

WISEPlace is proud to be leading the 1 in 4 Movement in OC ! #1in4OC



Monthly news you can and should use!

WISEPlace  
**WORKS!**

WOMEN | INSPIRED | SUPPORTED | EMPOWERED

Thank you for your interest in supporting our services  
for unaccompanied homeless women in Orange County.

**2017 looks big and  
bright!**



*Wishing you a safe and joyous celebration!*

# Greetings from the Executive Director



As one year ends and a new one begins, it is always a time of reflection. 2016 was a good year because we continued to save the lives of unaccompanied homeless women in Orange County. At a time when the homeless population in our community grew larger, became more visible and frankly became more disturbing, WISEPlace continued to provide a place where women without a home could go to start over. Our brand of programming has not been popular with government and private decision makers. But, for the 90 + women who found their way to WISEPlace, we have been the game-changer. Women who had no hope for the future, now see themselves as survivors: strong, successful and self-sufficient.

With your support we will continue to change the trajectory for unaccompanied homeless women. We recognize that there are many more women who, even with a supportive program like WISEPlace, will not be able to become self-sufficient. Our goal for 2017 is to provide a bridge for those women from living on the streets, that are particularly dangerous for unaccompanied women, to permanent supportive housing.

We also know that as the cost of housing continues to rise in Orange County, there is an increase in the number of working poor who are not able to afford market rate rents. We envision expanding our "Community of Housing and Hope for Women" to include permanent housing that is truly affordable for women who are earning at or slightly above minimum wage.

We are full of hope and excited about being a bigger part of the solution WISEPlace will provide towards one of the most pressing concerns in Orange County moving into 2017. On behalf of the women whose lives have been and will be saved, the Board of Directors and staff of WISEPlace, I wish you a peaceful and prosperous 2017.

*Kathleen Davis Lawman*

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

## **FLOW by Candlelight**

If you love our annual summer event, get ready for a new twist on things -- FLOW by Candlelight! Join

us for a Valentine's event benefiting WISEPlace Steps to Independence program.

**Sunday, February 12, 2017**

**3 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

**Private home in Nellie Gail Ranch**

**\$100 individual ticket / \$175 Candlelight pair**

Just in time for that **LOVE**ly holiday that has everyone either running for cover or for hugs, we bring you an evening of fantastic fare, decadent wine and chocolate and mellow jazz. This event is certain to delight your senses! Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets today!

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: *It's All About You,* January 15**

Each January, our residents, along with women receiving services from other local social service organizations, participate in *It's All About You*, a day of pampering, shopping and personal attention. Volunteers from throughout the community come to WISEPlace to provide services such as manicures, hair cuts/styles, personal shopping, massages, lunch and more. The 8th annual event is a brain-child of and organized by Mrs. Caryn Altman, a member of JCC Cares, the community service group of the Merage Jewish Community Center, in Irvine.

**If you're interested in providing a service, being a personal shopper, donating items,** please contact Caryn Altman by reaching out to [cjacobs@wiseplace.org](mailto:cjacobs@wiseplace.org).



# BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Each month we will feature a Q&A with one of our Executive Board members.  
This month ...

## Kellie Aamodt

**Board member**

**Full Name:** Kellie Q Aamodt

**Occupation/Employer:** Vice President  
West Region Sales UPS

**Number of years of involvement with**

**WISEPlace:** Board member, 3 years

**Nickname(s):** none

**Recently-heard quote:** "Everyone gets better when a leader gets better."

**Favorite meal:** Thanksgiving turkey

**First car:** Silver Honda

**Pet:** Taco, my rescued Ihaso/Poo and my crazy cat CC

**Someone who inspires you:** my friend Melinda Eylward

**Favorite sport to watch:** March Madness basketball

**Little known fact:** I am an advanced scuba diver



# AROUND THE ORGANIZATION





## Christmas morning celebrated in spirited fashion

Sharing some of our Christmas cheer with all of you! Thank you to the wonderful volunteers from JCC Cares and all around the community who came out to support WISEPlace, spreading much love and joy.



## Don't forget to shop with a SMILE!

For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your total purchase price to WISEPlace. Just click below and you be connected with WISEPlace.

\*\*Please note that you must shop on your laptop or desktop computer in order for WISEPlace to receive these donations through AmazonSmile. The program is not currently supported by the Amazon shopping ap.\*\*

[Click here to start shopping on AmazonSmile!](#)



## WISEPlace awarded 2016 Moving Sustainable Communities Grant

WISEPlace was awarded a \$25,000 grant from Clearinghouse CDFI and in partnership with Pacific Western Bank. This grant was awarded to further our mission of motivating and supporting homeless women transition from temporary living situations to more permanent housing.

Thank you to Clearinghouse CDFI and Doug Bystry, and Pacific Western Bank and Elsa Monte for their continued support!



## Volunteers still needed on Wednesday nights

Each week, a volunteer from the community leads an educational yet fun group session with our residents. Painting, yoga, discussions about healthy relationships, personal hygiene and selecting health care, nailing an interview ... and every topic in between. Interested in helping to facilitate our weekly Wednesday group meetings? They take place from 7 - 8:30 p.m. each Wednesday. We are looking for volunteers to help us greet our visitors and organize the women participating in the sessions. Think you have one Wednesday per month to share, contact [Geo Sanchez](mailto:gsanchez@wiseplace.org) at 714.542.3577 or at [gsanchez@wiseplace.org](mailto:gsanchez@wiseplace.org).

matching  
gifts



## **Seal up your year-end gifts by asking your employer to match your donation to WISEPlace!**

Did you know that many companies have gift-matching programs that will match your donation to WISEPlace dollar for dollar? Gifts may include monthly payroll deductions as well as annual gifts. Gift-matching programs are a great way to maximize your personal contribution to WISEPlace. Don't leave money on the table! Take advantage of your company's matching gift benefit to help increase YOUR impact for the community!

**Simply request paperwork from your employer or contact your human resources department to find out about opportunities available to you and your colleagues. Send the paperwork to us and we'll take it from there.**

Our tax-id number is 95-1684796.

**PARTNERING IN THE COMMUNITY**

*Each month we will feature a partner in our community who supports and empowers us to continue our good work. This month ...*

## Southern California Credit Union Alliance

Each Christmas, WISEPlace is lucky enough to have volunteers from around the community offer to deck the halls of our facility for the holiday season. This year, we got a hand from employees of local credit unions!



"Our group of volunteers from the Southern California Credit Union Alliance who had the opportunity to volunteer at WISEPlace were thrilled and excited to learn more about the wonderful people at WISEPlace and the great work being done to inspire, support and empower woman. You inspired us! Truly it was our pleasure to help decorate and transform WISEPlace into a winter wonderland and spread holiday cheer. Thank you!!"

~ Shannon Workman, Executive Director of Financial Education Programs, SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and organizer for the Southern California Credit Union Alliance Day of Service.

Thank you to Shannon Workman and her crew of volunteers from the Southern California Credit Union Alliance!

## RESIDENT PROFILE

**Age:** 49

**When I entered homelessness:** 3 years ago

**What led me down the path to homelessness:** Drug addiction

**Why you decided to come to WISEPlace for help:** Had nowhere drug-free to live on the streets.

**My favorite activity to participate in:** Functions at WISEPlace

**My favorite food:** Artichokes

**My favorite band/music:** Chainsmokers

**What I am looking forward to after WISEPlace graduation:** Life

**One piece of advice that has helped me:** WISEPlace makes all of the day-to-day chaos go away and it gives you time to think. When you have help with rent, food, bus passes and clothes, everything else can fall into place. Let WISEPlace make the chaos go away.

## WISEWORDS

“**Tough  
times  
never  
last,** *but  
tough people  
do.*”

Robert H. Schuller

## AROUND THE WIRES

Stories selected may not represent the voice or opinions of WISEPlace

**Mary's Kitchen offers homeless warm food, goodies for the longest night**

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/orange-739184-mary-homeless.html>

**Most Influential 2016: Todd Olin**

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/people-738749-homeless-cleans.html>

**Remembering the 192 homeless who died in Orange County in 2016**

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/died-739197-homeless-service.html>

# Californians Remember the Homeless

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-12-21/housing-homelessness/californians-remember-the-homeless/a55527-1>

## Orange County's homeless, elderly could soon use food stamps for hot meals

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/homeless-738287-county-food.html>

## Anaheim homeless shelter could open by April

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/shelter-738363-county-supervisors.html>

## Woman hands out hundreds of winter coats to the homeless at Civic Center

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/crandall-737134-homeless-coat.html>

## Los Angeles outlaws sleeping in cars

<https://fsrn.org/2016/12/los-angeles-outlaws-sleeping-in-cars-further-criminalizing-homelessness/>

Visit  
[www.wiseplace.org](http://www.wiseplace.org)

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