

Residents' Corner

New Friendships

By Gene S.

New friendship encounters begin,
like new intriguing ringing chimes,
of bringing new feelings within
And on in two lives and more times.

So rare for two lives such beginnings
when smiles from each two'd they'd so beamed,
Not knowing not of the pleasures, the winnings
Above what first meetings might seemed.

Yet times, and yes, circumstances changes
most paths toward some destination.
Old friendships which each life arranges,
to cherish its own bright duration.

Let each keep that nearness in living
their truly so wonderful tale,
Remembering when or while giving,
Those moments to cherish, to hail.

Sharing with Alexandria House



Alexandria House is a non-profit transitional residence and house of hospitality providing safe and supportive housing for women and children in the process of moving from emergency shelter to permanent housing. Located in the densely populated and ethnically diverse mid-Wilshire area, Alexandria House also serves its broader neighborhood community by providing educational, cultural, and enrichment opportunities for residents and neighbors alike.

In 2013 Alexandria House Founder Sister Judy Vaughan, and a resident of Alexandria House gave a presentation at a Women's Club meeting. The UVTO women "fell in love" with the program and its accomplishments, and convinced UVTO to support Alexandria House. Tom Simondi, Judy's cousin, volunteered to organize that campaign. It started with toys; and later added other items. The logistics of gathering, repacking, and delivering the items to Alexandria House became difficult (one year Tom loaded everything into his Prius, took it to a gathering of cousins in Santa Clarita, and there redistributed the items to other cars returning to the Los Angeles area). So now, the drive, in its tenth year, concentrates on sending money or fulfilling their Amazon wish list. Alexandria House is the only official recipient of charitable support from UVTO's residents.



When families leave Alexandria House, they are economically stable and are placed in secure permanent housing. Alexandria House continues to provide assistance for ongoing support to help them thrive and remain in their own homes. More than 92% of the families that have gone through the Alexandria House program remain in permanent housing. They are grateful that more than 100 of their past residents continue as engaged members of the extended community in a variety of ways.



This giving project has created supportive interest here at UVTO, and past excursions to Alexandria House have provided an even more close-up experience. Consider supporting these women and children as they work hard to successfully transition from the darkest days of fear and instability to a bright future made possible by the security of a permanent home, the stability of school, and the opportunity to gain financial independence.

Please join us on Monday, August 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Balboa Room for an Alexandria House informational program. If you would like to support Alexandria House, checks made payable to Alexandria House may dropped off at Reception, or mailed directly to Alexandria House, 426 S. Alexandria Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90020. The final collection day at UVTO is August 27.

More information on Alexandria House can be found directly on our Portal! **Things to Do: Alexandria House.** Here you will also find a link to Amazon where you can purchase items from their wish lists.



