



## **Opportunities for Action: West Contra Costa County**

### **Connect with Local Efforts**

1. Educate yourselves and your congregations as to current efforts in your area
  - a. Smart Growth: Linking Jobs/Housing/Transportation/Higher Densities, Revitalizing Urban Areas
    - Greenbelt Alliance, Evelyn Stivers, (925)932-7776
    - Contra Costa Faith Works!, Maria Allegria, (925)228-0191
  - b. Community Land Trust: Purchasing land for permanent affordability
    - GRIP, Art Hatchett, (510)233-2141
  - c. Using Section 8 to buy housing approved by HUD
    - GRIP, Art Hatchett, (510)233-2141
  - d. Permanent Housing for formerly homeless families: Expressing your support
    - Rubicon, (510)235-15116
  - e. Self-Help Housing: Help build a Habitat house, Cook lunch, Donate land, materials, funds
    - East Bay Habitat for Humanity, (510)251-6306
  - f. Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance tied to Living Wage
    - Contra Costa Faith Works!, Maria Allegria, (925)228-0191
    - GRIP, Art Hatchett, (510)233-2141
  - g. Dedication of underused church property or buildings for affordable housing
    - Fr. Jesus Nieto-Ruiz, St. Mark, Richmond
    - Fr. John Maxwell, St. John the Baptist, El Cerrito

### **Educate and Advocate**

1. Provide education, information, training for landlords and tenants in your congregation. For example, the benefits of the Section 8 program, tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities. Nominate a “Catholic Housing Initiative Landlord of the Year”
  - Shelter, Inc., Contra Costa County Board of Realtors, GRIP, Rubicon
2. Read your city’s Housing Element, talk to your city’s planning department and local advocates to find opportunities to support good housing solutions
  - City Planning Department, County Planning Department, Shelter Inc.
  - GRIP, Richmond Vision 2000, Art Hatchett, (510)233-2141
3. Put a face on those in need of affordable housing. Interview workers, renters and others in your community who are affected by the housing crisis. Tell their stories, invite them to speak. Show videos, slide shows that present these stories
  - Videos: East Bay Housing Organizations, Non Profit Housing
  - Any of the agencies/organizations listed in these “Opportunities”
4. Conduct a YIMBY (Yes in My Backyard) Campaign. Educate your congregation about the causes and effects of the housing crisis. Identify constraints and possible solutions. Provide bulletin announcements, flyers, brochures to distribute. Show an audio visual presentation. Encourage parishioners to talk to friends, neighbors co-workers in support
  - Contact any of the above advocacy groups, or others in your local area

5. Conduct an ed campaign on the cost of NOT providing safe, secure affordable housing: Business goes elsewhere, longer commutes, children less healthy, families unsuccessful.
  - Economic Development Alliance for Business, local Chambers of Commerce
  - *Tools for Reflection and Action*, Catholic Housing Initiative
6. Organize your community. Partner with congregations and agencies in your area to find out opportunities for advocacy , then inform your congregation when local decisions are being made. Identify and train speakers from your congregations. Support proposed solutions.
  - Greater Richmond Interfaith Project, CCISCO
7. Assign someone in your parish to keep track of state and federal funding for low income housing and shelters. Educate parishioners on state and local issues that affect the ability of your community to provide affordable housing, and on the positions of local candidates with regard to providing affordable housing in your community.
  - Housing California, [www.housingca.org](http://www.housingca.org),
  - National Low Income Housing Coalition, [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org).
  - Non-Profit Housing of Northern California
8. Educate parishioners on the tax advantages of donating land, real estate or other assets for affordable housing or contributing to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund
  - Catholic Housing Initiative of the East Bay

### **Reach Out People to People**

Discover ways to support agencies and programs serving homeless and at risk families and individuals:

- Greater Richmond Interfaith Project
- Richmond Rescue Mission
- Rubicon
- Oakland Community Housing, Inc. (OCHI)
- OCHI for Laotian Families
- Shelter Inc.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- STAND Against Domestic Violence

For example:

1. Start an emergency relief fund to prevent homelessness or pay costs for a new job
2. Have a fundraiser for a local agency or program serving homeless or those at risk
3. Focus on one family or individual in need, get them through their rough spot
4. Adopt an apartment: Provide furniture, household items or repaint and clean an apartment which is meant to house someone previously homeless.
5. Participate in a rotating shelter network. Provide food and services for a week.
6. Organize a volunteer corps to assist local agencies
7. Sponsor a credit repair, money management, or other workshop with a local school or college



## **Opportunities for Action: Central and North Alameda County**

### **Connect with Local Efforts**

1. Educate yourselves and your congregation as to current efforts in your area
  - a. Eviction Protection Initiative on the November ballot in Oakland
    - Just Cause Oakland, 510-464-1011 – in favor
    - Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County - opposed
  - b. Meetings with Mayor and policy makers on the way they spend housing dollars
    - East Bay Housing Organizations
    - Oakland Community Organizations
  - c. Linkage Fees linking the income of new employees of local business with housing costs
    - East Bay Housing Organizations
  - d. Housing Element Comments, Implementation: Overcoming Zoning restrictions. Strengthening Policies, Identifying Sites, Matching Potential Sites with Funding
    - East Bay Housing Organizations, Sean Heron, 510-663-3831
  - e. Inclusionary Zoning Ordinances – Requiring developers to build affordable units
    - St. Mary’s Center, 510-893-4723, x209
    - East Bay Housing Organizations, 510-663-3831
  - f. Smart Growth: Linking Jobs/Housing/Transportation/Higher Densities,
    - Greenbelt Alliance, Evelyn Stivers, 925-932-7776
    - Urban Habitat
  - g. Self-help Housing: Help build a Habitat house, Cook lunch for Habitat workers. Donate land or materials. Raise funds, join with others to sponsor a Habitat House (\$60,000)
    - East Bay Habitat for Humanity, 510-251-6306

### **Educate and Advocate**

1. Provide education, information for landlords and tenants in your congregation. For example, information on the benefits of the Section 8 voucher program, education on tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities. Nominate a “Catholic Housing Initiative Landlord of the Year”.
  - ECHO Housing, Local Realtor and Rental Owner Associations
2. Participate in the development and/or implementation of your cities’ Housing Element. Find opportunities to support good housing solutions. Prioritize housing for people from existing neighborhood
  - City Planning Department, County Planning Department, EBHO
3. Put a face on those living in or needing low income housing. Interview workers, renters, and others in your community who are affected by the housing crisis. Tell their stories, invite them to speak. Show videos, slide shows that present these stories.
  - Videos: East Bay Housing Organizations, Non Profit Housing of Northern California
  - Any of the agencies or programs listed in these “Opportunities

4. Assign someone in your parish to keep track of state and federal funding for low income housing and shelters. Educate your parishioners about the state housing bond, and the National Housing Trust Fund.
  - Housing California, [www.housingca.org](http://www.housingca.org),
  - National Low Income Housing Coalition, [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org).
5. Have a voter registration drive in your parish. Educate parishioners on state and local issues that affect the ability of your community to provide affordable housing, and on the positions of local candidates with regard to providing affordable housing in your community.
6. Dedicate any underused church property or buildings for affordable housing. Educate those with resources on the tax advantages of donating land for affordable housing or contributing to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund
  - Catholic Housing Initiative
7. Organize your community. Partner with other congregations to find out opportunities for advocacy. Inform congregations when local decisions are being made. Identify and train speakers from your congregations to talk about the need and support proposed solutions
  - Oakland Community Organizations
  - Oakland Community Congregations
8. Have clergy and leaders in your community become the voice for homelessness and housing. Call your congregation to see the moral need.

### **Reach Out People to People**

Discover ways to support agencies and programs serving homeless and at risk families and individuals:

- St. Mary's Center
- Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS)
- Alameda County Homeless Youth Collaborative
- Oakland Catholic Worker
- Jobs Consortium
- Berkeley Emergency Food and Housing Project

For example:

1. Start an emergency relief fund to prevent homelessness (initial investment: \$1,000)
2. Host a fundraiser for an agency or program serving homeless or those at risk
3. Focus on one family or individual in need, get them through their rough spot
4. Adopt an apartment: Provide furniture, household items or repaint and clean an apartment which is meant to house someone previously homeless.
5. Participate in a rotating shelter network. Provide food and services for a week.
6. Recruit, organize a volunteer corps
7. Sponsor a credit repair workshop. Teach money management, literacy, parenting skills, economic development, computers, health. Collaborate with the school district.



## **Opportunities for Action: Southern Alameda County**

### **Connect with Local Efforts**

1. Educate yourselves and your congregation as to current efforts in your area
  - a. Advocating for an improved Rent Mediation Program, and better Rental Inspections
    - Congregations Organizing for Renewal (COR), 510-727-8833
    - Hayward Coalition for Affordable Housing, 510-785-8372
  - b. Monitoring your city in revising their Housing Element, then implementing it: Strengthening Policies, Identifying Sites, Matching Potential Sites with Funding
    - Congregations Organizing for Renewal (COR), 510-727-8833
    - Hayward Coalition for Affordable Housing, 510-785-8372
    - East Bay Housing Organizations, Sean Heron, 510-663-3831
  - c. Smart Growth: Linking Jobs/Housing/Transportation/Higher Densities, Revitalizing Urban Areas
    - Greenbelt Alliance, Evelyn Stivers, 925-932-7776
    - East Bay Housing Organizations, Sean Heron, 510-663-3831
  - d. Self-help Housing: Help build a Habitat house, Cook lunch for Habitat workers. Donate land or materials. Raise funds, join with others to sponsor a Habitat House (\$60,000)
    - East Bay Habitat for Humanity, 510-251-6306

### **Educate and Advocate**

1. Provide education, information for landlords and tenants in your congregation. For example: information on the benefits of the Section 8 voucher program, education on tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities. Nominate a “Catholic Housing Initiative Landlord of the Year.”
  - ECHO Housing, Local Realtor and Rental Owner Associations
2. Read your city’s Housing Element, talk to your city’s planning department and local advocates to find opportunities to support good housing solutions
  - City Planning Department, County Planning Department,
  - Hayward Affordable Housing Coalition, Congregations Organizing for Renewal
3. Put a face on those in need of housing. Interview workers, renters and others in your community who are affected by the housing crisis. Tell their stories, invite them to speak. Show videos, slide shows that present these stories
  - Videos: East Bay Housing Organizations, Non Profit Housing
  - Any of the agencies/organizations listed in these “Opportunities”
4. Conduct a YIMBY (Yes in My Backyard) Campaign. Educate your congregation about the causes and effects of the housing crisis and identify possible solutions in your community. Provide bulletin announcements, flyers, brochures to distribute. Show an audio visual presentation. Encourage parishioners to talk to friends, neighbors co-workers in support
  - Contact any of the above advocacy groups, or others in your local area

5. Organize your community. Partner with other congregations to find out opportunities for advocacy. Inform congregations when local decisions are being made. Identify and train speakers from your congregations to talk about the need, and support proposed solutions.
  - Congregations Organizing for Renewal
  - Hayward Coalition for Affordable Housing
  - South Hayward Parish
6. Conduct an ed campaign on the cost of NOT providing safe, secure affordable housing: Business goes elsewhere, longer commutes, children less healthy, families unsuccessful.
  - Economic Development Alliance for Business, local Chambers of Commerce
  - *Tools for Reflection and Action*, Catholic Housing Initiative
7. Assign someone in your parish to keep track of state and federal funding for low income housing and shelters. Educate parishioners on state and local issues that affect the ability of your community to provide affordable housing, and on the positions of local candidates with regard to providing affordable housing in your community.
  - Housing California, [www.housingca.org](http://www.housingca.org),
  - National Low Income Housing Coalition, [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org).
8. Educate parishioners on the tax advantages of donating land, real estate or other assets for affordable housing or contributing to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund
  - Catholic Housing Initiative of the East Bay

### **Reach Out People to People**

Discover ways to support agencies and programs serving homeless and at risk families and individuals:

- FESCO
- SAVE
- Davis Street Community Center
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- South Hayward Parish
- Tri-City Homeless Coalition

For example:

1. Start an emergency relief fund to prevent homelessness (initial investment: \$1,000)
2. Host a fundraiser for an agency or program serving homeless or those at risk
3. Focus on one family or individual in need, get them through their rough spot.
4. Adopt an apartment: Provide furniture, household items or repaint and clean an apartment which is meant to house someone previously homeless.
5. Participate in a rotating shelter network. Provide food and services for a week.
6. Recruit, organize a volunteer corps
7. Sponsor a credit repair workshop. Teach money management, literacy, parenting skills, economic development, computers, health. Collaborate with the school district.



## **Opportunities for Action: Central and East Contra Costa County**

### **Connect with Local Efforts**

1. Educate yourselves and your congregation as to current efforts in your area
  - a. Code Enforcement, Rent Mediation, Construction of affordable units:
    - CCISCO, Oliba Cardoba, 313-0206,
    - Monument Community Partnership, Raul Rojas, 798-9638
  - b. Interpretation and Translation of Rental Agreements, Housing Information and Referrals, Relocation
    - Casa Hispana, 609-1041
  - c. Smart Growth: Linking Jobs/Housing/Transportation/Higher Densities, Revitalizing Urban Areas
    - Greenbelt Alliance, Evelyn Stivers, 932-7776
    - Liveable Communities Initiative, Allison Brooks, (510)208-0840
    - FAITH Works!, 228-0191
  - d. Contra Costa County Community Land Trust: Raise funds, purchase land for permanently affordable housing
    - Greater Richmond Interfaith Project (GRIP), (510)223-2141
  - e. Self-Help Housing: Help build a Habitat house, Cook lunch for Habitat workers. Donate land or materials. Sponsor a Habitat House (\$60,000)
    - Mt. Diablo Habitat for Humanity: 208-0112
  - f. Keep Shelters Open in the Winter
    - Cindy Micco @ St. Anthony, Oakly, 625-9361
    - Michelle Beasely, Shelter Inc., 335-0598,x101
  - g. Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance tied to Living Wage – County wide
    - Contra Costa FAITH Works! – 228-0191

### **Educate and Advocate**

1. Provide education, information for landlords and tenants in your congregation. For example: Information on the benefits of the Section 8 voucher program, education on tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities.
  - Shelter, Inc., Contra Costa Board of Realtors, GRIP, Rubicon
2. Read your city's Housing Element, talk to your city's planning department and local advocates to find opportunities to support good housing solutions
  - City Planning Department, County Planning Department, Shelter Inc.
3. Conduct a YIMBY (Yes in My Backyard) Campaign. Educate your congregation about the causes and effects of the housing crisis and identify possible solutions in your community. Provide bulletin announcements, flyers, brochures to distribute. Show an audio visual presentation. Encourage parishioners to talk to friends, neighbors co-workers in support
  - Contact any of the above advocacy groups, or others in your local area

4. Conduct an ed campaign on the cost of NOT providing affordable housing: Business goes elsewhere, longer commutes, children less healthy, families unsuccessful.
  - Economic Development Alliance for Business
  - Local Chamber of Commerce
  - *Tools for Reflection and Action*, Catholic Housing Initiative
5. Partner with other congregations in your city to find out opportunities for advocacy , then inform your congregation when local decisions are being made. Identify and train speakers from your congregations to talk about the need, and support proposed solutions.
  - CCISCO
  - Casa Hispana
6. Assign someone in your parish to keep track of state and federal funding for low income housing and shelters. Educate your parishioners about the state housing bond, and the National Housing Trust Fund.
  - Housing California, [www.housingca.org](http://www.housingca.org),
  - National Low Income Housing Coalition, [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org).
7. Have a voter registration drive in your parish. Educate parishioners on state and local issues that affect the ability of your community to provide affordable housing, and on the positions of local candidates with regard to providing affordable housing in your community.
8. Educate parishioners on the tax advantages of donating land for affordable housing or contributing to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund
  - Catholic Housing Initiative

### **Reach Out People to People**

Discover ways to support agencies and programs serving homeless and at risk families and individuals:

- Shelter Inc.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Contra Costa Transitional Housing
- Pacific Community Services
- STAND Against Domestic Violence

For example:

1. Start an emergency relief fund to prevent homelessness (initial investment: \$1,000)
2. Have a fundraiser for a local agency or program serving homeless or those at risk
3. Focus on one family or individual in need, get them through their rough spot
4. Adopt an apartment: Provide furniture, household items or repaint and clean an apartment which is meant to house someone previously homeless.
5. Participate in a rotating shelter network. Provide food and services for a week.
6. Recruit, organize a volunteer corps to assist local agencies



## **Opportunities for Action: East Alameda and South Contra Costa Counties The Tri-Valley Area**

### **Connect with Local Efforts**

1. Educate yourselves and your congregation as to current efforts in your area
  - a. Code Enforcement, Rent Mediation
    - City Housing Department, ECHO Housing
  - b. Smart Growth: Linking Jobs/Housing/Transportation/Higher Densities,
    - Greenbelt Alliance
    - Tri-Valley Business Council Vision 2010
    - East Bay Community Foundation Livable Communities Initiative
  - c. Self Help Housing: Help build a Habitat house, Cook lunch for Habitat workers. Donate land or materials. Sponsor a Habitat House (\$60,000)
    - East Bay Habitat for Humanity (Livermore Site)
    - Mt. Diablo Habitat for Humanity (Pittsburg Site)
  - d. Planning for Affordable Housing in your community: Influencing the creation, implementation of your city's Housing Element: Overcoming zoning restrictions, Strengthening policies, Identifying sites, Matching potential sites with funding
    - Tri-Valley Interfaith Poverty Forum

### **Educate and Advocate**

1. Provide education, information for landlords and tenants in your congregation. For example: information on the benefits of the Section 8 voucher program, education on tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities.
  - ECHO Housing
2. Read your city's Housing Element, talk to your city's planning department and local advocates to find opportunities to support good housing solutions
  - City Planning Department, County Planning Department,
  - Tri-Valley Interfaith Poverty Forum
2. Put a face on those who live in or need affordable housing. Interview workers, renters and others in your community who are affected by the housing crisis. Tell their stories, invite them to speak. Show videos, slide shows that present these stories.
  - East Bay Housing Organizations, Non-Profit Housing of Northern California
  - Any of the agencies/organizations listed in these "Opportunities"
3. Conduct a YIMBY (Yes in My Backyard) Campaign. Educate your congregation about the causes and effects of the housing crisis and identify possible solutions in your community. Provide bulletin announcements, flyers, brochures to distribute. Show an audio visual presentation. Encourage parishioners to talk to friends, neighbors co-workers in support
  - Contact any of the above advocacy groups, or others in your local area

4. Conduct an ed campaign on the cost of NOT providing affordable housing: Business goes elsewhere, longer commutes, children less healthy, families unsuccessful.
  - Tri-Valley Business Council Vision 2010
  - East Bay Community Foundation Livable Communities Initiative
  - Economic Development Alliance for Business
5. Organize your community: Partner with other congregations in your city to find out opportunities for advocacy, then inform your congregation when local decisions are being made. Identify and train speakers from your congregations to talk about the need, and support proposed solutions.
6. Assign someone in your parish to keep track of state and federal funding for low income housing and shelters. Educate your parishioners about the state housing bond, and the National Housing Trust Fund.
  - Housing California, [www.housingca.org](http://www.housingca.org),
  - National Low Income Housing Coalition, [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org).
7. Have a voter registration drive in your parish. Educate parishioners on state and local issues that affect the ability of your community to provide affordable housing, and on the positions of local candidates with regard to providing affordable housing in your community.
8. Educate parishioners on the tax advantages of donating land for affordable housing or contributing to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund
  - Catholic Housing Initiative

### **Reach Out People to People**

Discover ways to support agencies and programs serving homeless and at risk families and individuals:

- Tri-Valley Haven Domestic Violence Services
- Tri-Valley Haven Homeless Services
- Community Resources for Independent Living.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Contra Costa Transitional Housing
- Shelter, Inc. of Contra Costa County

For example:

1. Start an emergency relief fund to prevent homelessness (initial investment: \$1,000)
2. Have a fundraiser for a local agency or program serving homeless or those at risk
3. Focus on one family or individual in need, get them through their rough spot
4. Adopt an apartment: Provide furniture, household items or repaint and clean an apartment which is meant to house someone previously homeless.
5. Participate in a rotating shelter network. Provide food and services for a week.
6. Recruit, organize a volunteer corps to assist local agencies
7. Sponsor a credit repair, money management, or other workshop with a local sch