years of experience in early childhood education and has spent the last 20 years directing several programs, including her own school, Wondernook Preschool.

Great Expectations continues as a collaboration among Lifehouse, MCOE, and Dominican University, and is committed to providing high-quality early care and education for all children (ages 3-5 years old). This collaboration incorporates MCOE staff, a director and teachers who specialize in early childhood development along with special education teachers and paraprofessionals. It is with great enthusiasm that our new Director Elizabeth and the fantastic teaching staff create an environment full of exploration, wonder, self-discovery, and self-regulation. At the forefront, the children explore the world using social and emotional foundations of the Teaching Pyramid framework, Zoo Phonics, Handwriting Without Tears, and visual schedules throughout each day. Great Expectations is a licensed play-based program that focuses on each child's unique interests and abilities, while nurturing trusting and authentic connections, and building on their strengths in a structured learning environment.

Great Expectations models an inclusive community where all families and children belong. We all have challenges and at Great Expectations, challenges are viewed as connections rather than divisions. "Typically developing" children in an inclusive program learn about acceptance, appreciation of differences, and friendship. Children with special needs thrive in an inclusive environment. They have a greater opportunity to build friendships and through their peer role models, they develop play skills, socialization and language skills. The children build a positive self-image through interactions and recognize that everyone has something to contribute.



Learn More about our Preschool

Great Expectations is currently enrolling students for the 2021-2022 school year.

Elizabeth Jones,
Preschool Director

415.499.5892
ejones@lifehouseagency.org

greatexpectationsmarin.org



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we said our final good-byes to some of the individuals we support this year. We are honored to have helped each of these people lead full lives on their own terms. May their memory live on forever in all the hearts that they touched.



Joey Yamamoto
OCTOBER 6, 1961 - JULY 2, 2021

Joey was a quiet yet mighty and gentle soul. He loved his family!

Supported by Lifehouse for 26 years



Brian Zahl
MAY 8, 1971 - MARCH 30, 2021

Brian was a thoughtful and caring guy. He had the uncanny ability to always brighten up someone's day.

Supported by Lifehouse for 29 years



Kit Andersen
APRIL 23, 1957 - APRIL 9, 2021

Kit had a deep connection with people he trusted. He truly was one of a kind.

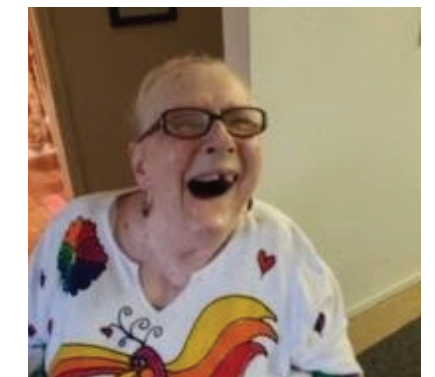
Supported by Lifehouse for 37 years



Bill Bodin
AUGUST 26, 1948 - MAY 19, 2021

Bill Bodin was a strong advocate and historian. He was friendly and interesting, able to immediately put people at ease.

Supported by Lifehouse for 7 years



Anna Johnson
NOVEMBER 11, 1929 - JANUARY 6, 2021

Anna was an artist, loved by many, including her long-term, live-in staff member that supported her, Uwe Harck. She was vibrant, with a feisty spirit.

Supported by Lifehouse for 2 years



18 Professional Center Parkway
San Rafael, CA 94903

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Lifehouse Leadership

Nancy Dow Moody
President & CEO

Kate O'Connor
Director of Programs &
Operations

Viola Morris
Director of Finance

Michelle Condit
Director of Programs &
Operations

Ann Elias
Director of Development

Johanna Schleret
Director of Human
Resources & IT



A Full Life

Let's Get Social!



@lifehouseagency

Your support at this time is vital. Our sustainability as an organization depends on the support of our generous community.

HELP US BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

lifehouseagency.org/donate

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