On June 2nd, the beautifully restored former Casa Vincentia Convent will be dedicated as the Thomas P. Gorham Center in honor of Thomas Gorham, Options’ retired Executive Director and founder of Options’ in-prison programs. In 2019 Options purchased the former Casa Vincentia Convent at 3210 62nd Avenue in Oakland and undertook extensive retrofitting and remodeling. With the advent of the COVID pandemic in early 2020, the facility’s individualized bedrooms and controlled bathing and eating areas were pressed into service for Options clients that had been exposed to the disease, or who had symptoms related to the disease. The facility became a safe haven to those clients quarantined due to COVID. As the pandemic continued into the summer, Options partnered with Alameda County Behavioral Health and Horizon Services to make the facility available to clients of the Cronin House residential care program. As the pandemic subsided, that use was no longer required, and the facility was upgraded with a sprinkler system and other safety features. Options is now developing a program to provide safe and sober reentry services for up to twenty-five former inmates at the facility.
Letter from Options’ Gala Planning Committee Chair

Dear Community Members,

These are exciting times as we approach Options Recovery Services’ 25-year anniversary, to be celebrated by our 25th Anniversary Benefit Gala, “Night of Miracles,” on Saturday, September 17, 2022 at the International House, 2299 Piedmont Avenue on the UC Berkeley campus.

The cover of this Newsletter highlights the dedication of the Thomas P. Gorham Center in Oakland, and Mr. Gorham, former Options’ Executive Director, will be honored at the Gala as well, as we tell the story of recovery. Page three of this Newsletter tells of some of the events leading up to the Gala. Options’ mission is to break the cycle of addiction that leads to crime, homelessness and broken families. Our "Telling the Story: 25 years of Recovery" themed Gala promises to be a star-studded event with music, food and entertainment. We expect over 200 guests to attend to honor our past and look forward to the next 25 years of recovery.

I invite you to support Options Recovery Services, in any of the following ways:
• Provide an in-kind donation of a gift certificate or gift for our Silent Auction
• Become a sponsor and have your name and logo printed in our Gala Program
• Sponsor a table for 10 guests
• Buy a ticket for yourself or for an Options client to attend the Gala

Donor forms are provided as an insert with this Newsletter, and there is further information on the back page on how you can be involved and support this remarkable effort. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and participants at Options Recovery Services, I would like to thank you in advance for your generous support, and I hope to see at the Gala!

— Susan Bookman Koerber, Options’ 25th Anniversary Gala Planning Committee

Voices of Recovery: March 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.

“It doesn’t matter where we have been or where we are now but where we are going.”
- Rebecca V.

“I’ve met people here that I will know for a lifetime and others I will pocket them in my heart and take them with me.”
- Cindy C.

“When I started down that path I liked it and I wanted it just like it now and I want my recovery now.”
- Daphne T.

“I’m doing good now. I got my mother and my daughter and all my family members and I’m thinking more handling situations and getting my life together.”
- Charles M.

“I finally made the calls to my family in California and I said the words I thought would never come – “I am and addict and I need help.””
- Jermaine J.
In September 2022, Options will celebrate 25 years of providing services to help break the cycle of addiction that causes crime, homelessness and broken families. Thousands of adults and their families have found hope at Options, and have been supported in their quest for sobriety. Between now and September 2022, Options will be reaching out to the community for your support and involvement. We are now seeking volunteers for our planning and work committees, and are beginning our housing improvement campaign. Our goal is to refresh and refurbish all nine of our Options recovery houses by September 2022 and celebrate our achievement at our 25th Anniversary Gala.

We plan to put out a Newsletter every three months to provide updates on our progress and stories about the remarkable achievements of our clients. We plan to publish the Newsletter on our website, and send out both printed and electronic versions. Any help you might provide in covering these costs is greatly appreciated.

Whether you donate furniture, cash, or your time, we invite you to get involved. Your support is what makes Options so special, and what enables us to change lives. We are all so grateful.
Consider being one of the sponsors for our 25th Gala!
Contact Porter Sexton, Development Director 408-393-0089 or email psexton@optionsrecovery.org. Please contact Porter if you’d like to serve on the Gala Committee as well.

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.

Donate gently used furnishings, appliances, & housing items
Bring items to Options’ Allston Way office on Friday afternoon or contact Pam Thomas, Housing Director, 510-666-9552 x 123 or email pthomas@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.

Contract for drug testing services
Ensure your workplace or activity is drug-free by calling Kim Chavez, Lab Supervisor, 510-519-6880 or email kchavez@optionsrecovery.org.

Write a check or donate on-line
Send a check to Options Recovery Services, donate on-line at www.optionsrecoveryservices.org. For questions, contact Porter Sexton, Development Director 408-393-0089 or email psexton@optionsrecovery.org.

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