

Transforming Lives Campaign Newsletter

Strengthening, equipping, and restoring children and families in crisis... One Life at a Time®.

PREVENTING TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS IN ORANGE COUNTY

There are 27,000 teens and young adults who are homeless or housing insecure in Orange County.

On Tuesday, September 24th, Olive Crest broke ground on its latest project to prevent teen and young adult homelessness. These new 16 apartment homes with two bedrooms in each, will be located adjacent to the Children and Family Resource Center. Serving young adults, ages 18 to 25, the apartments are being built by RSI Dream Communities, as a gift from the Ronald M. Simon Family Foundation, with additional contributions from hundreds of other major donors. This is the first of five planned apartment communities for Olive Crest throughout Southern California and Nevada.

The new apartment homes are scheduled to open in winter 2025.

CELEBRATING GROUNDBREAKING MEMORIES



Donald Verleur (Olive Crest), Curtis & Jill Scheetz, Tom & Crystal Cook, Carmen Davis and Jim Hindman (Total Environment Management, Inc.)



Steve Bernardy, Olive Crest in Orange County Trustee President and campaign co-chair shares what it means to get involved.



Donald Verleur with members of the Swenson Family Foundation, Chris & Cheryl Lentz, Rosie Swenson, Eoin Kreditor, and campaign co-chair Gretchen Valentine (RSM)



Kerri Dunkelberger (Olive Crest), Joshua Prince, Tracy Ficaro, Howard Booker (In-N-Out) with Donald Verleur



Donald Verleur and Jim Palmer (RSI Dream Communities President)



Donald Verleur with Michael and Sonya Borba (Borba Property Group)

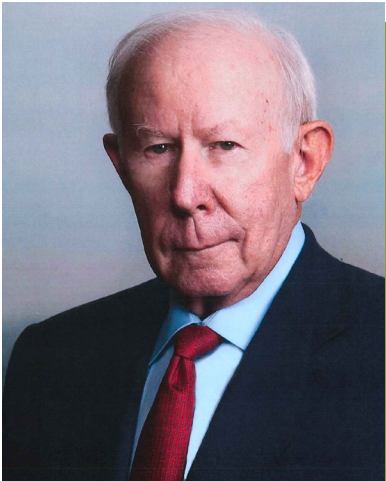
BUILDING BRIGHTER, SUCCESSFUL FUTURES

This initiative is about more than new facilities. In addition to stable housing, all teens living in our facilities will learn life skills by participating in our Operation Independence (OI) program, which provides customized 24/7 support to ensure career and college success, break down barriers to employment, and address emotional wounds that would otherwise be carried into adulthood.



Conceptual Rendering by BSB Design and the builder, RSI Dream Communities

ABOUT OUR BUILDER



Ron Simon, Founder & Chairman
RSI Dream Communities

Mr. Simon’s expertise in the building industry spans decades. As CEO of Perma-Built, he oversaw the production of bath-related products like medicine and vanity cabinets. In 1989, he founded RSI Home Products, where he served as Chairman and CEO until 2011, leading the company to remarkable success. Under his leadership, RSI partnered with four private equity firms, generating substantial returns on investment.

In 2008, Simon established RSI Homes, later forming RSI Communities in 2015, which quickly grew to own or control over 11,000 home lots in California and Texas. Additionally, Simon founded DuCal Energy in 2015, later re-branded to RSI Energy, to provide solar energy solutions to the housing market.

We heard from some of the people that benefited from these projects [and] if they didn’t have this resource, they would be the ones sleeping next to a dumpster or on the street.

Jessie Lopez,
Santa Ana City Council member

\$1 MILLION MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE –
NEW GIFTS WILL BE DOUBLED!

Olive Crest received an extraordinarily generous \$1 million matching gift challenge to help prevent teen homelessness in Orange County by supporting the construction of a new apartment complex. All new gifts and pledges to this campaign will be matched dollar for dollar. We are truly thankful to the visionary philanthropic Scheetz Family with Total Environmental Management team, CEO Jim Hindman, and CPO Tom Cook, who joined us in this campaign to provide safe, new housing and reduce teen homelessness in our community.



Total Environmental Management, Inc.
CEO Jim Hindman; Founder/Owner Curtis Scheetz; CPO Tom Cook

Double Your Gift
to Help Prevent
Teen Homelessness

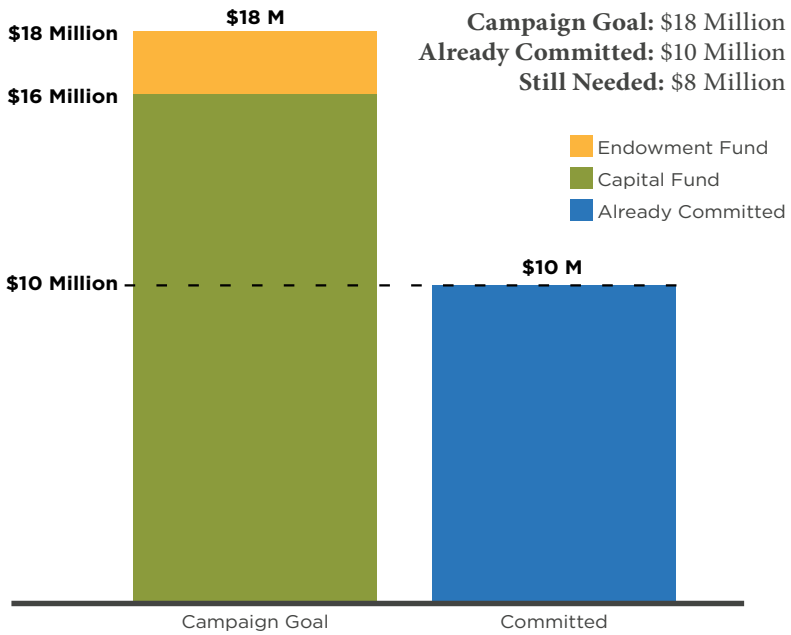
All gifts and pledges received between September 2024 and September 2025 will be matched up to \$1 Million.



Scan for
more information

INVESTING IN TRANSFORMING LIVES

We are extremely grateful to our friends for the support as we strengthen children and families through the renovation and expansion of the Children and Family Resource Center and prevent teen and young adult homelessness with new apartment homes. To date, we are thankful to have received gifts and pledges totaling \$10 million toward the \$18 million goal for these projects. We still need your help to complete the funding of this project. Stand with Olive Crest!



“The impact of this commitment and support will be felt for generations. Here’s to a bright future, let’s do this together!”

Curtis Scheetz,
Founder/Owner & President
Emeritus, Total Environmental
Management, Inc.

“A LOT OF US JUST DON’T HAVE ANYBODY...”



Seth Putman, former Olive Crest teen

Seth Putnam, a former Olive Crest teen, bravely shared his story and thoughts during the groundbreaking ceremony. He said, “I didn’t have anywhere to go when I turned 18. Without [Olive Crest’s] program, I pretty much would have been homeless. This is going to help a lot of people that are in my situation as well. You hit a certain age, and everybody just thinks that you’re not trying hard enough, or it’s all your fault that you’re homeless. A lot of people like me just don’t have anybody, and we need something just to get somewhere. Olive Crest gave us a home and prepared us for adulthood. Thank you Olive Crest donors and staff. Now, I work as a phlebotomist and am pursuing my nursing degree.”

YOU CAN PREVENT TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS

Donor support is instrumental for Olive Crest to prevent teen and young adult homelessness in Orange County. Whether through donations, volunteerism, or spreading the word, every contribution makes a difference. Together, we have the power to transform lives, uplift communities, and create a brighter future for all. To stand with Olive Crest on this important initiative, contact Tim Bauer, Executive Director of Development in Orange County at tim-bauer@olivecrest.org or 657.622.4170.



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60%

of teens who “age out” of the system are homeless or housing insecure within six months to one year.

60%

of children from the child welfare system will at some point become incarcerated.

60%

of children who are sex trafficked come from the child welfare system.