



## **HomeAid Northern California celebrates Recovery Café San Jose Opening!**



Walnut Creek, Calif. (February 19, 2018) – HomeAid Northern California joined over 150 supporters, including San Jose City officials, Recovery Café San Jose members and volunteers to celebrate the opening of the new Recovery Café San Jose. Recovery Cafe San Jose is a healing community for those traumatized by addiction, homelessness, and mental health challenges.

Recovery Café San Jose underwent a major renovation with a greatly expanded capacity in a new commercial kitchen and coffee bar, and updated and improved classrooms and Cafe space. This new capacity now allows Recovery Cafe to increase overall membership, as well as begin to offer barista and commercial kitchen training that will lead to re-employment of the members.

HomeAid Northern California was first involved with Recovery Café 7 years ago with the remodeling of the workforce development housing on site. Since then, HomeAid has assisted Recovery Café San Jose with planning the new remodeled space, securing donors for the capital improvements, remodeled the Commercial Pantry with the help of Irvine Company and donated funds to cover new furniture costs. In partnership with the Building Industry Association of the Bay Area, HomeAid has held 3 annual “Building Hope” fundraisers for Recovery Café San Jose raising more than \$100,000. Supervisor David Cortese presented HomeAid with a commendation in 2017 for our partnership with Recovery Café.

“We are grateful to HomeAid for their partnership over these last 7 years” says Dana Bainbridge, Founder of Recovery Café San Jose. “HomeAid’s generosity makes a huge difference in rebuilding the lives of the Bay Area’s homeless and we sincerely appreciate their kindness and compassion.”

### **About Recovery Café San Jose**

The people of First Christian Church (FCC) spent many years sharing meals and providing housing for people who live on the streets in downtown San José. As the years went by, many remained stuck, living on the streets, unable to navigate their way out from under the forces of substance abuse and mental illness. FCC decided that its building, which is in a remarkable location in downtown San José, should be used to provide recovery services to all people, without regard to religious preference.

In the search to address this need a group of people connected with old friends who had started The Recovery Café in Seattle. The Recovery Café is a place where those who are ready to take one tiny step toward recovery can spend their days in a supportive community. It is a place to connect with friends and mentors who support your dreams, not your old habits. It is a place where they can share meals, attend Recovery Circles, take classes, create art, and volunteer to work. At Recovery Café people are able to gain leadership and work readiness by practicing healthy behaviors with new friends. With guidance and training from the Seattle team, Recovery Café San Jose was founded as an independent, non-sectarian, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. For more info, go to <http://recoverycafesj.org/>.