



Casa Esperanza Homeless Center

Under One Roof

January 30, 2009

P.O. Box 24116
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
(805) 884-8481

Sue Gray
City of Santa Barbara Community Development Department
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara CA. 93101

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Executive Director

Dear Sue & Members of the Commission:

Thank you for speaking with us regarding Casa Esperanza's assumption of responsibility for the programming of the Community Kitchen of Santa Barbara. By joining forces, we believe that the mission of the Community Kitchen and Casa Esperanza are mutually strengthened and that the entire community will benefit from increased strength and efficiency as we work to find solutions to poverty and homelessness in Santa Barbara.

Together we request that you transfer the existing Community Kitchen grant to Casa Esperanza as soon as possible. Paperwork has been submitted to the State of California to dissolve the Community Kitchen 501c3 and the merging of operations has begun.

The work of the Community Kitchen is unique in that we are the only agency that travels throughout the community collecting food, preparing and serving that food to the homeless and hungry in Santa Barbara at no charge to the recipient. For the last nine years the Community Kitchen's base of operation has been housed in the Ridley-Tree Kitchen in the Casa Esperanza building. Two Community Kitchen Board Members have agreed to join the Casa Esperanza Board of Directors and the remaining Board members will continue to serve on the Community Kitchen Board of Managers (Operational Board). A Community Kitchen Program Director, Susan Krisher, has been hired is now working.

The mission and programming for Community Kitchen is unchanged.

We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with the City of Santa Barbara, and look forward to continuing this vital effort together.

Sincerely,

Michael Foley
Executive Director
Casa Esperanza

Cheryl Young
Board Chair
Community Kitchen

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