TNDC Birthday Dinner
Thursday, April 19, 2018

At TNDC, we think deeply about what home means to the people we serve.

For Manuela Ruiz and Nelson Obando at the SOMA Family Apartments, home is where there family is. For pantry participants at the Willie B. Kennedy Apartments, home is where they share recipes.

For our generous supporters like you, home is where you decide to give back to your community.

Right now, many communities feel unwelcome in their larger home—their country, their state, their city. This makes having your own home—a place of warmth and sanctuary—all the more necessary.

We’re so thankful that you have always understood the importance of home.

Because at TNDC, we believe that a home can mean, and change, everything.

With gratitude,

Donald S. Falk, CEO

No two TNDC homes are alike. With over 4,100 people across 39 buildings, our residents span continents and generations. From one-year-olds to seniors turning one hundred, our residents speak over 30 languages.

But for many of our residents and staff, food is the universal language of TNDC.

A hot meal, funded by your donations, brings residents together throughout the year at community events, such as the Ambassador, Dalt, and West Hotel’s annual Summer Talent Show and BBQ.

“Events are always a good time to catch up with our neighbors,” says Nelson Obando, a resident at SOMA Family Apartments. “Everyone enjoys food.”

Community events are especially important at the end of the year, when many residents are unable to share the holidays with their loved ones. This November and December alone we hosted 44 holiday parties each with a warm meal.

Your generosity has also provided another opportunity for people to connect with each other: neighborhood pantries.

This year we opened our third pantry which allows us to distribute over 230,000 lbs of free food annually—a 575% increase since 2016!

Every week, Food and Nutrition Supervisor Rebecca Barajas sees how food creates community. Pantry participants speaking different languages help each other carry groceries. Sometimes they pool together their food and make a family-style meal.

At the pantry serving the Willie B. Kennedy Apartments and Western Addition, Rebecca posts a weekly recipe. Participants, she said, always like to offer their own cultural-twist on her recipes.

Rebecca is constantly learning from her pantry participants and the kids at the Tenderloin After-School Program who she cooks with twice a month. It’s part of what makes TNDC’s community so unique and rewarding.

See two resident recipes on the next page and their full translations on tndc.org.
“Food is a huge part of our life,” says Nelson Obando of SOMA Family Apartments. He then describes the sweet and soft taste of Baho, his favorite Nicaraguan dish. His grandmother, Manuela Ruiz, is one of the few people in the family who can make Baho. The recipe requires patience. It takes three to four hours for the beef, yuca, cabbage, and plantains to boil and the flavors to come together. See the recipe on the right-hand page.

Nelson has been living with his grandmother and aunt in SOMA for the last four years. He’s thankful to live in SOMA because it shortens his commute to San Francisco State University where he’s earning a degree in hospitality. He’s even more thankful that his home is affordable and that he can avoid the high cost of dorms and San Francisco rent.

“My friends call me a unicorn because it’s so rare to meet someone who was born and raised here still living in San Francisco,” Nelson adds. “It’s an honor to live here.”

Manuela, who has called the SOMA Family Apartments her home since the building opened in 2003, feels the same way. She loves her neighborhood and neighbors. Above all, she loves that her home can be the gathering place for her family.

"El hogar es donde está mi familia,” says Manuela.

Saul Falcone is not your average fourteen-year-old basketball-player and poet. He is all also TNDC’s youngest donor. Earlier this year, Saul decided that instead of receiving gifts for his Bar Mitzvah, he would raise money for TNDC. With the support of his family and community, he was able to donate an incredible $1,029 to make home possible in San Francisco.

"People often use a misleading shorthand about Bar Mitzvahs, saying it means ‘becoming a Jewish adult.’ We know that’s not entirely true, yet at this milestone, a person is capable of knowing right from wrong. Saul’s decision to give his Bar Mitzvah gifts to a cause he cares about is an exemplary moral choice that I wish more people would make at any age."

We sincerely thank Saul and his community for sharing the belief that everyone deserves a home. If you’re interested in raising money for affordable housing in San Francisco, reach out to Julie Doherty, jdoherty@tndc.org.

Recipe for a San Francisco for All

**Ingredients**
- Build new permanently affordable homes in San Francisco
- Upgrade older San Francisco buildings into permanently affordable homes
- Give people access to free necessary resources, such as after-school programs and fresh produce

**Steps**
There are many, but we think affordable housing is key. Whether you donate, volunteer, or organize, you’re making home possible for over 4,100 people struggling to make ends meet.

Donate today at: tndc.org/donate