



**SUPPORT THE SENIOR
AND DISABILITY CAMPAIGN
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Some city neighborhoods, such as BayView/Hunters Point, seem to have been forgotten when it comes to services for its residents. Often neighbors come to depend on one strong agency to provide a multitude of services to seniors and persons with disabilities. By being rooted in the neighborhood, such an agency can offer personalized in-home care, health-related workshops and case management. It can help those who want to “age in place”; educate community members in identifying seniors at risk; educate the public about needs and services available to support seniors and persons with disabilities; and provide emotional support, monthly food boxes, home safety repairs and advocacy services through its volunteer program.



IMAGINE if such a **SOLID NETWORK OF SUPPORT FOR ELDERS** had the financial support to reach more of those in need and to upgrade their facilities to make them more physically accessible, and could help share its wisdom with other forgotten neighborhoods of the city.



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Tricia worked for years to get her landlord to make the front door of her building accessible. When she succeeded, she opened the door to community living, for herself and others, for years to come. Many individuals are able to arrange for all their care and support, but access problems make it difficult or impossible to get in or leave their home.



IMAGINE how many people, particularly renters, could get their landlords to make building modifications if **THE HOUSING MODIFICATION FUND** was available to help pay some of the cost.



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We all made a commitment as Peer Advocates to reach out to the isolated and alone in our communities. We got valuable training to empower ourselves and to better help our neighbors.



IMAGINE if San Francisco brought together people from peer programs across the city in **A PEER ADVOCATE SUMMIT**, to celebrate the power of “people helping people” and to recruit others into a movement that re-weaves the social fabric in our communities.



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Mrs. Chu, 78 years old, lives alone in a building without an elevator. She has always been very independent and has had few health concerns in her life. She recently fell and broke her leg. An elder care worker went to Mrs. Chu's home the day after she was sent home from the hospital, and she and Mrs. Chu agreed that the worker would do grocery shopping, prepare several meals to be eaten later, and do the laundry and some cleaning.



It would have been very difficult, if not impossible, for Mrs. Chu to do all of this herself and still get well. THE HOMECARE WORKER MADE IT POSSIBLE for Mrs. Chu to regain her health and her lifestyle.

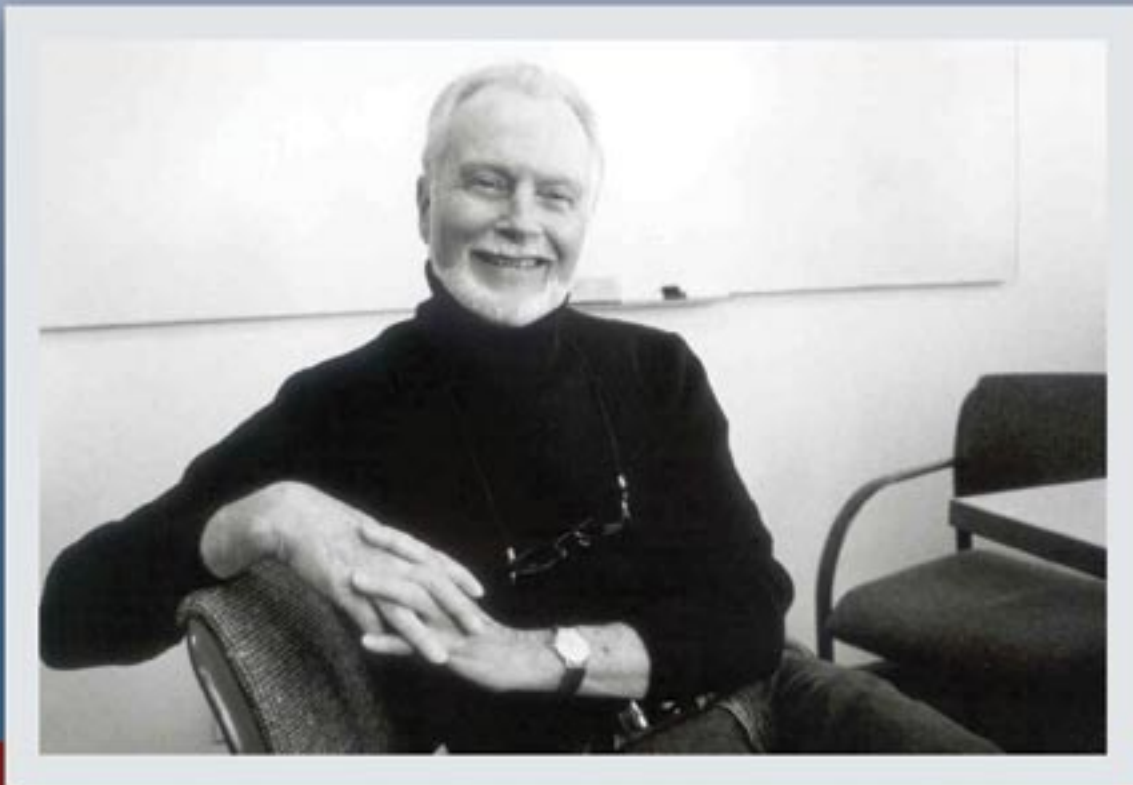


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My name is Richard and I am a single, 72-year-old gay man. I never married or had children and have no close relatives. My greatest fear is WHO IS GOING TO TAKE CARE OF ME IF SOMETHING HAPPENS. I see my friends disappearing, going back into “the closet” and growing more isolated as they age. I DON’T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN TO ME!



IMAGINE if older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults could identify **PEOPLE WHO WOULD ASSIST THEM** if they were to need care.



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My name is Lorraine. It took me 60 years to finally accept that I was a transgender woman and another 14 years to have gender reassignment surgery. I am 81 years old and my current housing has several stairs that are getting more and more difficult for me to navigate. I spent more than half my life in the closet, hiding who I was.



I FINALLY FEEL WHOLE and don't want to go back into the closet to get safe and welcoming housing!

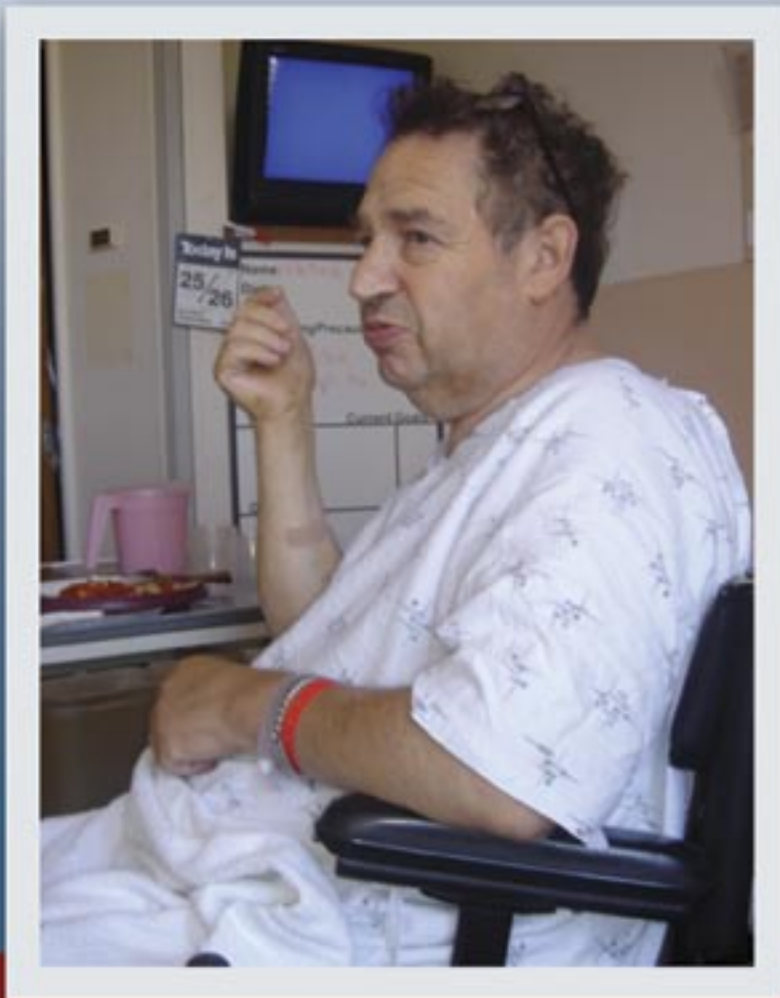


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Pete was discharged from the hospital on January 3, 2007. He did not receive his promised wheelchair for over 3 months. As a result, he could only sit in his room or stay in his bed while he waited.



IMAGINE if he had help at the **LONG TERM CARE CONSUMER RIGHTS CENTER** – someone who specializes in wheelchair advocacy to get him rolling again.



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When Ruth was discharged from Laguna Honda, she was very happy to be back in her own home, with the memories of a lifetime around her. Her friends were ready to help make her final year a good year.



IMAGINE if everyone who wanted to go home from a nursing home was able to do so because San Francisco made in-home care a real priority. Programs like **THE IHSS "SHARE OF COST" PILOT PROJECT AND OTHER PROGRAMS THAT EXTEND HOMECARE TO THE "UPPER POOR"** could make that possible.

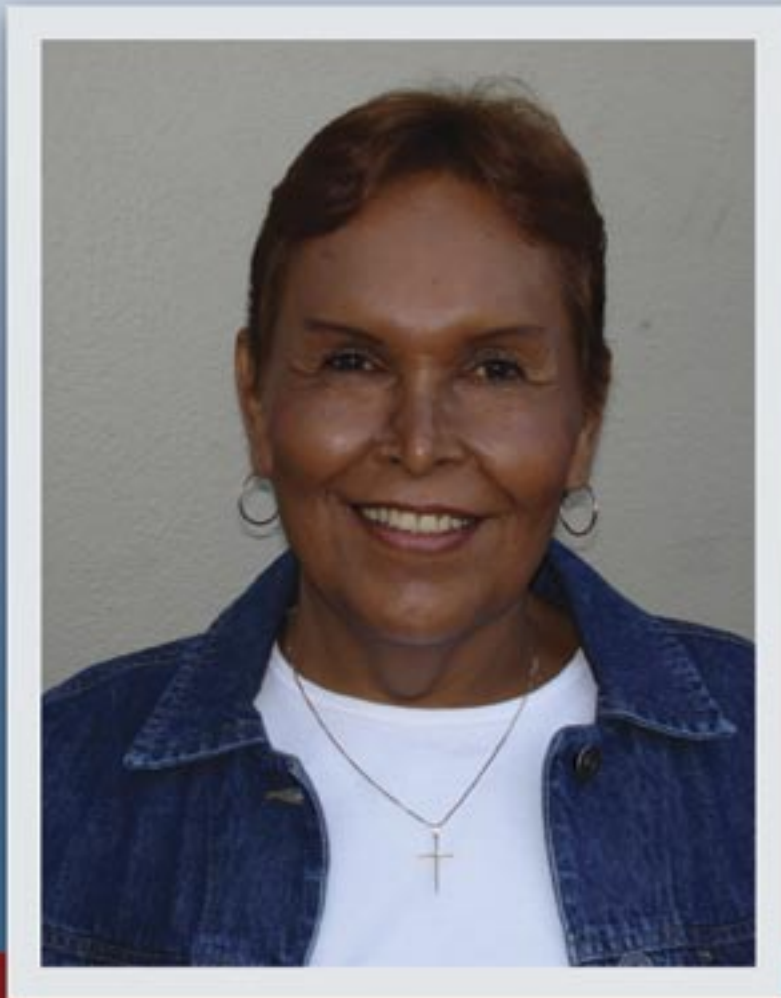


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My name is Felicia and I am a 60-year-old transsexual female. I was born in San Antonio, Texas, as Felipe Alvarado Elizondo. Early on in my life I felt different but was not sure why. In 1974, I had sexual reassignment surgery at Stanford University. I am low-income and fear that if I have to find alternative housing I will experience discrimination and hatred.



I SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FEEL UNSAFE IN MY OWN HOME!

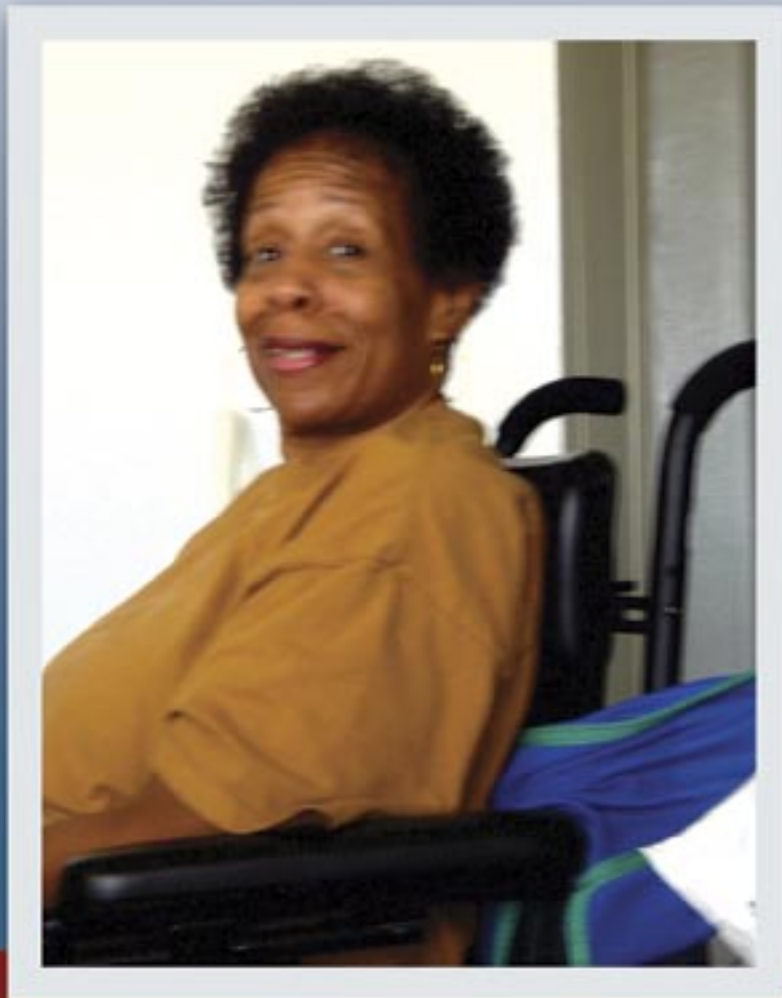


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Stephanie is 57 years old and has had MS for many years. During the course of her illness, she has become aware of changes that need to be made for persons with disabilities so that care is appropriate to their disability or chronic condition. She knows that people can and should help guide their own care. Caregivers must be held responsible for providing individualized, responsive services and assistance.



CONSUMER SUPPORT AND CHECK-IN FOR HOMECARE will help homecare consumers get the specific care and support they need.



Imagine if your home looked like this because you had a condition that led you to collect and hold on to unnecessary items until your apartment became an unsafe and unhealthy living environment and a potential risk to others in the building. Your landlord can legally evict you if you don't address the problem.



The community has developed a consumer empowerment approach to provide **EVICTION AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION FOR COMPULSIVE HOARDERS AND CLUTTERERS.**



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Thousands of seniors and adults with disabilities in the central part of the city live in tiny SRO hotel rooms with space for little more than a bed and a few belongings. Their only living space is a dreary lobby or perhaps a lonely table at a meal site in the neighborhood.



NOW IMAGINE if you had access to a community “living room” where you would find meals, activities and companionship with people from diverse and interesting backgrounds – veterans, LGBT seniors, immigrants and persons who are differently abled. **THIS TENDERLOIN NEIGHBORHOOD “DROP-IN CENTER FOR SENIORS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES”** would be run by volunteers whose dedication speaks volumes to the power of hope, love and peace.

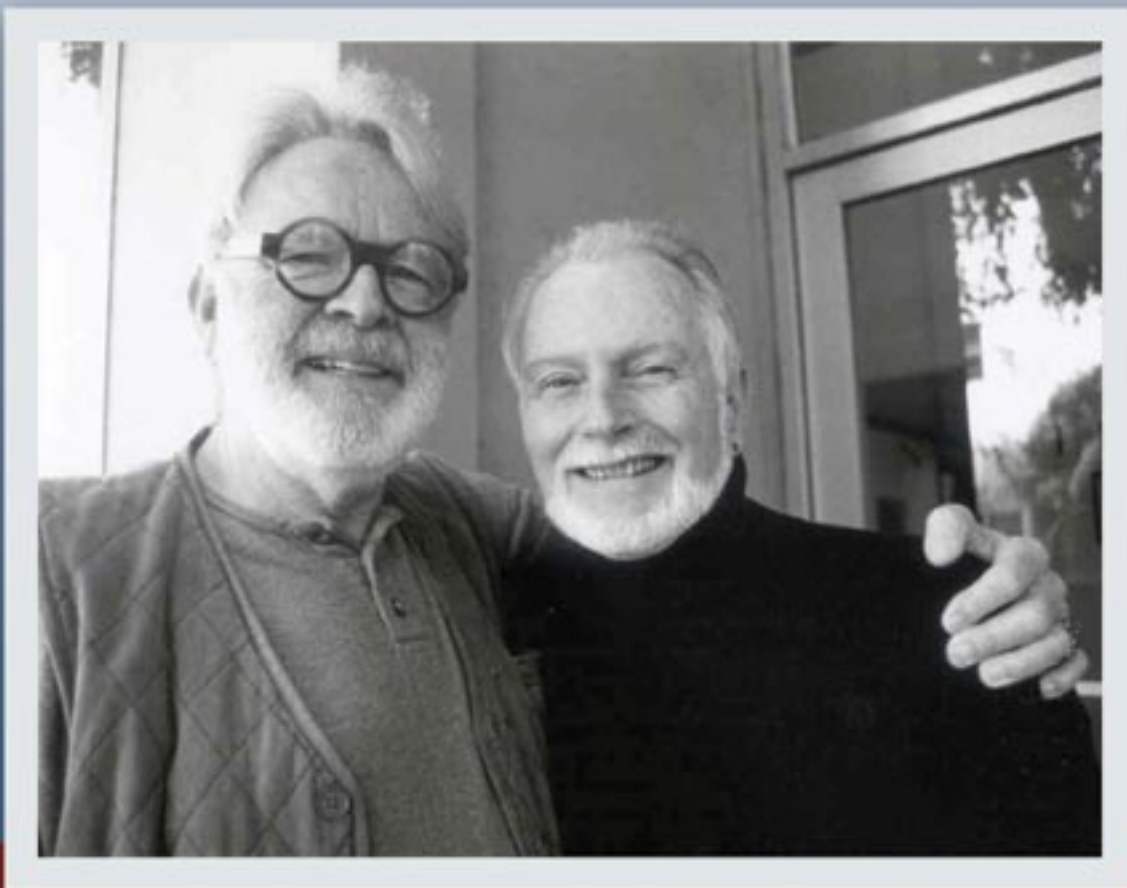


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My name is Gordon and I am a 77-year-old gay man. MY GREATEST FEAR AS I AGE IS NOT BEING ABLE TO LIVE OUT MY LIFE AS AN OPEN GAY MAN.



I AM AFRAID THAT I WILL BE JUDGED, that my care will be compromised and that I will not be treated with respect. I will not erase my entire life in order to receive needed social services. **I'D RATHER BE ISOLATED THAN GO BACK IN THE CLOSET.**



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Figuring out how to get the services you need to remain living in the community is so complicated that you almost need to go to “school” to learn your way around.



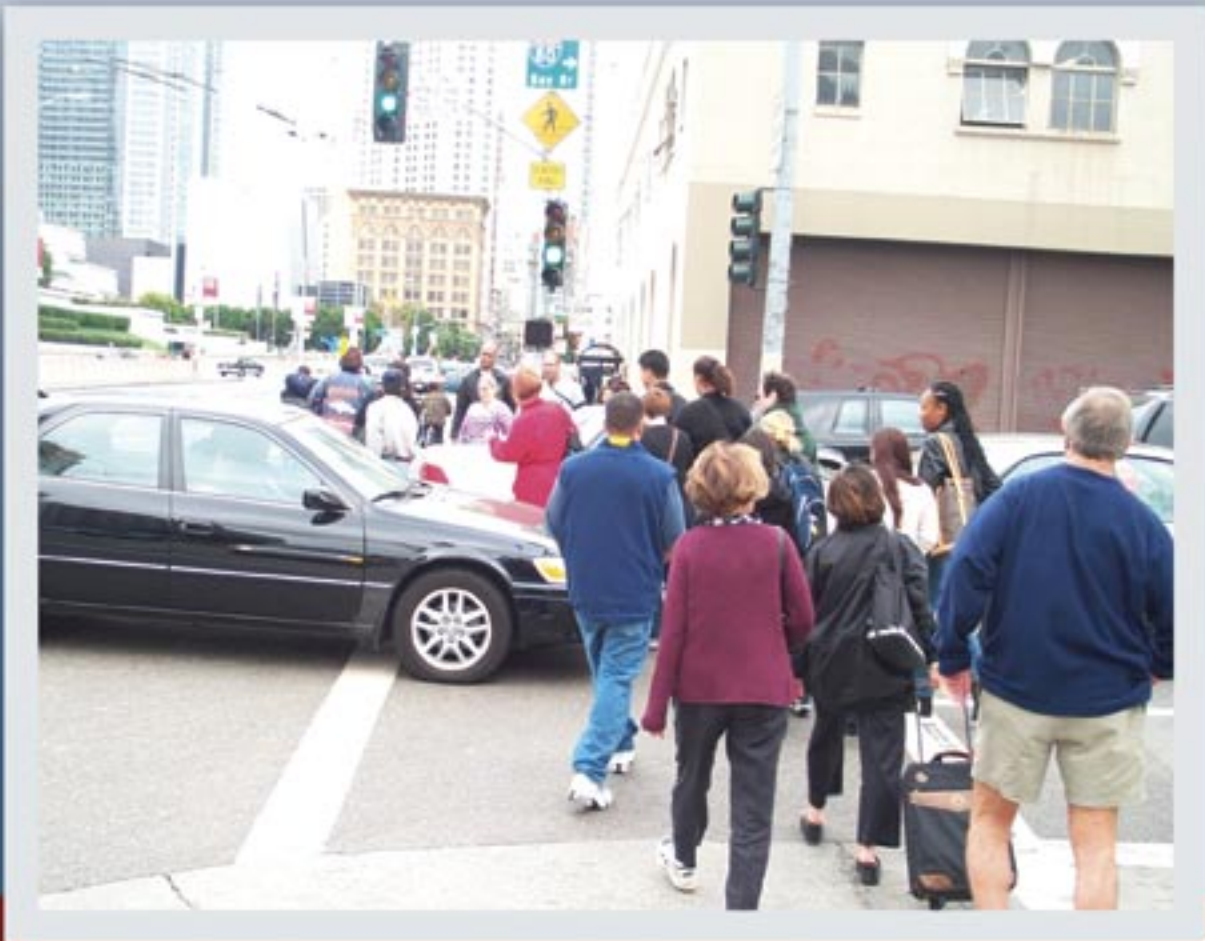
IMAGINE if there was a place in your neighborhood where you could go and learn in your own language about how to **ACCESS A VARIETY OF COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES**, including how to appeal if you are denied services.



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PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND SAFE STREETS INITIATIVE



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