

STEPPING STONES TO SUCCESS!

We are thrilled to announce that our long-awaited building project is becoming a visible reality! Thanks to an incredibly generous grant from “Stepping Stone” (AKA San Francisco Women’s Rehabilitation Foundation) we will soon be able to house 5 more women at Gracenter.

After the process to obtain permits to build—which took 3 years!—we received the final permits in November and rushed to do a ground-breaking ceremony so that our contractor could get started with the construction without further delay.

It was a simple ceremony, attended by members of the Board and Guild, as well as faithful volunteers and neighbors. Pat Ryan, who was one of the volunteer carpenters who built Gracenter 60 years ago—and has been a volunteer ever since—even at 101 years old—was our guest of honor and chief ground-breaker!



Sr. Marguerite Bartling and Pat Ryan



The Sisters of the Good Shepherd and Pat Ryan



Other essential staff and volunteers!
Pat, Tim, Sandra, Valerie, Michaela, Charles, Romy



Gracie wasn't sure about what was going on.....



but got into it later.....

The ground-breaking was on Sunday, November 21, 2021 and the workers arrived within a week to start digging.



When we had prayed for the project to get underway, God must have heard “underwater” because the rains that we have been praying for—for about 7 years—arrived and continued for about 7 days!

The workers came back in mid-January to re-group and re-dig



We were finally able to pour the concrete for the foundation on January 27th.

February brings us to the framing stage, which should be completed around the first week of March.

As with any construction project, we know there will be ore lumps and bumps as we go along but we will take each step—one step—at a time.

Thank you for your part in supporting this dream and the women at Gracenter who are overcoming lumps and bumps every day and are showing us how to do it with strength and a smile!



Stay tuned for further updates!

