

HOUSING

COMMUNITY POWER



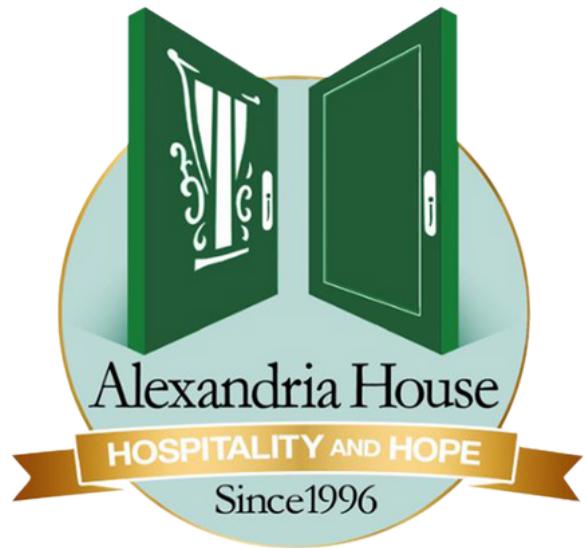
JUSTICE



LOVE



COMPASSION



WOMEN-CENTERED



MUTUAL-AID



INCLUSION



Letter from Our Executive Director



My first annual report marks the completion of my first year at **Alexandria House**. I am so grateful for the staff who have graciously brought me into the team and have been instrumental in my acclimation to **Alexandria House**. I am full of gratitude for our Board of Directors that has linked arms with me as we have taken on some hefty initiatives. I am in awe of the ongoing support of the numerous volunteers who are part of the fabric of **Alexandria House** and help us in more ways than I could ever describe. And I am so appreciative to all our donors, who have helped us make the impossible possible.

Because of this incomparable team of staff, volunteers, and donors, as well as our alum and women who call **Alexandria House** home for now, we have been able to accomplish remarkable achievements:

- We are almost finished with the second phase of the Kenmore Building project, completing the renovation of the **39 units** in the building we purchased in February 2022. In addition, we have moved in nine new families who were precariously housed;
- In April 2023, we purchased the Green and Yellow House thanks to a bridge loan from a generous donor, ensuring that **Alexandria House** would remain in perpetuity embedded in the Koreatown community and offering support to our neighbors;
- We grew our team from **18 to 29** staff in fiscal year 2022-23, building necessary capacity to meet and expand our programs;
- Thanks to all of you, we had our biggest fundraiser ever, *WomenSpeak* 2023, where we raised **\$100,000** to support our growing operation expenses;
- We had nearly **three dozen women** graduate from Start Up Sisterhood LA (SUSLA), our 14-week business intensive training program which supports them in starting their own businesses. In response to the overwhelming success of the SUSLA model, we onboarded a Director of Job Development and Entrepreneurship to grow our job readiness services;
- We grew our operating budget to nearly **\$3,500,000** as we focus on expanding critical services for the women and families we serve; and
- We expanded our visibility and footprint on social media, reaching thousands!

As we move into the 2023-24 fiscal year, I humbly ask that you continue to work alongside us in addressing the systemic injustices that perpetuate the oppression and divestment from women, in particular, and people of color. Our strength comes from the support of our **Alexandria House** village, comprised of our residents, alumni and families in our programs, our community partners, and every supporter who helps us make **Alexandria House** the magical place it is!

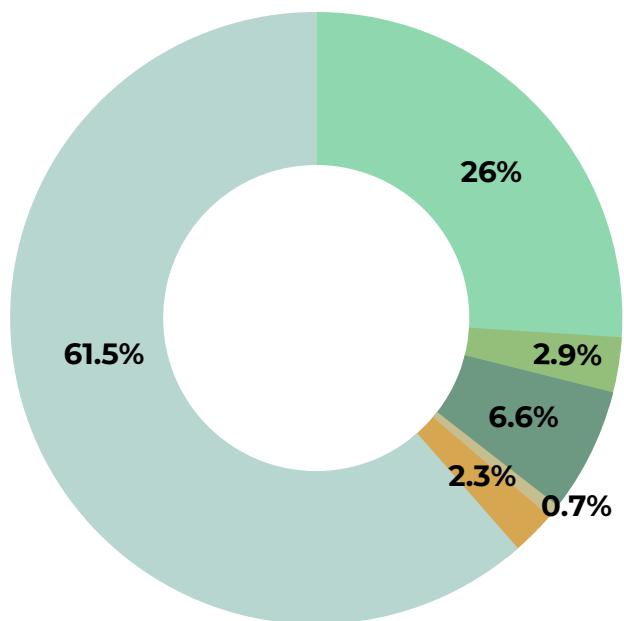
With so much gratitude,



Marissa Espinoza, MA
Executive Director
Alexandria House

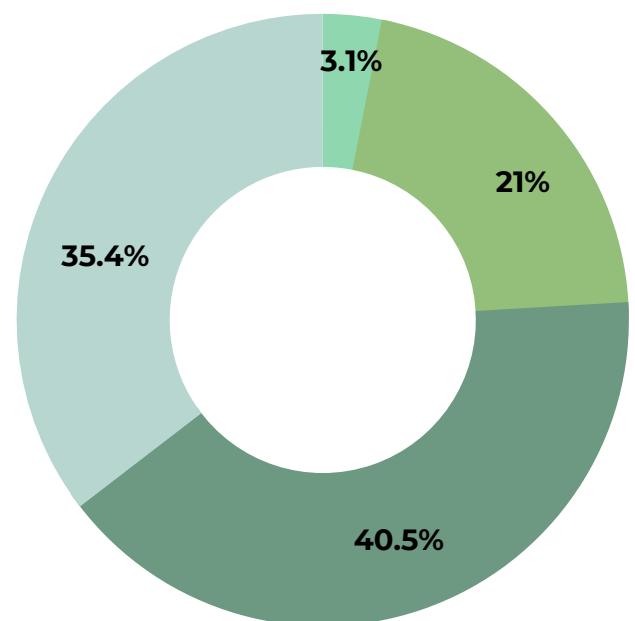
2022-2023: By the Numbers

REVENUE:
\$13,506,507.67



■ Capital Purchase ■ Organizations ■ Other
■ Special Events ■ Individuals ■ Grants

EXPENDITURES:
\$11,149,926.48



■ Kenmore Housing ■ Capital Purchase
■ Programs ■ Administrative Services



September 2022

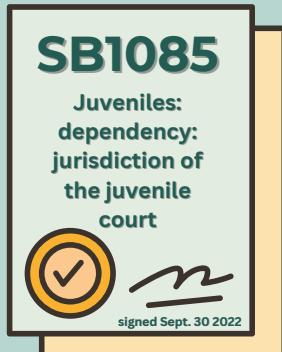
Relaunched Youth Group for
Teens with 20 participants.

October 2022

Co-hosted Medi-Cal enrollment
with ProjectLux UCLA.

A Recognizable Passion for Justice

Alexandria House strives for a just world that deserves all of us — by intentionally addressing the root causes of injustice and oppression for vulnerable women & families. **Alexandria House** is a nexus of community, partnership, power-building, and healing. We know from nearly three decades of resistance and disruption that we are stronger and better together. We are honored to be one of many organizations fighting for a brighter future; and the partnerships we've nurtured move our collective visioning closer to reality:



Alexandria House supported SB1085 authored by California Senator Sydney Kamlager's (D-30) and championed by A New Way of Life Reentry Project. SB1085 changes the state's Welfare & Institutions Code to prohibit family courts from separating a child from his/her family solely because of poverty, and is key in limiting the unwarranted separation of California families by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Observers say this law establishes a national precedent.



Alexandria House registered 11 new voters, and served as a Flex Vote Center for the second time, making voting more accessible to our community in Koreatown.



Michelle Tonn was selected as one of 20 PPC delegates to represent California at the 2023 Moral Poverty Action Congress (MPAC) in Washington DC in June. Delegates from 30 states spoke to over 400 congressional leaders about the devastating effects of poverty.

"BAE Convening is a place where ideas, insight and lived experiences can be shared to better support participants and case workers with our Department of Social Services for the future."



Felicia Dukes,
Past Resident and
Past Resident
Case Coordinator

Michelle Tonn, and 4 members of the **Alexandria House** Speakers Bureau attended three convenings of Benefits, Access, and Equity (BAE) initiative with stakeholders that focused on both the national and California benefit programs and policy/implementation process.

November 2022

Partnered with 11 groups to distribute 250+ holiday food kits

December 2022

Celebrated the holidays with Glee Cast/Crew & Kardashians.



Alexandria House is more than four walls. We are a community of resilience, heartbreak, and love. Our names are Marissa, Felicia, Judy, Carolina, and hundreds more. We are the sounds of survival and hope. When you walk through our doors, we're family.

Every brick has a name. Every name has a story. One by one, as the bricks make our home, the stories unite us. Our journeys uplift us. We are **Alexandria House**.

Reflections from Our Founding Director



Dear Friends,

There is an often-told parable of babies floating down a river, with some people rescuing them from drowning and others going "upstream" to figure out why this is happening and what needs to change. For me, this annual report for 2022-2023 is a reflection and testimony to the critical importance of doing both—direct service and systemic change work for the sake of justice. Since our beginnings in 1996, both of these components have been significant parts of our mission.

What is so clear is that **Alexandria House** could not engage in these efforts without the support of so many, and without the multiple ways people share in the mission. We are extremely grateful for what Martin Luther King named "the inescapable network of mutuality."

The other significant learning for me over the years is that once people are on safe ground; once folks escape a river of debt, destruction, and even despair; once there is a life-line of support and care, then people can breathe a little easier. And change happens. Stability, creativity, and hope resurfaces. Many of the women who have found safe ground at **Alexandria House** have a story of survival that they want to share. They offer a clear analysis of what policies and practices need to change if there is to be equity and justice. They become our much needed truth-tellers and lead organizers for a better and more just society and world.

In a conversation with Sandy Nguyen, our recently hired Volunteer & Resource Coordinator, the question was raised about her first experiences at **Alexandria House**. Sandy mentioned solidarity, reciprocity and a recognizable passion for justice. She also added a sense of joy and vibrancy. Whether you are new to the **Alexandria House** community or have been a member for many years, thank you for being a part of our "inescapable network of mutuality." May you find much joy in these difficult and challenging times.

With care,

Judy Vaughan
Founding Director
Alexandria House

Start Up Sisterhood LA (SUSLA)

Resourcing Economically Just & Secure Futures

Since our founding 27 years ago, **Alexandria House** has been a welcoming house of hospitality, guided by our community in how to best meet their needs. Through the years, we have done so through an intersectional and multi-pronged strategy –addressing the root causes of homelessness and providing supportive services such as: housing, childcare, after-school support, case management, therapy, and fulfilling basic needs.

Our SUSLA program was born in 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many of our past residents working in hospitality and service-based industries lost their jobs and were looking for new ways to support their families. SUSLA was the answer to an overwhelming call of our residents seeking support in acquiring the necessary skills to start their own businesses. SUSLA is a 14-week business-intensive experiential training program that builds, nurtures, and supports our budding community of entrepreneurs. Miguel Soltero, of RE3 Construction Group taught the first cohort of SUSLA, and Ngozika O'keke, of Ngozika O'keke Clothing and SuperCrownz, began teaching in Fall of 2022.

In 2023, after two cohorts of SUSLA had been completed, our village identified a new need: job development support for women in our community seeking financial stability. As a result and with the support of the SAM Initiative, **Alexandria House** welcomed a new Director of Job Development and Entrepreneurship, Jacqueline (Jackie) Perez Valencia, to support our community. In her role, Jackie assists our participants in obtaining livable wage jobs and helps them explore new career paths. This is done through resume writing, mock interviews, dress-for-success pop-ups, supporting our participants in attending career/job fairs and providing job training like our Coding Bootcamp that will afford them higher wages. Most importantly, both arms of SUSLA (entrepreneurship and job development) nurture the women's connection to each other, strengthen their support system, build their self-confidence and agency, and move the needle forward on economic justice.

In the past year, we have seen the growth of businesses like Carolina's Flavors, a Mexican and Soul Food fusion catering company owned and operated by Carolina, a past resident. During a recent class, a SUSLA participant mentioned that before starting this program she found herself underpaying herself and sometimes even losing money when operating her cake business. Now, as her confidence grows, she feels good charging what her craft is worth and strategically prices her goods so she can make a profit. And with the support of mentors, our participants will receive the additional individualized guidance they need to launch or grow their businesses.

One thing that has stood out over the past year is the commitment of the SUSLA participants to come to **Alexandria House** every Wednesday mid-afternoon despite their other responsibilities. We mitigate their needs by providing childcare, transportation, and dinner to ensure those barriers are removed, but without question, these women are making a big investment in their future. And the impact that SUSLA is having in these women's lives is reverberating among our growing community as evidenced by a waiting list for the next cohort. In the next year, we estimate over 100 women will benefit directly from SUSLA's two arms, steadyng their foundation for an economically just and secure future.

We are grateful to our community partners, supporters, donors, mentors, and volunteers who have championed SUSLA over the past few years. We know that with ongoing support, we will continue to help women address the systemic challenges that have historically kept them marginalized and assist them in being able to financially support themselves and their families.

March 2023

6

Held "Black Women Talk," a conversation on building a supportive community.

April 2023

Closed on the purchase of the Green and Yellow Houses with a bridge loan.

Highlights from our Programs



9 Resident Families Moved into Permanent Housing at Kenmore



92 Past-Resident Families Actively Engaged in our Community



39 Renovated Apartments at Kenmore



250+ Partnerships with Local Mutual Aid & Community-Based Organizations



720 Accredited Service Hours Provided by 6 Interns in Childcare Program



36 People Graduated from SUSLA entrepreneurship Program



~50 Children Served Through Programming Each Week

16,000+ Volunteer Service Hours

Moving Our Work Forward

Economic Justice Opportunities for Education, Jobs & Economic Stability

Expanded our Job Development programming to support our community with job readiness and entrepreneurship.

Looking Forward:
Connect more mothers and families with capacity-building offerings that build their careers and/or advance their education.

Housing Justice
Housing is a Human Right!

Permanent 39-unit affordable housing project provides rents at $\frac{1}{3}$ market rate.

Provided monthly Section 8 housing support to nearly 30 past residents.

Looking Forward: Broaden possibilities and relationships that will lead to additional permanent long term affordable housing.

Youth Empowerment
Inspire the Next Generation of Leaders

Provided year round support with our after-school program, Summer and Winter Camps, and our Saturday Alexandria Youth Group (AYG).

Looking forward: Grow the collective power of our youth to vision, dream, and reach for a just and bright future by increasing leadership development, mentorship opportunities, and thoughtful program design.

Building Powerful Partnerships
Expand Opportunities for our Village

Increasing access to workforce development, restorative justice, autonomy, resilience, and the practice of joy.

Provided over 1,400 hours of individual and group therapy to members of our community.

Looking forward: Partner with more local organizations to augment supportive services and unique event experiences for our community.

Food Justice
Food is a Human Right!

Began food pantry distribution of over 3,000 boxes of food 5x week, offering canned goods, pantry items, and fresh and frozen goods.

Looking forward: Grow our partnerships and offerings of food items to our community.

May 2023

Hosted Health Fair with UCLA Bruins Assistance For All

June 2023

15 SUSLA entrepreneurs vended at WomenSpeak.

Join Our Community



SUPPORT OUR WORK: Every donation goes directly towards resourcing community care, funding programs, and strengthening our capacity to support women & families. Give at alexandriahouse.org/donate.



VOLUNTEER: Sign-up to be a tutor, driver, camp counselor, support our elderly Kenmore residents, and more at alexandriahouse.org/volunteer.



TOP CHEF: Break bread with us. Prepare dinner for our residents and neighbors. Purchase or cook a meal, or donate to sponsor a current resident to cook. If you have any questions, please contact volunteer@alexandriahouse.org.



START-UP SISTERHOOD LA: Support our job readiness component by volunteering to be a mentor, review resumes, practice interviewing skills, support our Dress for Success Pop-Ups with gently used business attire. Do you have a business? Consider hiring one of our participants! Have an event coming up? Consider contracting one of the SUSLA entrepreneurs. Contact Jackie Perez Valencia at jackie@alexandriahouse.org for more information.



COMMUNITY FRIDGE/PANTRY: Donate shelf stable food and fresh produce to our community fridge and pantry. Contact Stephanie Santos at stephanie@alexandriahouse.org for bulk donation inquiries.



WISH LIST: Contribute essential items from our wishlist at alexandriahouse.org/wishlist.



LA TIENDITA: Donate gently-used clothing and household items to our thrift store, La Tiendita, for our village to shop for free to low-cost. Learn more at alexandriahouse.org/gently_used.

Stay in Touch!

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