



**Proud leader of the 1 in 4 Movement in Orange County! #1in4OC**



**UPCOMING EVENTS**



## Are you ready to celebrate with us?

WISEPlace is gearing up for an exciting year and we'd like to take you along for the ride with us! March marks 30 years of sheltering women in crisis. Bookmark our [30 Years of Shelter for Women web page](#), and our [Facebook page](#), and stay up-to-date on happenings as they're announced! Here's what we've got for you so far:

## **Commemorative Tile Program**

In honor of our history of providing shelter for homeless women in Orange County, WISEPlace is excited to announce our Commemorative Tile Program! Leave your mark at WISEPlace as we celebrate our past and move into an exciting future. **Tile orders will be accepted through May 31, 2017.**

### **Tiles for 30th Anniversary Commemorative Wall: \$200, one tile**

Your name/sentiment will be engraved in gold lettering on a white ceramic tile (6x6) that will be placed on the 30th Anniversary Commemorative Wall inside our historic Santa Ana facility.

### **Naming Tiles for resident's rooms (only 20 available): \$1,000, two tiles**

Your name/sentiment will be engraved in gold lettering on a white ceramic tile (6x6) that will be affixed to the door of a resident's room. The room tile will feature a hand-painted design by Linda Clair, a longtime friend and former Board member of WISEPlace. An additional tile will be engraved and added to the Commemorative Wall. A special viewing and photo opportunity with your designated room will be arranged after the tile is placed.

### **Naming Tiles for living rooms (only 2 available):**

#### **\$2,000, two tiles (downstairs) / \$1,500 two tiles (upstairs)**

Your name/sentiment will be engraved in gold lettering on a white ceramic tile (large and rectangular in shape) will be affixed above the door of a living room. The tile will feature a hand-painted design by Linda Clair, a longtime friend and former Board member of WISEPlace. An additional tile will be engraved and added to the Commemorative Wall. A special viewing and photo opportunity with your designated room will be arranged after the tile is placed.

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## **March showers bring a year of flowers**

Throughout the month of March, consider showering our residents with things that make them feel like a woman. Help them to feel comfortable. Give them something that's fun! We'll gratefully accept any donations, but in March, consider:

- Brand new undergarments (bras and underwear)
- New bed linens
- Comfy blankets
- Perfume
- Giftcards to movie theatres
- Scented room plug-ins

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

*Each month we will feature a Q&A with a member of our Board of Directors. This month ...*



### **CARON BERKLEY**

#### **Board member**

**Full Name:** Caron Samantha Berkley

**Occupation/Employer:** Director of Communications / Jewish Federation & Family Services, Orange County

**Number of years of involvement with WISEPlace:** Just started Year 1 of what I hope will be many!

**Nickname(s):** "Car", "Care-Bear"

**Recently-heard quote:** "Equal rights for others does not mean less rights for you. It's not pie."

**Favorite meal(s):** IN-N-OUT burger, animal style (of course)! Also, kale Caesar salad. I realize these two choices are a total contradiction.

**First car:** A white 1990 Toyota Corolla, maroon fabric interior, with a bumper sticker that read "Visualize World Peace" J

**Pet:** Our kitties, Danny and Jada

**Someone who inspires you:** Hillary Clinton, forever and always

**Favorite sport to watch:** Meh, not into sports

**Little known fact:** I can sing a song with all 50 U.S. states in alphabetical order thanks to a phenomenal 3rd grade music teacher. It's actually come in quite handy over the years.

## AROUND THE ORGANIZATION



Board member Bob Bartlett, SVP at Hanmi Bank, delivers great news to Executive Director Kathi Bowman.



## First new partner in 2017!

We're thrilled to announce Hanmi Bank as our newest organizational partner! We're so grateful for their \$5,000 contribution to our Steps to Independence program and look forward to building a long-lasting and meaningful relationship with the bank and their employees. Thank you, Hanmi Bank!



WISEPlace Facility Manager Gloria Ruiz has been lovingly tending to her kitchen for 21 years.

## Longtime Facility Manager announces retirement

Among so many other things, Gloria Ruiz makes certain that bellies are fed and happy; she accepts our massive quantities of large donations; she tidies-up after residents, volunteers, staff and guests; and she keeps her kitchen impeccably clean and well-organized. Now, Gloria is retiring after (literally) serving the homeless women that WISEPlace houses for 21 years. She is a master at stretching a very tight budget to feed our residents healthy meals, connecting with community to keep the donations of food and meals coming through her door. Gloria does everything from tending our small veggie garden, to making curtains, slipcovers and lamp shades for the event hall, shelter, resident's rooms and WISEPlace staff offices. Gloria has used her years of catering experience to make our special events lovely and inviting to guests and residents alike. She leverages her relationships with the community to enable WISEPlace to continue offering support for unaccompanied homeless women.

Residents, volunteers and staff will miss you dearly, Gloria! Congratulations and good luck on the next chapter.



## Advanced Learning Center pays a visit

We had a happy Valentine's Day indeed! A visit from the little ladies of Advanced Learning Center in Santa Ana yielded flowers and cards for our residents and a midday pizza party for us. In December, this group of enterprising young ladies orchestrated a clothing drive at their school. The reward: over 10 huge boxes of women's clothing, all donated to WISEPlace. We ♥ our community!

### RESIDENT PROFILE

*Each month, we will profile a current resident or recently graduate of WISEPlace. Names have been omitted for anonymity.*

**Age:** 34

**When I entered homelessness:** Off and on since age 16

**What led me down the path to homelessness:** A lot of issues having to do with not being accepted for being a lesbian.

**Why you decided to come to WISEPlace for help:** After rehab, I did not have anyplace to go.

**What has inspired you since becoming a resident at WISEPlace:** Everything has been an inspiration.

**My favorite activity to participate in:** My one-on-one meetings with Ms. Demona.

**My favorite food:** Pizza

**My favorite band/music:** Melissa Etheridge

**What I am looking forward to after WISEPlace graduation:** Using all the tools that I have gained since being at WISEPlace.

**One piece of advice that has helped me:** Do not give up.

## WISE WORDS

Promise me you'll always remember:  
You're braver than you believe,  
and stronger than you seem,  
and smarter than you think.

