



COMING HOME CONNECTION
creating a community of care

Volunteer Newsletter August 2019

On June 14th and 15th, Coming Home Connection held an open house for our new project Casa Cielo, a hospice residence in a lovely two-bedroom condominium at The Montecito Senior Residence. A week later, we accepted our first resident, Shar Winger. It was a little sooner than we thought we could be ready, but Shar's need was great: she was being evicted from her apartment at the end of the month. So, with the help of our key volunteer Karli Wheeler and her team, and CHC staff going the extra mile, we brought Shar to Casa Cielo June 21st.

We warned Shar that she was a passenger on a shake-down cruise. One morning, when a visiting friend offered to make her breakfast, they discovered there were no pots and pans! No worries: Shar was a former executive chef, and a friend who was emptying her apartment brought a full complement of kitchenware to donate to Casa Cielo.

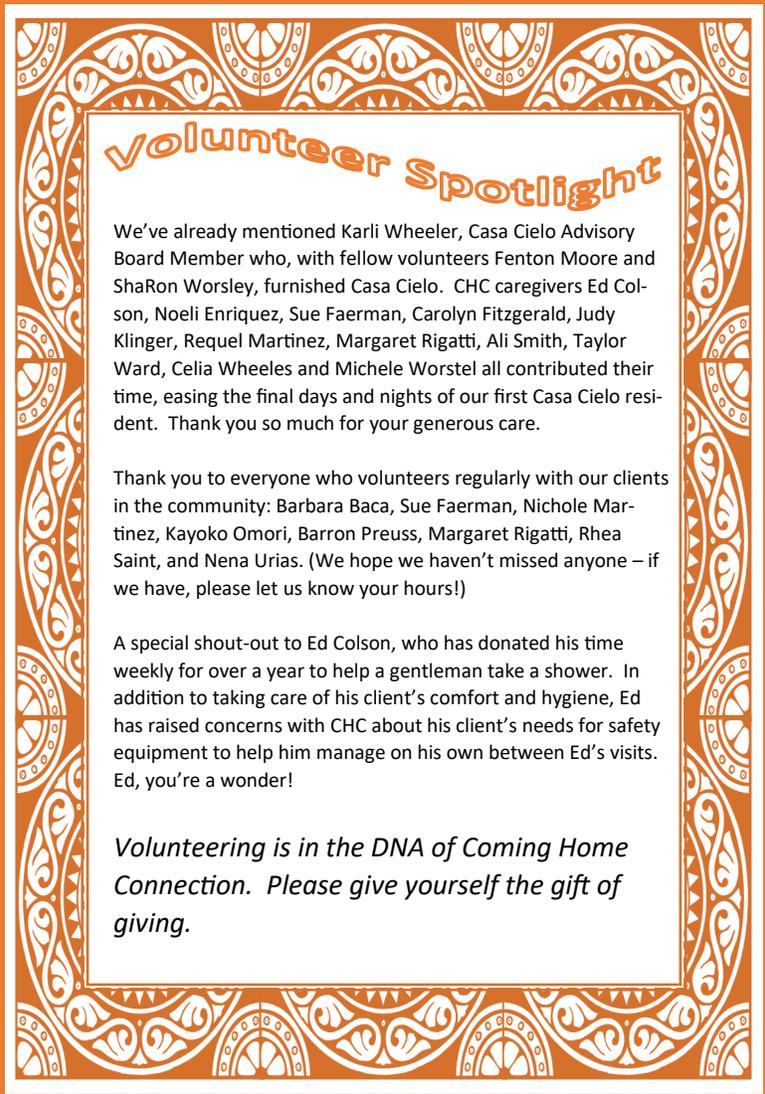
Legacy was Shar's hospice care provider. Patrick Tafoya, Community Liaison with Legacy, turns out to be a skilled videographer, and he made a beautiful video of Casa Cielo including an interview with Shar about what the place meant to her: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXch4EYjN4Q>.

Casa Cielo turned out to be Shar's final resting place: she passed on within two weeks of being the subject of Patrick's interview. She was a brave lady and a perfect example of why we at Coming Home Connection wanted to take this first step toward providing a place for people to move on, when departing the world from their own home is not an option.

Please keep Casa Cielo in mind when you are ready to offer your time to volunteer.



CASA CIELO
end-of-life residence
part of Coming Home Connection



Volunteer Spotlight

We've already mentioned Karli Wheeler, Casa Cielo Advisory Board Member who, with fellow volunteers Fenton Moore and ShaRon Worsley, furnished Casa Cielo. CHC caregivers Ed Colson, Noeli Enriquez, Sue Faerman, Carolyn Fitzgerald, Judy Klinger, Requel Martinez, Margaret Rigatti, Ali Smith, Taylor Ward, Celia Wheelles and Michele Worstel all contributed their time, easing the final days and nights of our first Casa Cielo resident. Thank you so much for your generous care.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers regularly with our clients in the community: Barbara Baca, Sue Faerman, Nichole Martinez, Kayoko Omori, Barron Preuss, Margaret Rigatti, Rhea Saint, and Nena Urias. (We hope we haven't missed anyone – if we have, please let us know your hours!)

A special shout-out to Ed Colson, who has donated his time weekly for over a year to help a gentleman take a shower. In addition to taking care of his client's comfort and hygiene, Ed has raised concerns with CHC about his client's needs for safety equipment to help him manage on his own between Ed's visits. Ed, you're a wonder!

Volunteering is in the DNA of Coming Home Connection. Please give yourself the gift of giving.

Planning is underway for this year's major fundraiser/friendraiser:

Dia de los Muertos

Friday November 1st from 5:30 to 8:00, in the Design Center atrium.

For those who may have missed this great Fiesta last year, here is how we describe it to potential sponsors: "Coming Home Connection ... provides care in the home for families and their loved ones during illness, old age and at the end of life. Inevitably, our compassionate caregivers have to say goodbye to many clients they have come to love. CHC holds an annual Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Fiesta to celebrate the kindness of our caregivers, and to give them, their clients' families and the wider community an opportunity to remember those who have passed. In addition, the Fiesta raises much needed funds ..."



Our Dia de los Muertos event is not about skeleton costumes and spooky decorations, but rather about creating beautiful *ofrendas* where we can place photographs and memorabilia, even favorite foods, of departed friends and family. And, of course, it's about food and music and a great party – and supporting our work.



One great fundraiser is our silent auction. **Every one of us involved with Coming Home Connection needs to start thinking about soliciting donations for the silent auction!** We have learned that **services** are what really get the bids rolling in: a massage, a stay at a resort, tickets to a play or musical event, a consultation for landscaping your back yard ... think about what businesses you patronize, who you can ask for a favor! Then, come in to the office and pick up a handful of solicitation letters (or let us mail/email it to you), to make your "ask" easier.

Friendly Reminders to our Valued Caregivers,

- ◆ Cultivate the habit of providing invoices to your clients. If you're working in a situation such as Casa Cielo where you are paid by Coming Home Connection, our accountant will not prepare your check without an invoice.
- ◆ We need 24 hours notice if you can't make a shift (except in emergencies), so we can find cover.
- ◆ For the type of clients we serve, most home care situations involve some light housework. If you're not sure what this entails, please contact the office and we can provide you with a simple check list.
- ◆ Stay in touch with Coming Home Connection. We love drop-in visits, but even if it's just a phone call every few weeks, it's very helpful for us to know about schedule changes, vacations, etc, so we can provide seamless coverage for our clients.

AND REMEMBER ...

