



# Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE DECEMBER 12, 2016

## PROJECT OPEN HAND

*Application No.:* LBR-2016-17-027  
*Business Name:* Project Open Hand  
*Business Address:* 730 Polk Street  
*District:* District 6  
*Applicant:* Mark Ryle, CEO  
*Nomination Date:* September 30, 2016  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Jane Kim  
*Staff Contact:* Richard Kurylo  
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

### BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Project Open Hand is a nonprofit organization based in the Tenderloin that provides free healthy meals, groceries, nutrition counseling and education, and social work services to senior citizens and critically ill community members. Historically, Project Open Hand was one of the first organizations to support gay men suffering from AIDS during a time when social services for AIDS victims were nonexistent. Its roots date to 1985 when founder Ruth Brinker was moved to feed her ailing neighbors suffering from AIDS. After three years of working out of her kitchen, Brinker was able to secure a space for the project in the basement of Trinity Episcopal Church at 1668 Bush Street, and in 1987, the organization purchased its first kitchen at 2720 17th Street. The organization incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) a few years later in 1991, after serving its 1 millionth meal. Today, Project Open Hand operates out of an architecturally significant four-story brick building at the southeast corner of Polk and Ellis streets, which it purchased in 1997. What began as preparing meals for her seven neighbors grew into a pioneering and influential organization that provides 2,500 meals and 200 bags of groceries per day to senior citizens and clients who battle a range of diseases and illnesses. Clients have the option to pick up groceries on the bustling second floor Grocery Center, while others who are homebound benefit from the organization's home delivery services. Its Wellness Center offers consultations from registered dietitians and clinical social workers. With 90 percent of its clients living below the poverty line, Project Open Hand belongs to a network of other nonprofit partners that work to serve the community, including Glide Memorial Church, St. Anthony's, Larkin Street Youth Services, Tom Waddell Clinic, among others. In addition, Project Open Hand provides below market rate rental space to The Shanti Project and the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center.

### CRITERION 1: Has the applicant operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?

Yes, the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

1668 Bush Street from 1985-1988 (3 years)  
2720 17<sup>th</sup> Street from 1988-1997 (9 years)  
730 Polk Street from 1997-Present (19 years)



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

**CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?**

Yes, the applicant has contributed to the Tenderloin neighborhood's history and identity.

The Historic Preservation Commission recommended the applicant as qualifying, noting the following ways the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community:

- Project Open Hand is associated with the tradition of preparing nutritious meals for critically ill members of the community and senior citizens.
- Project Open Hand has contributed to the history and identity of the Tenderloin and the city's broader communities by providing nutritious meals, groceries, nutrition counseling, wellness and social work services to critically ill community members.
- The 1922 building has been previously evaluated for historic significance by the Planning Department. It is considered a "Category A" building and has been identified as individually eligible for listing on the California Register. It was also identified as eligible for listing on the National Register as a contributor to a National Register-eligible historic district. The property was noted for its significance in the Van Ness Auto Row Support Structures Survey prepared by William Kostura from the Planning Department in 2010. The building is also associated with several important nonprofit organizations, including the Shanti Project and the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center in addition to Project Open Hand. All three organizations are associated with the community's response to the AIDS epidemic and have demonstrated historical importance within local LGBTQ history.
- The City and County of San Francisco issued a Proclamation declaring September 9, 2016, as "Project Open Hand Day." The City and County of San Francisco issued a Proclamation declaring September 10-11, 2016, as "Project Open Hand Week."
- The business has been cited in the following publications:
  - San Francisco Chronicle, 6/25/2016, "For San Francisco's AIDS network, survival and evolution," by Erin Allday.
  - San Francisco Chronicle, 8/14/2011, "Ruth Brinker, Project Open Hand founder, dies," by Will Kane.

**CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?**

Yes, Project Open Hand is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its legacy of serving the city's critically ill community members, particularly in the Tenderloin, by providing healthy and nutritious meals, groceries, and public health services with compassion and respect.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Project Open Hand qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions.



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER / SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION  
1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 110, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681  
Small Business Assistance Center (415) 554-6134 / Small Business Commission (415) 554-6481

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Provision of nutritious meals and groceries to low-income and critically ill community members.
- Provision of home-delivered meals to critically ill clients and senior citizens.
- Nutrition education and counseling through the organization's Wellness Center.
- Indoor greenhouse.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Project Open Hand currently located at 730 Polk Street in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Manager  
Legacy Business Program



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## Small Business Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE DECEMBER 12, 2016

### PROJECT OPEN HAND

#### LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Application No.:</i>	LBR-2016-17-027
<i>Business Name:</i>	Project Open Hand
<i>Business Address:</i>	730 Polk Street
<i>District:</i>	District 6
<i>Applicant:</i>	Mark Ryle, CEO
<i>Nomination Date:</i>	September 30, 2016
<i>Nominated By:</i>	Supervisor Jane Kim
<i>Staff Contact:</i>	Richard Kurylo legacybusiness@sfgov.org

#### **ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR PROJECT OPEN HAND, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 730 POLK STREET.**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; or

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, has had no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, has significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included in the Registry, faces a significant risk of displacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on December 12, 2016, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore





SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Small Business Commission hereby includes Project Open Hand in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at Project Open Hand:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Provision of nutritious meals and groceries to low-income and critically ill community members.
- Provision of home-delivered meals to critically ill clients and senior citizens.
- Nutrition education and counseling through the organization's Wellness Center.
- Indoor greenhouse.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on December 12, 2016.

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Regina Dick-Endrizzi  
Director

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes –  
Nays –  
Abstained –  
Absent –



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## Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

*Application No.:* LBR-2016-17-027  
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*District:* District 6  
*Applicant:* Mark Ryle, CEO  
*Nomination Date:* September 30, 2016  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Jane Kim

**CRITERION 1:** Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1668 Bush Street from 1985-1988 (3 years)  
2720 17<sup>th</sup> Street from 1988-1997 (9 years)  
730 Polk Street from 1997-Present (19 years)

**CRITERION 2:** Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community? ☒ Yes ☐ No

**CRITERION 3:** Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms? ☒ Yes ☐ No

**NOTES:** NA

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** October 17, 2016

Richard Kurylo  
Manager, Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 6



City and County of San Francisco

**JANE KIM**  
**金貞妍**

September 30, 2016

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Executive Director  
San Francisco Office of Small Business  
City Hall, Room 110  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Project Open Hand nomination for the Legacy Business Registry

Dear Regina:

I would like to formally nominate Project Open Hand as a candidate for the Legacy Business Registry in San Francisco.

In 1985, after seeing a close friend with AIDS suffer from malnutrition, a San Francisco grandmother and retired food-service worker named Ruth Brinker decided to feed her neighbors during the early days of the epidemic. She prepared meals in her kitchen for seven neighbors with AIDS and so began her vision of "*meals with love*" which is still alive and remains the motivating force and mission of Project Open Hand. The pioneering organization continues to serve people with HIV/AIDS, and has expanded to feed seniors as well as our neighbors who are fighting cancer, heart disease, diabetes and other critical illnesses.

Project Open Hand has been growing ever since. In 1997, Project Open Hand purchased the current headquarters at 730 Polk Street in the heart of San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. Today, Project Open Hand prepares 2,500 nutritious meals daily and provides 200 bags of healthy groceries every day to help sustain clients as they battle serious illnesses, isolation, or the health challenges of aging. Each day, more than 125 Project Open Hand volunteers visit the neighborhood headquarters to nourish our community.

More than 1,400 of their clients live in the Tenderloin, as do many of their employees. In addition, Project Open Hand provides below market rental space to The Shanti Project (Shanti) and the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center (API). Both Shanti and API's missions align with that of Project Open Hand – to serve the most vulnerable. Without Project Open Hand's support and space, the communities served by these organizations would suffer greatly. Non-profits that Project Open Hand partners within the neighborhood also include: Glide Memorial Church, St. Anthony's, Larkin Street Youth Services, Tom Waddell Clinic and many more.

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 6



City and County of San Francisco

**JANE KIM**  
**金貞妍**

Project Open Hand ran a successful \$7.5 million capital campaign in 1998 to restore the building at 730 Polk to its original 1922 luster and garnered the support of hundreds of community donors. In retrofitting the space to produce thousands of meals daily, Project Open Hand maintained the architectural integrity of the original structure – while also adding solar panels to make it one of the first “green” buildings in the Tenderloin. Today, the exterior of the W.L. Schmolle-designed building stands as a proud beacon of hope for the neighborhood, not because of its grand structure, but because of the good work that happens within its walls.

Project Open Hand’s mission is one the community simply cannot go without. I am proud to nominate Project Open Hand as a candidate for the San Francisco Legacy Business Registry.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Jane Kim

## APPLICATION FOR

# Legacy Business Registry

Legacy Business Registry is authorized by Section 2A.242 of the San Francisco Administrative Code. The registration process includes nomination by a member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor, a written application, an advisory recommendation from the Historical Preservation Commission, and approval of the Small Business Commission.

## 1. Current Owner / Applicant Information

NAME OF BUSINESS		
Project Open Hand		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business):		
Project Open Hand is an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. The organization is held accountable by a Board of Directors in partnership with the CEO: Carmela D. Krantz, Board Chair Mark Ryle, CEO		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	
730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109	(415 ) 447-2300	
	EMAIL	
	mryle@openhand.org	
WEBSITE	FACEBOOK PAGE	YELP PAGE
openhand.org	https://www.facebook.com/ProjectOpenHand	https://www.yelp.com/biz/project-open-hand-san-francisco

APPLICANT'S NAME	
Mark Ryle	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Business Owner
APPLICANT'S TITLE	
CEO	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109	(415 ) 447-2300
	EMAIL
	mryle@openhand.org

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER (if applicable)	SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable)
	C1194089

NAME OF NOMINATOR (Completed by OSB Staff)	DATE OF NOMINATION (Completed by OSB Staff)

## 2. Business Addresses

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	START DATE OF BUSINESS
1668 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA	94109	09/1985
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?		DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		09/1985 - 07/1988

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
2720 Seventeenth Street, San Francisco, CA	94110	07/1988 - 07/1997

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA	94109	07/1997 - Present
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION

### 3. Eligibility Criteria

Attach the business's written historical narrative and supplemental documents as described under section three of the application instruction.

### 4. San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws, and Public Information Release

Please read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the statement. Then sign below in the space provided.

- ☒ I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- ☒ I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- ☒ I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- ☒ I attest that the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) has not determined that the business is currently in violation of any of the City's labor laws, and that the business does not owe any outstanding penalties or payments ordered by the OLSE.
- ☒ I understand that documents submitted with this application may be made available to the public for inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.
- ☒ I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.
- ☒ I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.

Mark Ryle, LCSW 10/02/16

Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:



**Project Open Hand Legacy Business Registry Application October 2016**  
**Section 4: Historical Narrative**

**Criterion 1**

***a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquartered location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.***

Project Open Hand was founded in San Francisco in 1985 at a time when the city found itself at ground zero of a frightening and devastating epidemic called AIDS. While many felt helpless as they witnessed the disease claim friends, family and co-workers, a retired food services worker named Ruth Brinker felt something needed to be done. Ruth, a grandmother, began preparing “meals with love” in her kitchen and delivering them to seven neighbors with AIDS who were far too frail and critically ill to cook for themselves. At the time, there were no social services in place to provide meals to those weakened by HIV. As more people in the community heard about Ruth’s “project,” the list of clients grew. To accommodate the urgent need, Project Open Hand moved its operation that same year to the 1668 Bush Street basement of Trinity Episcopal Church. In the ensuing and formative years, Project Open Hand grew to serve thousands of meals each day and moved its operation to further accommodate the need by purchasing a kitchen at 2720 17<sup>th</sup> Street in 1987.

By 1991, after reaching the 1 millionth meal served landmark and adopting a grocery service, Project Open Hand graduated from a grassroots organization to establishing itself as 501c3 nonprofit. As Project Open Hand surpassed its 3 millionth meal served to the critically ill, it faced an urgent need to centralize its kitchen, administration and delivery operations. In the summer of 1997, Project Open Hand moved into the building at 730 Polk Street. The four-story brick structure designed by famed San Francisco architect W.L. Schmolle was ideally suited to fit the needs of Project Open Hand as it enhanced its services in the face of a changing epidemic. The “POH Building” was transformed into a site producing thousands of nutritious meals, bags of groceries and valuable nutrition counseling and education services. Having a single, centralized location in the heart of the city’s Tenderloin District immediately established the POH Building as an easily accessible anchor point for the community of clients and volunteers. Centrally located in San Francisco and nearer to public transportation routes (walking distance from Civic Center BART and MUNI Stations) – and with larger facilities – meals were prepared and delivered more efficiently, client-waiting time was shortened and public awareness about Project Open Hand grew.

Today, as Project Open Hand expanded its services beyond AIDS/HIV, to include those fighting critical illnesses such as breast cancer, diabetes and congestive heart failure – more than 2,500 nutritious meals are prepared and over 200 bags of healthy groceries are provided out of the POH Building. The fully stocked and bustling grocery center on the second floor of the POH Building comes alive with smiles and positive energy as clients and caregivers come by to pick up healthy groceries. Also on the second floor, nutrition education and counseling is available in our Wellness Center where registered dieticians and clinical social workers are available for regular check-ins and advice. Each day, the Willow Avenue entrance sees a fleet of delivery trucks stock up on meals en route for delivery to homebound clients and the senior meals program with partners at 20 sites across San Francisco.



***b. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for more than six months?***

In its entire history, Project Open Hand has not missed a single day of preparing *meals with love* to critically ill San Franciscans.

***c. Is the business a family owned business? If so, give the generational history of the business.***

Project Open Hand was founded by Ruth Brinker in 1985 as a grassroots organization and was established as a 501c3 nonprofit organization in 1991.

***d. Describe the ownership history when the business ownership is not the original owner or a family owned business.***

Project Open Hand was founded by Ruth Brinker in 1985 as a grassroots organization and was established as a 501c3 nonprofit organization in 1991.

***e. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years, the applicant will need to provide documentation of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.***

Not applicable.

***f. Note any other special features of the business location, such as, if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.***

In nearly every year of its existence, Project Open Hand has received public recognition in the form of Project Open Hand Day and Project Open Hand Weekend proclamations from several mayors and the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco. Most recently, Mayor Ed Lee and Supervisor Scott Wiener issued proclamations for Project Open Hand Day and Weekend in September of 2016.

**Criterion 2**

***a. Describe the business's contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community or San Francisco.***

More than 1,400 Project Open Hand clients live in the Tenderloin, as do many of the organization's employees and volunteers. Since 1998, Project Open Hand also participated in a growing senior meal program with deliveries to 20 sites across the city – including three facilities that focus on veterans. The Senior Meal Program serves nutritious meals to approximately 4,000 seniors in need annually. Project Open Hand continues to improve menus to meet the nutritional needs and tastes of seniors – many of whom utilize this lunch as their only substantial meal of the day.

***b. Is the business (or has been) associated with significant events in the neighborhood, the City, or the business industry?***

Project Open Hand participates and partners on several high-profile events including, but not limited to the Annual Ghirardelli Chocolate Festival, the (San Francisco Giants) Giant Race, AIDS Walk San Francisco, Avon Walk to End Breast Cancer and more. These significant events attract upwards of 50,000 participants and help raise awareness and funds to fight critical illnesses for San Francisco residents.

***c. Has the business ever been referenced in an historical context? Such as in a business trade publication, media, historical documents?***

Project Open Hand's building was fossilized in the following documents: 2010 "Van Ness Auto Row Support Structures" survey of automobile-related buildings by Architectural Historian, William Kostura; San Francisco Examiner, September 23, 1922, "Chanslor-Lyon Co. Building"; 1929 and 1948 San born maps ("wholesale auto supplies"); Crocker-Langley and Polk's city directory, and public reverse directory listings of building occupants, 1923-1966. Additionally, since its inception in 1985, Project Open Hand has received consistent coverage from major and independent media outlets in the Bay Area. In 2016 alone, Project Open Hand has been profiled in the San Francisco Chronicle, KRON4 News, KPIX News, KTVU News and the Bay Area Reporter. Sample clippings are included in this application.

***d. Is the business associated with a significant or historical person?***

Although it was never her intention, Project Open Hand founder Ruth Brinker rose to a significantly high profile in the Bay Area and in the national discussion on AIDS, receiving praise and coverage in major media outlets, including the Washington Post and Time Magazine. In her 2011 obituary, the San Francisco Chronicle said this about Ruth Brinker: "From 1985 to her retirement in the early 1990s, Ms. Brinker pushed, cajoled and charmed city leaders, produce vendors, grocers and health officials into supporting her charity, which today serves almost 2,600 meals a day to seniors and those suffering from AIDS, breast cancer and other debilitating diseases." Project Open Hand Board of Director alumni include Major League Baseball Manager Dusty Baker and former GAP Chairman Thomas Harris, among others.

***e. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?***

Project Open Hand's mission is to provide *meals with love* to the sick and the elderly. The organization's vision is that "no one who is sick or elderly in our community will go without nutritious meals with love." In 2016, Project Open Hand delivered its 19 Millionth Meal to critically ill and senior neighbors in our community.

***f. Provide a description of the community the business serves.***

Project Open Hand serves San Francisco and Alameda County residents fighting HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, diabetes and other critical illnesses – as well as seniors facing hunger.

***g. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building/structure/site/ object/or interior?***

The building was designed by renown architect W.L. Schmolle, known for his work in San Francisco.

***h. How would the community be diminished if the business were to be sold, relocated, shut down, etc.?***

While Project Open Hand serves clients of all incomes, many have little or no income due to illness and struggles to pay for medical care. In fact, 90% of our clients live below the poverty level. Project Open Hand also provides below market rental space to The Shanti Project, the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center, as well as Lava Mae so that they may provide mobile showers and sanitation service to those experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Without Project Open Hand's support and space, the communities served would suffer greatly.

**Criterion 3**

***a. Describe the business and the essential features that define its character.***

Project Open Hand's life-sustaining food has the incredible power to help clients crush cancer, demolish diabetes, tackle HIV, and battle the effects of aging. But it's more than that. Whether clients receive home-delivered meals, pick up food at our grocery center, or enjoy meals in senior dining rooms, Project Open Hand provides food with love, a friendly face and a sense of community, which can lead to better health.

***b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to retain the businesses historical character? (e.g., business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)***

Ruth's vision of "meals with love" is still alive and remains the motivating force behind all that Project Open Hand does to nourish and engage the community.

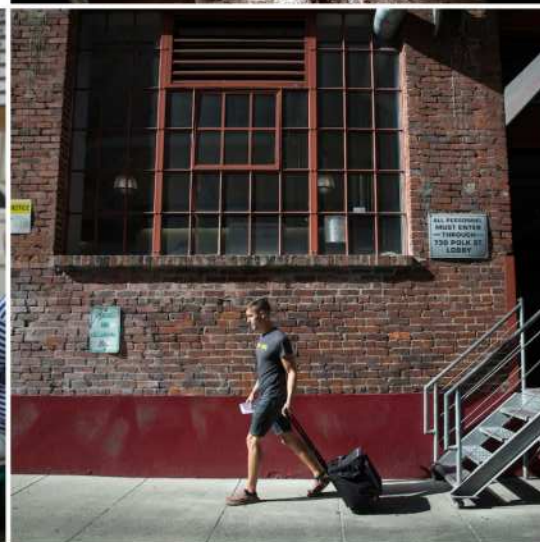
***c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.). Does the building occupied by the business relate to the immediate neighborhood?***

Project Open Hand ran a successful \$7.5 million capital campaign to restore the building to its original 1922 luster, garnering support from hundreds of community donors. In the early 2000s, Project Open Hand added solar panels on its roof, making it one of the first "green" buildings in the Tenderloin. There is also an indoor greenhouse, where herbs and greens are grown and used by chefs in client meals, advancing efforts to provide our clients with the freshest, healthiest food possible, while continuing our commitment to source our ingredients as locally as possible. Additional features include murals, paintings and plaques honoring key contributors to the organization's history. World renown muralist Charley Brown provided POH Building with a mural in the front lobby, commemorating generous donors who gave to the 1998 campaign for the building's renovation.

***d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.***

Not applicable.







# San Francisco Examiner

## AIDS meal program jubilant at new site

Project Open Hand moves to Polk St.

By Michael Dougan  
OF THE CHRONICLE STAFF

Tim Nolan gazed at a row of hermetically wrapped packages that resemble kosher airline meals, each containing chicken and carrots. He was grinning. "This is a historic moment for us," said Nolan, director of Project Open Hand.

At noon Monday, these were the first of 1,200 hot meals to roll off the assembly line in the project's spanking new quarters at 730 Polk St.



A larger kitchen makes it easier for workers at Project Open Hand.

26 BAY AREA REPORTER 2 October 1997

## Project Open Hand's New San Francisco Grocery Center Opens on October 7th!

You'll find us at 730 Polk Street between Ellis & Eddy. Our Grocery Center at 1116 Howard Street closes on October 2nd.

To volunteer call 447-2404. To start or change services call 1-800-551-MEAL.



Meals with love for people with AIDS.

# TIME

Nation

TIME/JANUARY 9, 1989

## For Goodness' Sake

### Open Heart, Open Hand

"I really believe that people with AIDS are dying of malnutrition, not AIDS"

Ruth Brinker is grandmother incarnate, a balm of memories and sympathies. As she sits at the edge of his messy bed, the young blond man grins the lid off his dinner. An Italian omelet, roast potatoes, broccoli. The cramped hotel room actually smells of home. "Ruth," he says, "I love you."

At that very moment, several dozen volunteers are playing out the same scene in several hundred rooms and apartments all across San Francisco, feeding and cheering men and women with AIDS. These volunteers are the soldiers of Project Open Hand, which Brinker, 66, started in 1985. She and her workers now provide 1,100 meals a day.

Brinker did not set out to become a savior. In 1984 a young architect she knew fell ill. "I'd never had any experi-



## Visual Ideas Help Those in

Ruth Brinker and her desire to feed a few sick and hungry people. And she pushed it and nurtured it for five years, until, she said, "I couldn't take it any farther."

So the city will honor her with a plaque in Willow Alley off Polk Street, a small reminder of something that started through one person's large and generous spirit. She thinks it's all kind of funny, but then, that's what she thought in 1985 when she had that little

Got a story to tell? Garcia at (415) 774-1107, or garcia@sfgate.com

Feb. 24, 1998 Chronicle

### KEN GARCIA

## Open Mind Results in Open Hand

Ruth Brinker started an S.F. 'love story'

Ruth Brinker had this funny thought years ago when all the world's doctors and scientists and researchers were running forth to do battle with a deadly killer that came to be known as AIDS.

What about the food?

A simple, clear idea. A tiny dot in a big picture. A generous leap for mankind.

Brinker had a friend dying of

Michael J. Solomon  
Novato resident  
Michael John Solomon, 51, of Novato, died of a heart attack Feb. 17.

He was a native of Boston, Mass. He attended St. Anselm's School and graduated from Marin Catholic High School and San Francisco



## Project Open Hand™

meals with love

## Open Hand Moves Mission to New Kitchen



Project Open Hand, a nonprofit group that prepares and delivers food for Bay Area residents with AIDS, moved the last meal from its Mission District kitchen this weekend. Above, from left, Carol Sorensen, Anna Marry, Executive Director Tom Nelson, founder Ruth Brinker, Tandy True and Dyle Robinson help with the meal. The group will keep serving hot meals from its new Tenderloin kitchen on Polk Street (left), which opens today. In bidding farewell to the Mission kitchen at 2720 7th St., hundreds of volunteers helped prepare 1,200 meals Friday afternoon.

## Ruth Brinker, Project Open Hand founder, dies

By Will Kane | August 31, 2011




## For San Francisco's AIDS network, survival evolution

By Erin Alday | June 25, 2016 | Updated: July 15, 2016 4:18pm



Photo: Liz Hefel, The Chronicle











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Video Surveillance  
In use on  
these premises

LOADING  
AND  
UNLOADING  
20'

ALL PERSONNEL  
MUST ENTER  
THROUGH  
730 POLK ST.  
LOBBY







THIS LOBBY IS DEDICATED TO  
PROJECT OPEN HAND'S MANY VOLUNTEERS.  
WHOSE LOVE FEEDS US ALL.



WALL  
OF  
HONOR

















































# For San Francisco's AIDS network, survival and evolution

By Erin Allday | June 25, 2016 | Updated: July 15, 2016 4:18pm

0



Photo: Liz Hafalia, The Chronicle

Wilshia Seeley (left) and San Francisco campaign monitors Dustin Finkle (right) and Shamita Jayakumar middle right) prep carrots in the kitchen of Project Open Hand on Friday, June 24, 2016, in San Francisco, Calif.

In the founding days of Project Open Hand, a nonprofit agency that grew out of the AIDS epidemic, volunteers would make and deliver meals for clients: young men who were barely

able to get out of bed, much less shop for food or cook their own dinners. Young men who were dying.

They'd be given steaming plates of high-carb, high-protein, high-calorie comfort foods like pastas and casseroles to combat malnutrition and weight loss from the wasting condition that marked their illness.

But 35 years later, the menu has changed — it's skinless chicken breasts and steamed vegetables now — along with the clients. They have diabetes and heart disease in addition to HIV. They're 55, not 25. And they're going to live.

"Our guys are complex now," said Mark Ryle, chief executive of Project Open Hand. "And we're a more sophisticated organization."

Project Open Hand is part of a vast web of nonprofit services for San Francisco residents with AIDS or HIV that formed alongside the epidemic and is now in the midst of an evolution. The landscape of the disease has shifted so dramatically in the past 15 years that each agency's leaders must figure out what role, if any, they play in the arena of HIV support.

About 16,000 people are living with HIV in San Francisco, and for many, their health and well-being depend on the survival of these agencies. But the population and its needs have changed. A disease that once was largely considered a death sentence is now a chronic and treatable condition. People with HIV are older — in San Francisco, more than half are at least 50 — and they need financial help, mental health services and care for medical issues beyond HIV.



#### MORE BY ERIN ALLDAY



**Search for HIV's Holy Grail: New plan of attack in SF**

**Stanford HIV study casts doubt on abstinence efforts in Africa**



**Pioneering elbow transplant at UCSF**



Meanwhile, funds for HIV and AIDS are drying up. In San Francisco, federal funding has been cut in half since the peak years in the 1990s, to less than \$20 million annually.



The city has always supplemented that federal money, but the drop is still concerning. And many agencies report that they're losing donors to more urgent or popular charitable causes.

In response, some nonprofits have disappeared. Many have expanded services to better match the changing needs of their HIV clients or to reach new groups — patients with cancer, heart disease or diabetes, for example. Some nonprofits are merging to conserve resources.

“The AIDS epidemic is changing. And we should be changing with it,” said Barbara Garcia, head of San Francisco’s Department of Public Health, which funds roughly 100 HIV/AIDS nonprofits. Those changes, she said, aren’t always easy, and may mean some agencies need to shut down.

A form of “organizational Darwinism” is under way, said Craig Miller, the founder of AIDS Walk, which raises money for HIV groups. “The process isn’t necessarily any prettier than it is in the animal kingdom, but it’s necessary,” he said.



Photo: Liz Hafalia, The Chronicle

Basil as well as other herbs grown in hydroponic systems at Project Open Hand are used in their meals on Friday, June 24, 2016, in San Francisco, Calif.

### **‘Double-edged sword’**

Last week, Positive Resource Center — one of San Francisco’s oldest AIDS agencies, which provides benefits and employment counseling to people with HIV — announced plans to merge with Baker Places and AIDS Emergency Fund. Baker Places is a 52-year-old agency that provides housing and treatment services for people with substance abuse and mental health issues, and AIDS Emergency Fund offers grants of up to \$1,000 for people with HIV.

Leaders of the agencies said the merger will give clients better access to long-term care, while keeping the nonprofits solvent.

“Many organizations are asking themselves, ‘How am I going to survive on just HIV?’” said Brett Andrews, executive director of Positive Resource Center. “It’s almost a double-edged



sword. We are excited people are living longer, but we may have lost the political will to keep these organizations going.”

Sandra Nathan was hired as executive director of AIDS Emergency Fund last year specifically to help the agency plot a path for survival. Its client base has fallen dramatically since the peak years of the epidemic in the mid-1990s, from roughly 3,000 to 1,700 last year.

But it's tough to let go of an agency so deeply rooted in the response to the crisis. The AIDS Emergency Fund was built by men in the gay community, and their friends and families, who raised money for emergency grants to help AIDS patients pay phone bills, rent, groceries and other expenses that could throw an already chaotic life into financial ruin.



Photo: Liz Hafalia, The Chronicle

Volunteer shoppers Greg Karabeinikoff (left) and Richard Melnick get listed items for clients at the grocery center at Project Open Hand on Friday, June 24, 2016, in San Francisco, Calif.

“We’ve always occupied a unique niche,” Nathan said. “The best we can do now is to combine our programs with a larger nonprofit organization.”

The shift in services at HIV agencies started not long after the first antiretroviral drugs to treat the virus arrived in the late 1990s. But it’s been a prolonged shakeup, and one that continues to rattle the city’s nonprofit infrastructure, often referred to as the “San Francisco model.”

In recent years, as HIV service providers have become more aware of the needs of aging, long-term survivors, many of whom never expected to live this long. Groups like Shanti Project, which provides peer support, have expanded their services.

Two years ago, Shanti incorporated a program called Honoring Our Experience, which holds weekend retreats and dances for survivors. In November, Shanti merged with a group called PAWS — for Pets Are Wonderful Support — that opened in the mid-1980s and seemed like a good fit for Shanti’s older clients, many of whom rely on pets to fend off isolation.

“We actually went from Shanti helping people die well to Shanti helping people live well,” said Executive Director Kaushik Roy.





Photo: Liz Hafalia, The Chronicle

David Warnecke (right) pets Rocco (middle) as they wait for food at the grocery center and kitchen at Project Open Hand on Friday, June 24, 2016, in San Francisco, Calif. Owner of Rocco (left) accepts photo but does not want to be identified.

Even more fundamental was the decision to take on clients who did not have HIV. Shanti started a program for people with breast cancer in 2001, and later expanded it to women with all kinds of cancer. Two years ago, the agency added a program for people with hepatitis C. Now, only about two-thirds of Shanti's clients have HIV.

Roy and other nonprofit leaders said that even as they've reached out to non-HIV clients, they remain HIV-centered. But the shifts in services can be difficult — for clients, volunteers and the community at large. Long-term survivors complain of feeling left behind as agencies move on to other types of clients.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the city's largest and oldest HIV-focused agency, took criticism for merging with the Magnet health clinic in the Castro eight years ago and Stop AIDS



Project in 2012.

But perhaps the most emotional transition in the foundation's history was a much smaller one, said James Loduca, senior vice president. One of the foundation's first services was a phone hotline, which famously started ringing immediately after it was installed in a small Castro Street office in 1982. By 2009, the hotline, which offered advice and support for people with HIV, had become all but irrelevant; no one called for information they could get so easily online.

"The amount of resources that were being poured into keeping it functional versus the sharp decline in calls, of course we couldn't keep it," Loduca said. "But it brought on some soul-searching, especially for board members who were some of the first volunteers at the hotline."



Photo: Liz Hafalia, The Chronicle

Dispatcher James Vilchez (left) and driver Otto Baltodano (right) unload the truck used to send meals to the elderly from Project Open Hand on Friday, June 24, 2016, in San Francisco, Calif.

### **'Breaking up the family'**

When Project Open Hand started offering meals to people with conditions besides HIV a year ago, some of its older HIV clients objected, said Ryle, the chief executive. They told him that they wouldn't feel comfortable with so many unfamiliar faces around. Even some volunteers had reservations. One morning, Ryle was in the kitchen watching workers prepare the day's meals when a longtime volunteer took him to task.

"You know, you're breaking up the family," Ryle recalled her saying. "You're bringing in people who aren't part of us."

But even as she griped, she never stopped chopping carrots. "Maybe it was for someone with diabetes instead of HIV," Ryle said. "Maybe she wasn't happy about that. But she knew it was important work."

*Erin Allday is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. Email: [erallday@sfchronicle.com](mailto:erallday@sfchronicle.com) Twitter: [@erinallday](https://twitter.com/erinallday)*



**Erin Allday**

Health Reporter

HEARST *san francisco*

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# Ruth Brinker, Project Open Hand founder, dies

By Will Kane | August 14, 2011

0



Ruth Brinker, a noted AIDS activist, died on Saturday. She was 89.

In the early 1980s, Ruth Brinker saw friends with AIDS slowly wasting away, too weak to cook for themselves. She knew she could help.



She headed to her kitchen and whipped up a meal. Then another. And then another. Before she knew it, Ms. Brinker had started Project Open Hand, a San Francisco charity renowned for being one of the first to support gay men suffering from AIDS.

Ms. Brinker died Monday at the age of 89. The cause was complications related to vascular dementia, said her daughter, Lisa Brinker.

From 1985 to her retirement in the early 1990s, Ms. Brinker pushed, cajoled and charmed city leaders, produce vendors, grocers and health officials into supporting her charity, which today serves almost 2,600 meals a day to seniors and those suffering from AIDS, breast cancer and other debilitating diseases.



"In the days before drugs, food was the treatment" for AIDS, said Jim Illig, director of government relations at Project Open Hand.

Ms. Brinker often rose at 4 a.m. to corner food vendors and persuade them to donate fresh supplies for the meals she and others would prepare. "She would be like a little ant that brings everything back to the house," said Fernando Castillo, who prepared meals for Project Open Hand for many years. "She would say to the managers, 'We want to buy 10 to 20 cases of zucchini,' and we'd come away with 30 more than that," he said.

She was fearless, friends and family members said - except when it came to soliciting funds from corporations like Chevron and Wells Fargo. "She'd never asked for money before," said Bob Brenneman, director of development for the charity.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Ms. Brinker and Project Open Hand were investigated for financial improprieties but ultimately cleared.

"The epidemic was just raging out of control," said Tom Nolan, the charity's executive director. "She'd have people literally go to the bars at night and pass a hat around and then go buy potatoes. If the choice were between perfect records and saving people who would die, she made the right choice."



Born in South Dakota, Ms. Brinker moved to San Francisco in 1955. She wrote a column for The Chronicle on pets before opening an antique store and working for Meals on Wheels.

Despite the success of her organization, Ms. Brinker was never known to gloat, friends said.

Even when Mother Teresa visited San Francisco and noted how much Ms. Brinker had accomplished, Ms. Brinker demurred.

"I said, 'Oh my God, look what Mother Teresa said about you,' and all she said was, 'That was very nice of her to say that,' " Castillo said.

Ms. Brinker is survived by two daughters, Lisa of San Francisco and Sara of Las Vegas; a grandson, Max Corso of Las Vegas; and a great-grandson, Bailey Corso, also of Las Vegas.

A public service is planned for Sept. 12. The family asks that donations in Ms. Brinker's honor be made to Project Open Hand.

E-mail Will Kane at [wkane@sfgate.com](mailto:wkane@sfgate.com).



**Will Kane**

Reporter

HEARST 04/16/2016

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*The City and County of San Francisco*

**PROCLAMATION**  
**PROJECT OPEN HAND DAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 9, 2016**

**WHEREAS**, Project Open Hand was founded in the City & County of San Francisco in 1985 and in 2016 will serve its 19 millionth "meal with love" to critically ill Bay Area neighbors and seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, Every day, Project Open Hand continues to nourish and engage our community by serving thousands of people in the Bay Area battling serious, life-threatening illnesses, and providing them with healthy, nutritious food; and

**WHEREAS**, Project Open Hand founded the movement of delivering nutritious *meals with love* to the critically ill and still today is the largest provider of nutrition to the HIV/AIDS community in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Project Open Hand believes food is medicine and provides 200 bags of healthy groceries every day to help sustain clients as they battle serious illness, isolation or the health challenges of old age; and

**WHEREAS**, Since 1998, Project Open Hand has served nutritious lunches to seniors and adults with disabilities at over 20 community dining rooms across San Francisco; and

**WHEREAS**, Project Open Hand has been an early pioneer in battling the stigma of HIV/AIDS and has expanded its services to help those with illnesses such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease; and

**WHEREAS**, Project Open Hand engages a robust and committed network of more than 5,300 volunteers who contribute nearly 100,000 hours of service each year in the organization's kitchen, grocery center, senior centers, delivery routes and special events; and

**WHEREAS**, Project Open Hand has partnered with the San Francisco Giants and Ghirardelli Chocolate Company for a special two-day celebration that includes the Giant Race and the Ghirardelli Chocolate Festival to help raise funds and awareness for the sick or elderly in our community; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Board of Supervisors proclaims September 10-11, 2016 to be **Project Open Hand Day** in the City and County of San Francisco.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Scott Wiener".

---

Scott Wiener  
Member, Board of Supervisors  
September 9, 2016





*The City and County of San Francisco*

**PROCLAMATION**

**PROJECT OPEN HAND WEEKEND**

**SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2016**

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---

Scott Wiener  
Member, Board of Supervisors  
September 9, 2016



Project Open Hand

meals with love



**FREE HEALTHY FOOD**

..... for .....  
neighbors fighting critical illness



# FREE HEALTHY MEALS AND GROCERIES TO HELP YOU HEAL

**PROJECT OPEN HAND** provides free, nutritious meals and groceries to neighbors living with critical illnesses who are experiencing symptoms. We serve residents of Alameda County and San Francisco. Home-delivered meals are available for clients with mobility issues.

---

## ELIGIBLE DIAGNOSES INCLUDE:

- Autoimmune Disease (e.g., Lupus)
  - Cancer, active diagnosis
  - Congestive Heart Failure
  - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
  - Coronary Artery Disease
  - End-stage Renal Disease
  - Diabetes
  - End-stage Liver Disease
  - Hepatitis C
  - HIV+/AIDS
  - Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS)
  - Multiple Sclerosis
  - Serious Neurological Condition/Stroke/Parkinson's
  - Recent Major Surgery
- 

*Find out if you or a loved one is eligible for our Wellness Programs.*

**ALAMEDA COUNTY:** 510-622-0221

**SAN FRANCISCO:** 415-483-6108

**E** [clientservices@openhand.org](mailto:clientservices@openhand.org)

**W** [openhand.org](http://openhand.org)



**Project Open Hand**  
meals with love



# VAN NESS AUTO ROW SUPPORT STRUCTURES

A Survey of Automobile-Related Buildings  
along the Van Ness Avenue Corridor



*Interior of Don Lee's Cadillac showroom, 1000 Van Ness Avenue*

*by*

William Kostura, Architectural Historian  
P. O. Box 60211  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

*for*

The Department of City Planning  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103

2010



## Automobile parts and supplies stores

### *History of their development*

The first business that advertised in city directory classified as selling auto parts was C. W. Marwedel, a general machinists' supply house on First Street, in 1901. Leavitt and Bill, at 307-309 Larkin, also began to sell auto supplies in 1904, and they were the first to do so in the study area. The number of businesses of this type in the city sharply rose after 1906.

Sellers of auto parts and supplies in San Francisco tended to congregate in the study area, close to the auto showrooms. 36% of such businesses were in the study area in 1908. This percentage rose to an all-time high of 76% in 1911. Thereafter it fluctuated: for example, 53% in 1918, and 63% in 1929. In the latter year, there were 75 such businesses in the study area alone.

These figures are a little misleading, for most of the large automobile dealers in the study area sold auto supplies, and advertised as doing so. Subtract the auto dealers, and the percentage of San Francisco's auto parts stores that were in the study area would be less dramatic. Nevertheless, the study area was clearly the primary neighborhood where auto parts stores, especially the larger ones, could be found.



Chanslor and Lyon's wholesale auto parts and supplies store, 730 Polk Street. Built in 1922 to designs by architect W. L. Schmolle. Integrity is high.

One auto supply business dominated the field in San Francisco: Chanslor and Lyon. It had been founded in Los Angeles, and was already an established business there by the time it opened a branch store in San Francisco, in 1906. During its first sixteen years here C&L occupied four leased buildings in the study area, all now demolished. In 1922 they built 730 Polk Street (extant) to house their wholesale auto supplies and tires store. The *San Francisco Examiner* called it “the largest on the Pacific Coast devoted exclusively to housing automotive equipment.” Chanslor and Lyon remained in this building until 1966. Both Walter Chanslor and Philip Lyon remained officers in this business (president and vice-president) through 1948.

*Architecture of automobile parts and supplies stores*

The largest and finest of these, 730 Polk (1922), is brick masonry in construction, with wooden piers, joists, and girders. It derives its architectural feeling primarily from its tan and buff-colored brick cladding, which has an exceptionally warm tone. Windows have industrial steel sash. Ornament includes a somewhat heavy cornice, a profiled belt course, and shields emblazoned with the letters C&L, for the first occupant, Chanslor and Lyon.

1033-1037 Polk (1920) is reinforced concrete in construction, and has a liberal amount of classical ornament applied to bays of equal width. 1522-1524 Bush (1916) is made of brick and is notable for its row of wooden, pivoting windows in the second story, a feature that has become rare.



Upper portion of 1033-1037 Polk Street, showing classical ornament. Arthur S. Bugbee, architect, 1920. Auto parts stores occupied the two storefronts from 1920 into the early 1930s.



*Surviving automobile supply stores*

In terms of early date, longevity of this use (through 1964), and integrity, the best examples of auto supplies stores in the study area include:

1430-1480 Van Ness Avenue. Built in 1912. Years of auto supply use: 18. Integrity is fair.

1522-1524 Bush Street. Built in 1920. Years of auto supply use: 12. Integrity is good to high.

1033-1037 Polk Street. Built in 1920. Years of auto supply use: 13. Integrity is high.

730 Polk Street (Chanslor and Lyon). Built in 1922. Years of auto supply use: 42 years. Integrity is high.

Tire stores

*History of their development*

This category could have also been included with Specialty Service Shops (below), but because national tire makers were prominently represented in the study area, and occupied conspicuous buildings, it seems important enough to be discussed separately.

Manufacturers of rubber goods began to make solid tires for carriages, wagons, and bicycles, and then pneumatic tires for bicycles and automobiles as the market for such developed. National businesses devoted primarily or entirely to manufacturing automobile tires emerged in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A few such had outlets in San Francisco as early as 1905. In 1906, after the earthquake and fire, three of four tires dealers in the city were in the study area. In 1914, there were 37 tire dealers in the city, and 76% of them were in the study area. The percentage dipped as the numbers of dealers increased; for example, in 1929, 37% of the city's 100 tires dealers were in the study area.

The country's major tires manufacturers, Goodyear and Firestone, both based in Akron, Ohio, vacillated between having their own factory branch stores in San Francisco and selling tires through local dealers. Each opened a factory branch in San Francisco, and in each case the tire companies are known to have negotiated with the building owners regarding their needs before the building was designed and built. In the case of Firestone, the building plans were approved by H. S. Firestone in Akron before a lease was signed. Michelin and other tire manufacturers also opened factory branches in the study area, and other tire dealers were represented by local dealers.

State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code 3CS

Other Listings

Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 6

\*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 730 Polk Street/771 Ellis Street

P1. Historic name of building (if any): Chanslor and Lyon automobile accessories and parts store

P2. Location: \*a: County San Francisco

☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 of \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 of Sec \_\_\_\_\_ B.M.

c. Address 730 Polk Street/771 Ellis Street City San Francisco Zip 94109

d. UTM: Zone \_\_\_\_\_ mE/ \_\_\_\_\_ mN \*e. Assessor's parcel #: Block 740, lot 18

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This is a four-story brick building with wooden internal piers, joists, and girders. It fills its 120-foot by 110-foot lot at the southeast corner of Polk and Ellis streets. The face bricks are slightly variegated, being tan and buff in color. These bricks form the piers, spandrels, parapet, and upper first story walls of the building. The spandrels are very slightly, but visibly, recessed from the piers. Set within the piers and spandrels of the upper three stories are original windows of industrial steel sash. These windows are fixed, save for their centers, which open as hoppers. In the first story all windows have replacement sash of metal. These are divided into many lights, and relate well to the older steel sash in the stories above.

*This Historic Building Qualifies to use the  
California Historic Building Code. With 24 Part 8 (See Continuation Sheet, page 2.)*

*3-20-13 558-6275  
Approved M. Moses Corrette*

\*P3b Resource Attributes: HP7 — four story commercial building; HP8 — wholesale house



\*P4. Resources Present:

☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object  
☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of  
District ☐ Other

P5b. Description of Photo:

(View, date, accession #)

View looking southeast

June 2009

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and

Source: ☒ Historic

☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

1922; building permit

\*P7. Owner and Address:

PROJECT OPEN HAND

730 POLK ST

SAN FRANCISCO CA 94109

\*P8. Recorded by: (Name,

affiliation, and address)

William Kostura

P. O. Box 60211

Palo Alto, CA 94306

\*P9. Date Recorded:

September 2009

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

intensive

P11. Report Citation\*: (Cite survey report.) William Kostura. Van Ness Auto Row Support Structures. San Francisco Department of City Planning, 2010.

\*Attachments: ☐ NONE ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure and Object Record

☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record

☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List)



**Description (continued):**

At the top of the building, just below the parapet, is a profiled cornice, with lions' heads in the soffit of the cornice and curvilinear brackets or modillions beneath, giving support. The other ornament on this building consists of elaborate shields, most likely of terra cotta, each with the raised letters "C&L", which stand for the original owners and occupants, Chanslor and Lyon.

Profiled courses of terra cotta can be found immediately beneath the cornice brackets, at the top and bottom of each industrial steel sash window, at the second floor level, and near the top of the first story.

Coloration includes white, for the cornice, shields, and the string course near the top of the first story; light blue, for the courses beneath the cornice and at the second floor level; reddish-orange, for the courses above and below the steel sash windows; and, as mentioned above, tan and buff bricks. Aside from the bricks and the shields, it is not known for certain whether these colors are original. Finally, the newer first story window sash is reddish, and relates well to the terra cotta window courses.



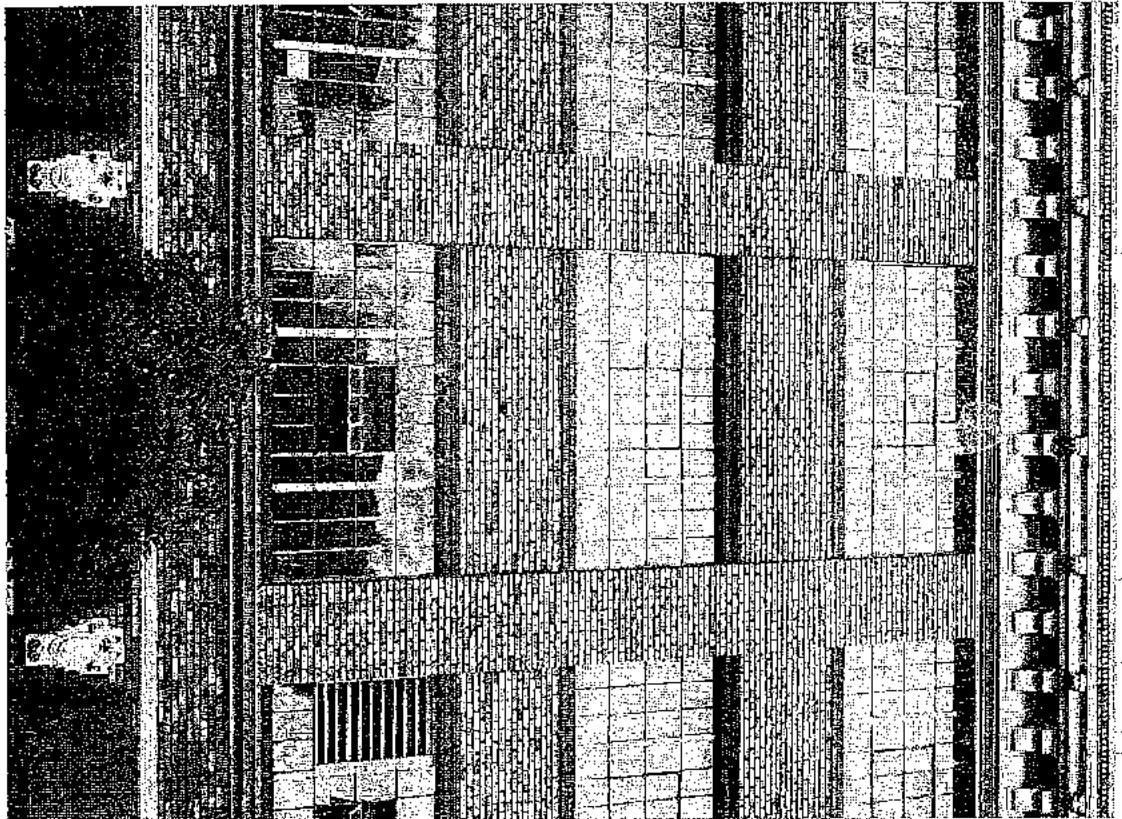
Ellis Street façade

State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Primary #  
HRI/Trinomial

Page 3 of 6  
Recorded by William Kostura

Resource Identifier: 730 Polk Street/771 Ellis Street  
\*Date September 2009    ☒ Continuation    ☐ Update



Detail of an Ellis Street bay



**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

Page 4 of 6

\*NRHP Status Code 3CS

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 730 Polk Street/771 Ellis Street

B1. Historic Name: Chanslor and Lyon automobile accessories and parts store

B2. Common Name: \_\_\_\_\_

B3. Original Use: auto parts store

B4. Present Use: Project Open Hand

\*B5. Architectural Style: Classical Revival

\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Built in 1922. Storefront windows rebuilt in 1986.

\*B7. Moved? ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Original Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\*B8. Related Features:

none

B9a. Architect: William L. Schmolle

b. Builder: York Realty Company

\*B10. Significance: Theme automobile industry Area San Francisco

Period of Significance 1922-1964

Property Type auto accessories store Applicable Criteria 1, 2, 3

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

**History**

This building was built in 1922 for the automobile accessories and parts house, Chanslor and Lyon, for use as their wholesale store. The architect was William L. Schmolle, who practiced in San Francisco from 1909 to 1930.

Chanslor and Lyon was by far the largest and longest-lasting general automobile supplies store in San Francisco's history. It opened in 1906 under the ownership of Walter G. Chanslor and Philip H. Lyon, who lived in Los Angeles. During its first fourteen or so years in San Francisco C&L occupied leased buildings at 542 Golden Gate, 501-507 Golden Gate, 1238-1240 Van Ness, and 1147 Van Ness, all now demolished. By 1922, when they built this building to house their auto supplies and tires store, the owners had moved to San Francisco.

(See Continuation Sheet, page 4.)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) \_\_\_\_\_

**\*B12. References:**

Building permit #107195 (June 7, 1922), at S. F. Building Inspection Dept., 1660 Mission Street

*San Francisco Examiner*, September 23, 1922, "Chanslor-Lyon Co. Building"

1929 and 1948 Sanborn maps ("wholesale auto supplies")

Crocker-Langley and Polk's city directory, and PT&T reverse directory listings for occupants of this building, 1923-1966

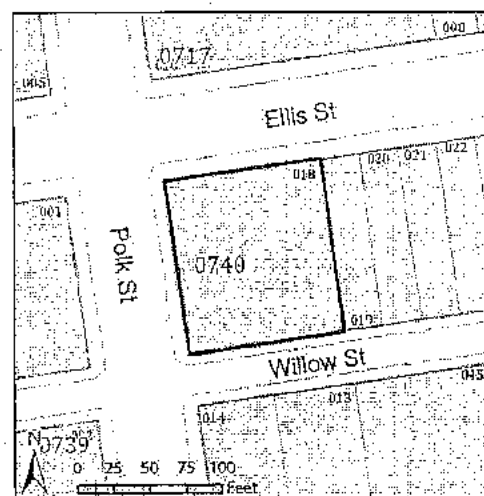
B13. Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\*B14. Evaluator: William Kostura

Date of Evaluation: September 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch map with north arrow required)



### History (continued)

When this building opened in September 1922, the *San Francisco Examiner* called it "the largest on the Pacific Coast devoted exclusively to housing automotive equipment." The 1929 and 1948 Sanborn maps describe the use of the building as "wholesale auto supplies," but from city directory listings it appears that Chanslor and Lyon also engaged in retail sales. It is not known to what degree this store distributed auto supplies through northern California on a wholesale basis. Chanslor and Lyon remained in this building until 1966, for a total of 44 years. Both Walter Chanslor and Philip Lyon remained officers in this business (president and vice-president) through 1948.

The only other auto supplies house in San Francisco that was comparable to Chanslor and Lyon in importance was Kahn and Keville, which was founded in the 1910s and is still in business today. It, however, carried a much more limited line of automobile supplies (mainly tires, batteries, and radios).

### Integrity

Aside from the first story window sash and doors, the façade of this building remains unchanged. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

### Evaluation

This is one of more than 100 buildings along the Van Ness Avenue corridor that have a history as automobile support structures, and that are being evaluated for possible historic significance according to the criteria of the California Register of Historical Resources. With a few exceptions, these buildings were auto showrooms, public garages, auto repair shops, auto parts and supplies stores, and auto painting shops. The time period that is being studied is from the initial years of the automobile industry in San Francisco through 1964. Among the factors that have been considered when evaluating a building are its date of construction, its longevity of auto-related use, the importance of its occupants in local auto industry history, integrity, and architectural quality. These factors, and how they apply to evaluations of buildings, are discussed in a cover report, *Van Ness Auto Row Support Structures, 1908-1964*.

Completed in 1922, this is a moderately early example of an automobile accessories, supplies and tires store. With about 42 years of such use in its history (through 1964), it has excellent longevity in this use. For this reason, and because of the building's high integrity, the building appears to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion 1, at the local level, for its use as an automobile supplies store. With more research into the history of Chanslor and Lyon's wholesale operations, it may develop that this building may also be eligible at the state level. The Period of Significance under this criterion is 1922-1964.

(Continued on page 6.)



**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Page 6 of 6

Resource Identifier: 730 Polk Street/771 Ellis Street

Recorded by William Kostura

\*Date September 2009

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

**Evaluation (continued)**

Walter G. Chanslor and Philip H. Lyon were clearly very important in San Francisco's automobile supplies industry. As this is the last building associated with their San Francisco business that still stands, and because it was their most important store, this building appears to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 2, at the local level. As with Criterion 1, above, this building might also be found to be eligible at the state level with more research. The Period of Significance under this criterion is from 1922 to 1948.

Architecturally, this building is striking in the clarity with which its structure is expressed (by its use of spandrels that are slightly recessed relative to the piers, and of large expanses of industrial steel sash windows), its minimalist but effective use of ornament, and its use of color and texture in the bricks and terra cotta. It is similar in some ways to large, skeletal loft buildings of reinforced concrete that are found South-of-Market and in this study area, but with much more color and texture than those buildings possess. Accordingly, this building appears to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 3 at the local level. The Period of Significance under this criterion is 1922, the year the building was built.

**Character defining features**

The character defining features of this building are its height and width; its brick piers, spandrels, and other wall elements; its industrial steel sash windows; and all ornamental details such as the cornice, profiled courses, and shields. The variegated tan and buff color of the brick is also important. Color testing would have to be done on the decorative elements (cornice, courses, and shields) to see if their color is original, and hence significant.

# FOOD = LOVE



Project Open Hand™



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2014-JUNE 30, 2015



A close-up photograph of a wooden basket filled with fresh vegetables. In the foreground, there are several large, light-brown potatoes. Behind them are several long, white radishes with green leafy tops. To the right, there are several bright orange carrots. A few small red cherry tomatoes are visible on the right side. The basket is made of light-colored wood. A white dotted line curves across the top right of the image.

# FOOD LOVE

## OUR MISSION

Nourish and engage our community by providing *meals with love* to the sick and the elderly.

## OUR VISION

No one who is sick or elderly in our community will go without nutritious *meals with love*.

# DEAR FRIENDS,

2015 marks the 30th Anniversary of Project Open Hand. Whether you are a longtime supporter or a new friend to our organization, we are so thankful for your generosity, which fuels our work to provide *meals with love* to neighbors in need.

Every day, we continue our commitment to providing life-sustaining food, hand in hand with the vital human connections that nourish our clients. And every day, we are amazed and inspired by the thousands of people from across our community who come together—as donors, volunteers, partners and staff—to nourish neighbors who are battling serious illnesses and the health challenges of old age. Thank you.

In this annual report, we are excited to report on the progress of our Food=Medicine Pilot Study, which was conducted over the past year in collaboration with researchers at the University of California, San Francisco. Our research demonstrates what we have known instinctively for so many years—that good nutrition is an essential part of health care, particularly for people with critical illness. We are also proud to highlight the growth of our Senior Lunch Program and the expansion of medically tailored meal types in our Wellness Programs.

**We are excited to lead Project Open Hand and ensure our organization is positioned to thrive and grow in the coming years.** We continue to look for improvements in our organization's processes, structure, financials and sustainability—all while ensuring that love is a key ingredient in all of the nutritious food that we provide.

Thank you for all that you do to help us provide nutritious *meals with love* to our community.

Sincerely,



MARK RYLE, LCSW  
Co-Chief Executive Officer



SCOTT WILLOUGHBY  
Board Chair



SIMON PITCHFORD, PH.D.  
Co-Chief Executive Officer





# FOOD=MEDICINE PILOT STUDY



PRELIMINARY  
RESULTS  
SHOW HEALTH  
IMPROVEMENTS  
AMONG  
PARTICIPANTS:



Better adherence to  
lifesaving medications



Reduced disease-related  
stress and stigma



Reduced costly  
hospitalizations and  
emergency room visits



Improved mental  
health status



Improved health  
outcomes



Increased consumption  
of fruits and vegetables

*“I am always in awe of how  
this entire operation works and  
am eternally grateful. Thanks  
again for the birthday card and  
especially the wonderful food!”*

—KEVIN



In partnership with top researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, Project Open Hand conducted the Food=Medicine Pilot Study this year. We’ve known instinctively for years that our nutritious food is like medicine, helping clients recover, stay stronger, and live healthier lives. Our Food=Medicine Pilot Study aimed to assess that, and the data show the powerful truth behind those observations.

The study involved 60 clients who have HIV/AIDS and/or diabetes, providing them with 100% of their daily nutritional

needs through our meals for five months. We tracked clients’ physical and mental health, eating and nutrition behaviors, and medical outcomes in order to show that good nutrition is a low-cost intervention and a vital part of medical care that can significantly reduce medical costs.

The infographic at the left highlights preliminary results. The study has already generated two peer-reviewed publications for the researchers at UCSF. The full results of our pilot program will be released in early 2016.

## NEW FUNDING AWARDED TO EXPAND OUR RESEARCH

Based on the success of this first pilot study, we have received a new grant to conduct research with a second, larger group of approximately 200 clients living with HIV. Project Open Hand will collaborate again with the research team from UCSF, thanks to funding by the Kaiser Permanente National Community Benefit Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation.



# YEAR IN REVIEW



## CO-CEOS APPOINTED

Simon Pitchford (right) and Mark Ryle were appointed Co-Chief Executive Officers in April 2015, promoted from the senior leadership positions within Project Open Hand. Simon brings a wealth of scientific, operations, and sales and marketing experience to the role. Mark's previous CEO roles (for-profit), significant background in finance and strategy, and clinical social work experience bring a unique lens.

*"As Project Open Hand continues to evolve with a renewed emphasis on wellness and nutrition, Mark and Simon have the expertise to take the organization to that new level. During their time at Project Open Hand, Simon and Mark have impressed the Board with their outstanding leadership, collaboration and innovation. They have been instrumental in making Project Open Hand stronger and positioning it for continued growth and success."*

—SCOTT WILLOUGHBY, Project Open Hand Board Chair



### "GETTING TO ZERO" FOR HIV

This year, Project Open Hand joined the "Getting to Zero" initiative, which aims to reduce new HIV infections to zero in San Francisco and "get to zero" on HIV-associated deaths and stigma. Co-CEO Mark Ryle chairs the coalition committee that is addressing stigma. Project Open Hand continues our commitment to serve our neighbors living with HIV, who comprise 65% of clients in our Wellness Programs. This year, through advocacy efforts, we secured additional funding to provide nutrition to people living with HIV in San Francisco and Alameda Counties.

### MAKING CONNECTIONS IN THE EAST BAY

With new leadership at Project Open Hand this year, we are taking a fresh look at community needs in Alameda County so that we can focus our resources for greatest impact. Recent studies show many illnesses disproportionately impact the East Bay's communities of color, including HIV/AIDS, breast cancer and diabetes. To address this, we are taking three key steps: assessing community nutrition needs, boosting outreach through community partnerships and adapting our service model.



*"Project Open Hand came at a really critical time when I needed help with meals. It's like something came down from heaven. What really helps when I come to Project Open Hand is that there is no language barrier. I feel really comfortable."*

— XUE JUAN (right)





### CELEBRATING AN EVENT-FULL YEAR

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported the many special events that benefited Project Open Hand this year. Our inaugural Taste of the City gala was a big success, raising more money per guest than any Project Open Hand event during the last five years. In total, community events generated more than \$650,000 to support our *meals with love*.

## EXPANSION OF MEDICALLY TAILORED MEALS

Our *meals with love* are delicious and also medically tailored to meet a wide range of nutritional needs and preferences. With our recent expansion of eligible diagnoses, we added two new meal types to meet the needs of a growing number of new clients:

- Our new “diabetic” meals limit saturated fat and keep a consistent carbohydrate level for clients with diabetes, glucose intolerance, metabolic syndrome or a desire to lose weight.
- Our new “renal” meals are designed to meet the dietary restrictions for clients on hemodialysis, with renal failure or a medical condition requiring a low-sodium diet.

We are seeing significant demand for these special meal types, since Project Open Hand is the Bay Area’s leading organization for providing medically tailored meals designed especially for people with diabetes and renal failure at no cost to our clients.

*Project Open Hand offers seven medically tailored meal types. Clients may also opt for meals free of red meat, pork or fish.*

- Regular (low-fat)
- Diabetic
- Bland (no nuts)
- Non-dairy
- Vegetarian
- Mechanically-soft
- Renal



## DOUBLE DUTY TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

In September 2014, Project Open Hand took on the responsibility of producing meals for St. Anthony Foundation’s dining room for three full weeks, as the foundation prepared and moved into its new dining room. In total, we produced and delivered more than 34,000 meals, doubling our daily meal production. Thanks to the volunteers and staff who made this incredible feat possible.

## GROWING OUR SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

This year, we began serving meals at five additional community dining rooms, including four facilities that focus on veterans. As a result of this expansion, we served another 30,000 nutritious meals this year to seniors in need and adults with disabilities. We continue to improve our menus to meet seniors’ nutritional needs and tastes, knowing that for many of our senior and disabled clients, lunch with us is their only substantial meal of the day. To address food insecurity among our senior clients, we introduced hot breakfast at our largest senior dining room. In June 2015, we served the most meals ever in a single month in the history of our program: 27,230 meals in 30 days.



# FOOD = LOVE



Last year, we prepared

# 905,744

meals for seniors in our community and neighbors battling serious illnesses.

How clients accessed our meals:



- 12% home-delivered meals
- 18% picked-up meals
- 32% senior lunches
- 38% groceries (as meals)

## OUR CLIENTS

This year, we nourished

# 7,939

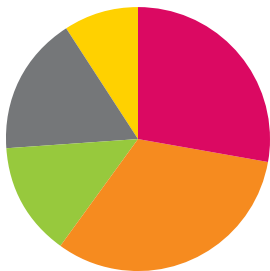
critically ill neighbors and seniors

53% IN SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM



47% IN WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Ethnicity:



- 28% Caucasian
- 32% Asian
- 14% African American
- 17% Latino
- 9% Other

**NINETY PERCENT**  
OF OUR CLIENTS  
LIVE BELOW THE  
POVERTY LEVEL



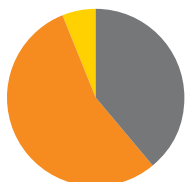
## SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

**4,207** clients served

**283,907** meals with love

**21** community dining rooms across San Francisco (15 public; 6 private)

Age:



39% are 75+ years  
55% are 60-75  
6% are adults with disabilities, 20-59 years

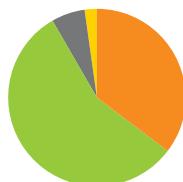
## WELLNESS PROGRAM

**3,732** clients served

**276,306** meals with love

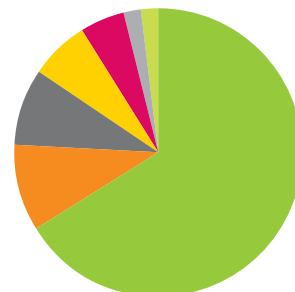
**48,898** grocery bags

Age:



35% are 60-75 years  
57% are 40-59 years  
6% are 20-39 years  
2% are 0-20

### MOST COMMON ILLNESSES AMONG OUR WELLNESS PROGRAM CLIENTS



65% HIV  
10% breast cancer  
9% diabetes  
7% cardiovascular disease  
5% other cancers  
2% end-stage renal disease  
2% other

THIS YEAR, WE RECEIVED MORE THAN

**1,100**

APPLICATIONS FROM NEW CLIENTS.

*That is the highest number of new applicants in a single year since 1995.*

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

We engaged more than

**5,300**  
**VOLUNTEERS**

who contributed

**94,060 HOURS**

to our organization last year, which is approximately a

**\$2.2M VALUE**

to our community.





# 2014-15

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (AS OF JUNE 30)

	2015	2014
Total Assets	\$ 7,409,128	\$ 7,641,937
Total Liabilities	917,449	891,697
Total Net Assets	6,491,679	6,750,240
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	7,409,128	7,641,937

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (AS OF JUNE 30, 2015)

#### REVENUE

From Operations	
Individual Donations	\$ 3,115,144
Government Grants	2,867,557
Program Service Fees	595,911
Foundations	653,155
Business and Corporate Donations	457,362
Fundraising Events	647,196
Bequests	1,110,103
<b>Total Support and Revenue:</b>	<b>9,446,428</b>
Other Revenue (investments, rental income, interest)	707,823
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 10,154,251</b>

#### OPERATING EXPENSES

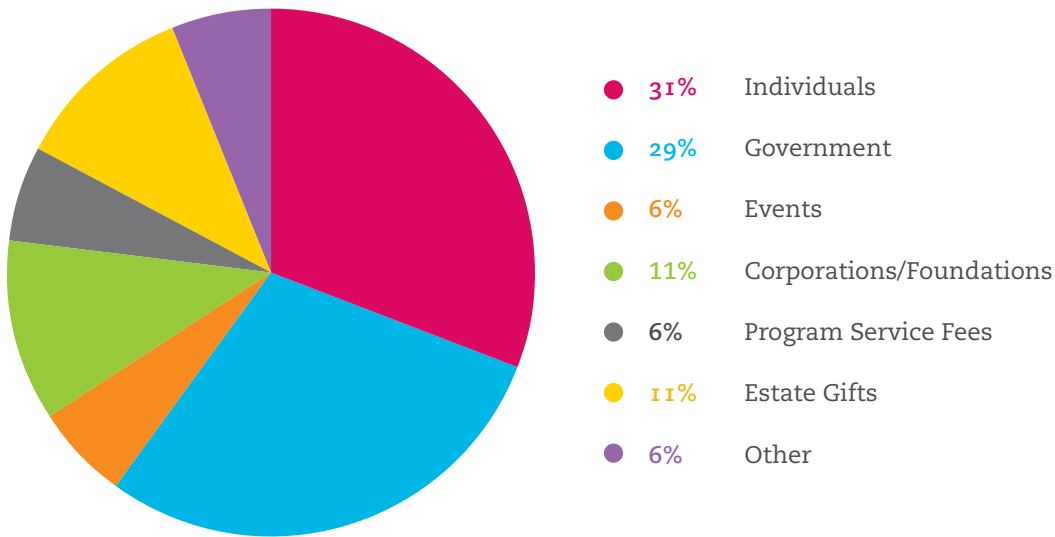
Program Services (Meals and Groceries)	\$ 7,947,045
Management and General Development	2,468,767
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>10,412,812</b>

#### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 6,750,240
Net Assets, End of Year	6,491,679
<b>Change</b>	<b>(258,561)</b>

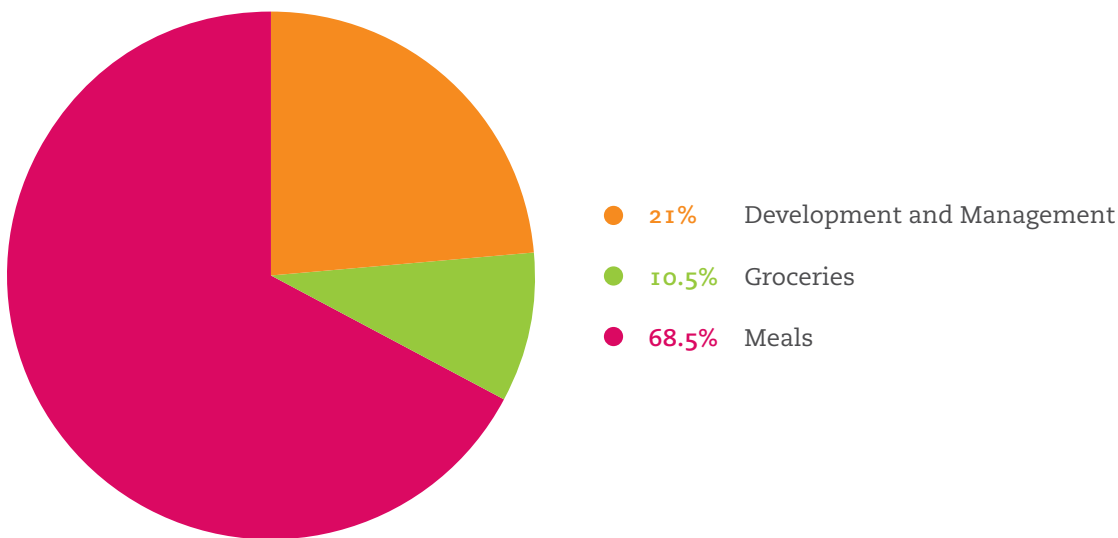
## REVENUE

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## EXPENSES

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Project Open Hand receives partial support from the federally funded Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program through the San Francisco and Alameda County Public Health Departments. The Senior Lunch Program is funded through the San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services, the USDA, senior contributions and private Project Open Hand donors.

This statement of activities and statement of financial position were derived from Project Open Hand's audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2015. The complete financial statements for Project Open Hand audited by Hood and Strong, LLP are available at [openhand.org](http://openhand.org).



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR: Scott Willoughby, San Francisco

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Simon Pitchford, PhD, Co-Chief Executive Officer

Mark Ryle, LCSW, Co-Chief Executive Officer

Jessica Avalos, Vice President, Human Resources

Teresa Ballete, Controller

Kevin Davidson, Director of Food Operations and Executive Chef

Tyra Edwards, Director, Wellness Programs

Noah Lopez, Director, Senior Lunch Program

Jay Owens, Director, Infrastructure

Sean Rosas, Director, Volunteer Services

Maria Stokes, Vice President, Communications

*“Before I started getting food from Project Open Hand, I was eating a lot of cereal. I know I need to eat right, but life is expensive and most of my paycheck goes to my rent. Getting groceries and meals has helped me close the gaps in my budget and get the healthy food I need. Getting help from Project Open Hand helps me keep going, keep fighting. I won’t give up.”*

—PATRICIA (center)



# OUR DONORS

Thank you for your generous contributions to Project Open Hand. With your support, we will continue to provide meals with love to seniors and critically ill neighbors for many years to come. This list includes donors who contributed \$1,000 or more during Fiscal Year 2014-15.

## DIAMOND PLATE CLUB \$100,000+

Anonymous (1)  
Avon Foundation for Women  
BlackRock Financial Management  
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Lennart Olsson  
Giant Race Fundraisers

## PLATINUM PLATE CLUB \$50,000-\$99,999

John Frey & Jane Letourneau  
Marcia & John Goldman  
James C. Hormel &  
Michael P. Nguyen  
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Macy's, Inc.  
AIDS Walk San Francisco  
Fundraisers

## GOLD PLATE CLUB \$25,000-\$49,999

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American Endowment  
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Broadway Cares/Equity Fights  
AIDS  
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Wells Fargo Foundation  
Young Professionals Council,  
Project Open Hand

## SILVER PLATE CLUB \$10,000—\$24,999

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Joan Webb  
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\* Recognizes members of The Supper Club, Project Open Hand's monthly giving program. Through recurring monthly donations, Supper Club members provide a steady stream of income that Project Open Hand can count on to provide life-sustaining meals with love.

## CRYSTAL PLATE CLUB \$5,000—\$9,999

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### CHINA PLATE CLUB \$1,000-\$2,499

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Joyce Freedman  
Diane Freeman  
Robert T. Frey  
Leah & Lawrence Friedman  
Janie & Donald Friend  
Andrea L. Frome  
John & Raj Fry  
Richard I. Fuselier

*“With meals from Project Open Hand, I don’t feel like I’m such a burden on family and friends. I don’t have to worry about where my next meal is coming from or whether it’s good for me because I know Project Open Hand is taking care of it. Having to worry just a little less about meals means less stress, which really helps a lot.” —UT*

Sandra & John McGonigle  
Gail & Peter McIntyre  
Edward Mittelstaedt  
Kate Moore  
R. Douglas Norby  
Garrick O. Ohlsson  
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*"Seeing friends and eating a healthy meal  
 gets me going and keeps me strong.  
 The food is good and healthy, and I  
 especially love the stews and spaghetti."*

— PRISCILLA

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Estate bequests and other planned gifts are an important source of support for Project Open Hand. Our Meals for Life Legacy Circle recognizes donors who include Project Open Hand in their estate plans through a will, trust, insurance plan or other estate planning method.

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### CREATE YOUR LEGACY WITH PROJECT OPEN HAND

Plan now for a gift to Project Open Hand in your estate and financial planning, and you'll help us provide meals with love for many years to come.

By joining our Meals for Life Legacy Circle, you can leave a legacy of kindness and compassion in our community. To learn more, contact Hannah Levinson, 415-447-2494 or [hlevinson@openhand.org](mailto:hlevinson@openhand.org).



Project Open Hand  
meals with love



**FOOD = HOPE**

**FOOD = CARING**

**FOOD = MEDICINE**

**FOOD = LOVE**

**FOOD = COMFORT**

**FOOD = WELL-BEING**

**FOOD = STRENGTH**

**FOOD = HEALTH**

**FOOD = DIGNITY**



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**Legacy Business Registry  
November 16, 2016 Hearing**

**2016-014209LBR; 2016-013529LBR; 2016-013530LBR; 2016-013557LBR;  
2016-014320LBR; 2016-013558LBR; 2016-013561LBR; 2016-013587LBR;  
2016-013588LBR; 2016-014214LBR; 2016-013591LBR; 2016-013782LBR;  
2016-013785LBR; 2016-013788LBR; 2016-013922LBR**

*Filing Date:* October 17, 2016  
*Case No.:* 2016-013588LBR  
*Business Name:* Project Open Hand  
*Business Address:* 730 Polk Street  
*Zoning:* NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Scale)  
130-E Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 0740/018  
*Applicant:* Mark Ryle, CEO  
730 Polk Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Jane Kim, District 6  
*Staff Contact:* Desiree Smith - (415) 575-9093  
desiree.smith@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

## **BUSINESS DESCRIPTION**

Project Open Hand is a nonprofit organization based in the Tenderloin District that provides free healthy meals, groceries, nutrition counseling and education, and social work services to senior citizens and critically ill community members. Historically, Project Open Hand was one of the first organizations to support gay men suffering from AIDS during a time when social services for AIDS victims were nonexistent. Its roots date to 1985, when founder, Ruth Brinker, was moved to feed her ailing neighbors suffering from AIDS. After three years of working out of her kitchen, Brinker was able to secure a space for the project in the basement of Trinity Episcopal Church at 1668 Bush Street, and in 1987, the organization purchased its first kitchen at 2720 17<sup>th</sup> Street. The organization incorporated as a nonprofit 501c3 a few years later in 1991, after serving its 1 millionth meal. Today, Project Open Hand operates out of an architecturally significant four-story brick building at the southeast corner of Polk and Ellis Street, which it purchased in 1997. What began as preparing meals for her seven neighbors grew into a pioneering and influential organization that provides 2,500 meals and 200 bags of groceries per day to senior citizens and clients who battle a range of diseases and illnesses. Clients have the option to pick up groceries on the bustling second floor Grocery Center, while others who are homebound benefit from the organization's home delivery services. Its Wellness Center offers consultations from registered dietitians and clinical social workers. With 90 percent of its clients living below the poverty line, Project Open Hand belongs to a network of other nonprofit partners that work to serve the community, including Glide Memorial Church, St. Anthony's, Larkin Street Youth Services, Tom Waddell Clinic, among others. In addition, Project Open Hand provides below market rate rental space to The Shanti Project and the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center.



## STAFF ANALYSIS

### *Review Criteria*

1. *When was business founded?*

1985

2. *Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?*

Yes, Project Open Hand qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. Project Open Hand has operated for 33 years.
- ii. Project Open Hand has contributed to the history and identity of the Tenderloin and the city's broader communities by providing nutritious meals, groceries, nutrition counseling, wellness and social work services to critically ill community members.
- iii. Project Open Hand is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its legacy of serving the city's critically ill community members, particularly in the Tenderloin, by providing healthy and nutritious meals, groceries, and public health services with compassion and respect.

3. *Is the business associated with a culturally significant art/craft/cuisine/tradition?*

The business is associated with the tradition of preparing nutritious meals for critically ill members of the community and senior citizens.

4. *Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and/or architecture?*

The 1922 building has been previously evaluated for historic significance by the Planning Department. It is considered a "Category A" building and has been identified as individually eligible for listing on the California Register. It was also identified as eligible for listing on the National Register as a contributor to a National Register-eligible historic district. The property was noted for its significance in the Van Ness Auto Row Support Structures Survey prepared by William Kostura from the Planning Department in 2010.

The building is also associated with several important nonprofit organizations, including the Shanti Project and the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center in addition to Project Open Hand. All three organizations are associated with the community's response to the AIDS epidemic and have demonstrated historical importance within local LGBTQ history.

5. *Is the property associated with the business listed on a local, state, or federal historic resource registry?*

No, however the property has been identified as individually eligible for listing on the California Register. It was also identified as eligible for listing on the National Register as a contributor to a National Register-eligible historic district.

6. *Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?*

No.

7. *Has the business been cited in published literature, newspapers, journals, etc.?*

Yes. The organization has been featured in numerous publications, including but not limited to: San Francisco Chronicle, 6/25/2016, "For San Francisco's AIDS network, survival and evolution," by Erin Allday; San Francisco Chronicle, 8/14/2011, "Ruth Brinker, Project Open Hand founder, dies," by Will Kane.

The City and County of San Francisco issued a Proclamation declaring September 9, 2016 as "Project Open Hand Day." The City and County of San Francisco issued a Proclamation declaring September 10-11, 2016 as "Project Open Hand Week."

***Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business***

**Location(s) associated with the business:**

- 730 Polk Street

**Recommended by Applicant**

- Provision of nutritious meals and groceries to low-income and critically ill community members
- Provision of home-delivered meals to critically ill clients and senior citizens
- Nutrition education and counseling through the organization's Wellness Center
- Indoor greenhouse

**Additional Recommended by Staff**

- Location in the Tenderloin District



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2016

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

*Case No.:* 2016-013588LBR  
*Business Name:* Project Open Hand  
*Business Address:* 730 Polk Street  
*Zoning:* NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Scale)  
130-E Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 0740/018  
*Applicant:* Mark Ryle, CEO  
730 Polk Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Jane Kim, District 6  
*Staff Contact:* Desiree Smith - (415) 575-9093  
desiree.smith@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye - (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

**ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR PROJECT OPEN HAND, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 730 POLK STREET (BLOCK/LOT 0740/018).**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has contributed to the Tenderloin neighborhood's history and identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on November 16, 2016, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.



**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends** that Project Open Hand qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends** safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for Project Open Hand.

*Location (if applicable)*

- 730 Polk Street

*Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business*

- *Provision of nutritious meals and groceries to low-income and critically ill community members*
- *Provision of home-delivered meals to critically ill clients and senior citizens*
- *Nutrition education and counseling through the organization's Wellness Center*
- *Indoor greenhouse*
- *Location in the Tenderloin District*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission's findings and recommendations** are made solely for the purpose of evaluating the subject business's eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry, and the Historic Preservation Commission makes no finding that the subject property or any of its features constitutes a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs** its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file 2016-013588LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on November 16, 2016.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: