

# Options

## NEWSLETTER

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF ADDICTION

### Options' 25th Anniversary Gala to Honor Lamott, Gorham

Options' 25th Anniversary Gala is set for September 17, 2022 at International House on the UC Berkeley Campus.

Annie Lamott, internationally acclaimed author and advocate for recovery, will receive the Dr. Davida Coady Greatest Good Award. The award is named in honor of Options' founder, Davida Coady, a lifelong champion for those afflicted with disease in developing nations worldwide and those suffering from substance abuse disorders at home. She concludes her memoir, titled *The Greatest Good*, by reiterating her quest to "do as much as you can, as well as you can, for as many as you can, for as long as you can." With that in mind, the Greatest Good Award is presented for the first time this year to recognize the person who has contributed the most to furthering the cause of recovery within the community and the public. The award is presented to Annie Lamott, whose writings of recovery, faith, and persistence have inspired millions.



Photo credit: Sam Lamott

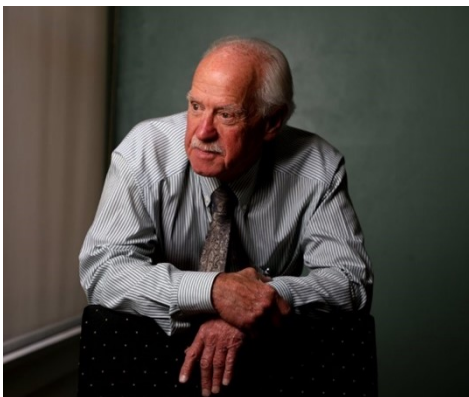


Photo credit: Aric Crabb – Bay Area News Group

Thomas Gorham, retired Options Executive Director and an Options graduate, will receive the Fr. Bill O'Donnell Human Dignity Award.

The award is named in honor of Fr. Bill O'Donnell, beloved advocate of workers, immigrants, and alcoholics and addicts who live on the street. This award recognizes the person who has most directly contributed to Options' mission to reduce the cycle of addiction that causes crime, homelessness, and broken families. Tom still fights for the recovery of others with the same passion and perseverance as he did for himself. In the process, he transformed a small, struggling nonprofit into treatment sites in Berkeley, Oakland, San Leandro, and soon Concord; established ten residences which house up to 150 clients; and helped develop a nationally recognized model for training prisoners to become state-certified addiction counselors.

The awards will be presented at the Gala on September 17th. Tickets to the Gala are available at [www.optionsrecovery.com/25-anniversary-gala/](http://www.optionsrecovery.com/25-anniversary-gala/)

## Letter from Options' Board Co-Presidents

Welcome to our September 2022 Newsletter opening of our celebration - "Night of Miracles Telling the Story: 25 Years of Recovery." Options, founded in 1997, continues to follow its' mission to break the cycle of addiction that causes crime, homelessness and broken families. This newsletter focuses on our Gala to be held at International House in Berkeley on *September 17th*.

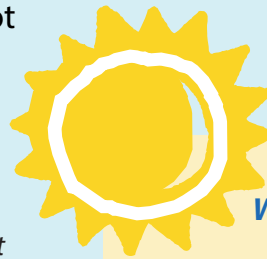
We want to thank our many supporters for the Gala – the UC Berkeley Chancellor's Community Fund, Beneficial Bank Foundation, East Bay Times Share the Spirit Program, Tides Foundation, Mechanics Bank Foundation, Oakland As Foundation, along with everyone who donated auction items, and to those who purchased tickets to the event. But mostly we want to thank the brave individuals who made the decision to face addiction and to pursue recovery to live clean and sober lives. We are especially thankful for our dedicated staff and all our partner organizations who make the hard work of recovery not just possible but a reality.

— Susan Champion

Options' Board co-President

— Bill Joyce

Options' Board co-President



***We hope you can celebrate with us our 25 years of remarkable achievement.***



### Voices of Recovery: June 2022

At Options, we celebrate recovery. Every day, every month and every year is a milestone. These recent graduates continue to be examples that the cycle of addiction can be broken.

*"I'm more positive. I have more relationships with my family, my daughters and I have a positive outlook on life and God's been good to me. He's blessing me and I have favor with Him and I could not ask for. Thanks Options."*

- Donna M.

*"I can't thank Options enough for helping gain full custody of my child, fixing my relationship and most importantly, making me whole again and fully sober."*

- Julius P.

*"I'm grateful for the help and the knowledge I've gained from these two incredible counselors and do plan on staying connected to the staff at Options, as the staff at Options are now my second family."*

- James N.

*"Options was there to support me as long as I was honest about what I was going through. I have realistic goals in my career and education, a safe and sober support group I can call at any time."*

- Micheal M.

*"Since coming into Options I've learned what it truly takes and means to live a sober life. The men and women I've come to love and have respect for, has helped me on how to create a safe environment for myself to be in. They've also made a massive impact on my life and how I now view recovery as also by spreading positivity."*

- Tina P.

# Options News

## 25 Years of Recovery – Past, Present and Future

The UC Berkeley Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund invests in partnerships between UC Berkeley and community entities that improve the quality of life for people in and around Berkeley. In honor of Options' 25th Anniversary, the Partnership Fund is sponsoring the creation and broadcast of **25 Years of Recovery – Past, Present and Future**. The passages below are excerpts from the video recording to be shown at the Anniversary Gala, posted on YouTube and Facebook, and broadcast by Berkeley Community Media.



**PAST -- Suzoni Camp, Options' Chief of Operations, and Susan Bookman, Options' founding Board Member,** discuss the founding of Options and how the program has grown over the past 25 years.

In 1997 Dr. Davida Coady, with the support of judges at the Alameda County Courthouse in Berkeley, spent hours in the misdemeanor criminal arraignment courts interviewing defendants with drug problems. She made recommendations to the judges for placement in treatment programs, and established a recovery group meeting daily in the Veterans Building in downtown Berkeley until she found programs to take the court referrals. Out of this group, Options was born. Susan Bookman, Director of Pretrial Services with the courts, joined with Dr. Coady, Police Captain Bobby Miller, Father Bill O'Donnell, Sarah Shannon (Director of the Hesperian Foundation). Actor Martin Sheen provided key financial and moral support and Options incorporated as a non-profit outpatient treatment program to serve adults with substance use disorder, turning no client away, regardless of ability to pay.

**PRESENT -- Susan Champion, Options' Board Co-President, and Mike Thomas, Options' Senior Director of Programs,** discuss what Options has become today. Options currently provides substance use disorder treatment, recovery support, and co-occurring mental health treatment at clinics in Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro – serving nearly 1,000 adult clients each year. In addition, Options provides safe and drug free recovery housing for up to 150 clients each night, where in addition to a place to live, the houses provide each resident with peer support and mentoring services.



Options provides in-custody treatment and substance abuse counselor training for over 100 inmates at nine state prisons and one county jail. Options also operates an outreach program in Berkeley that provides services and needed support for homeless adults. Options annual budget has grown to over \$8 million, and Options now has over \$10 million in real property assets. Options continues to rely on the generosity of local donors to ensure a quality recovery experience for all clients.



**FUTURE -- Sol Irving, Options' Board Member, and Justin Phillips, Options' Executive Director,** discuss the future of recovery and Options' next steps. Options is working with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a reentry program – featuring a safe and sober residence and individualized services and case management support – for former inmates returning to the community. At the same time, Options is working with the Contra Costa Health Department to establish substance abuse treatment

clinics in Richmond and Concord. Options is in the process of implementing a clinical database and analysis system which tracks client progress to ensure continuous quality improvement of our services as we move into the next 25 years.





**September 9th , 2022 at 4:30 p.m.**

We will have a live broadcast via  
Facebook and Options website!

## Please consider supporting Options:

### Come to Options' 25th Anniversary Gala!

Register and purchase tickets at <https://optionsrecovery.org/25-anniversary-gala/>

### Sponsor a graduation ceremony

A great way to promote your church, business or community organization. Porter Sexton, Development Director, 510-666-9552 X129 or email [psexton@optionsrecovery.org](mailto:psexton@optionsrecovery.org).

### Donate gently used furnishings, appliances, & housing items

Bring items to Options' Allston Way office on Friday afternoon or contact Barbara Quintero, Housing Director, 510-666-9552 x 123 or email [bquintero@optionsrecovery.org](mailto:bquintero@optionsrecovery.org).

### Volunteer your time

Help with our office support, development, and/or facility maintenance and improvement. Contact Diana Beamon, Administration, 510-666-9552 x 119 or email [dbeamon@optionsrecovery.org](mailto:dbeamon@optionsrecovery.org).



### Contract for drug testing services



Ensure your workplace or activity is drug-free by calling Kim Chavez, Director of Administration 510-519-6880 or email [kchavez@optionsrecovery.org](mailto:kchavez@optionsrecovery.org).

### Write a check or donate on-line

Send a check to Options Recovery Services, donate one time or become a recurring donor on-line at [www.optionsrecovery.org](http://www.optionsrecovery.org). For questions, contact Porter Sexton, Development Director 408-393-0089 or email [psexton@optionsrecovery.org](mailto:psexton@optionsrecovery.org).

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