RESIDENT PROFILE:
CLAUDIA YOUNTVILLE, CA

Living With Lupus

Despite having a headache on the day of our interview, Claudia graciously invited us into her living room to share her story. The reason for her headache? Lupus - an autoimmune disease which attacks your own tissues and organs. Diagnosed five years ago, Claudia was told she probably wouldn’t live long.

In addition to the physical challenges of lupus such as intermittent loss of speech, ability to walk, headaches, etc., Claudia must navigate the complexities of medical systems and community support services.

This is extremely challenging, taxing and tiring for Claudia. Yet, she never gives up.

These days Claudia is feeling better. She feels blessed and fortunate to have helpful Arroyo Grande Villas neighbors and NVCH staff who have helped with medical paperwork, chores, taken her kids to school, cleaned laundry, cooked for her and her family and called 911 when necessary.

The greatest joys in her life are her three sons ages 15, 13 and 6. Claudia and her husband, Javier, who received his U.S. Citizenship last year, are looking forward to seeing their children graduate, marry and lead happy and productive adult lives.
This year also saw the debut of two SanaMente/Each Mind Matters health fairs at NVCH properties. In partnership with the State of California, Puertas Abiertas, Napa County Health & Human Services, Collabria Care, and Queen of the Valley/St. Joseph Health, NVCH hosted the fairs and promoted resident participation with Mental Health Awareness Cards, gift cards, mental health toolkits (info cards, ribbons, stickers, brochures), nutritional snacks, children’s activities and prizes.

Coffee With a Cop

Our Resident Services Team initiated a new “Coffee With a Cop” program designed to foster and increase communication between law enforcement and the NVCH communities. After a successful launch with a packed community room at Arroyo Grande Villas, the program expanded to Silverado Creek, Magnolia Park, Oak Creek Terrace and the VonBrandt Center. The new Chief of Napa Police, Robert Plummer, spoke at the Magnolia Park meeting. Thank you for your leadership Chief Plummer!

New Vidas Activas Program

NVCH has traditionally offered exercise and healthy eating classes. This year, with the support of Kaiser Permanente Northern California Community Benefit Programs, we’ll be able to build on that foundation with focused resources and the new Vidas Activas program. We’ll continue our existing classes and increase the exercise class offerings and healthy food initiatives. Our first Zumba class at Whistle Stop Townhomes started in September, stay tuned for more!

Mental Health Fairs

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2018

Offered 1,025 Onsite Classes For Residents

MADE 1,001 REFERRALS To Outside Resources

Collaborated with 95 Agencies & Nonprofits
Completion of Phase II of our 140-unit Napa Park Homes is on schedule to be completed in December 2018. The project has three phases, each requiring the relocation of about 40 families.

Phase I was finished this spring and now with the final touches being applied to Phase II, we are ready to begin the process anew with Phase III.

Along with asbestos removal and interior demolition, the rehab work includes upgraded sewer, water and electricity along with new HVAC, Energy Star® appliances, non-allergenic flooring, drywall, cabinets and doors for every apartment. The property will be brought up to safety standards with the addition of such devices as hard-wired smoke detectors. Fourteen units are remodeled to provide complete disabled access.

The completion of Phase II included pouring the foundation for the new Community Center. The Center will be a hub of activity starting with the main leasing office and continuing with additional offices, meeting spaces, a kitchen and room for resident classes. The former Community Room will soon house the maintenance crew, their supplies and inventory.

Landscaping continues to be challenging. Since the renovation is being completed in three sections, care is taken to leave newly planted areas untouched while moving construction materials and equipment to the next phase. Our landscapers removed old trees whose roots had clogged sewer lines, replaced tired grass and plants with native and drought-tolerant plants, along with a creative use for former cement stair treads: now transformed into stepping stones along paths. Exteriors are freshened with new patio fences and attractive paint colors.

Funding sources for this rehab are equity investors WNC, construction lender Umpqua Bank, permanent lender Walker Dunlop and the California Municipal Finance Authority (CMFA). Our General Contractor is Sunseri Construction; the architectural firm is Harriman Kinyon Architects, Inc.

We look forward to welcoming back all our Napa Park Homes residents and having a Grand Re-Opening next summer.
Mariana and her family enjoyed living at Pecan Court, a NVCH property in Napa. For five years the family found stability and security and her children played with neighbor children in Pecan’s playground. But when an opportunity to own their own home came along, it was a dream come true and in Mariana’s words, “A blessing from God.”

Prior to Pecan Court, life had not been easy for Mariana’s family. Losing relatives to car accidents and violence and moving to Iowa, Vallejo, Suisun, Healdsburg and Napa while living with friends and family, took its toll and unraveled their extended family fabric.

The five years at Pecan Court provided the stability in their lives and enabled them to look at purchasing a modular home. When they discovered they could buy a conventional home in American Canyon and bring family members back together, it was a dream come true.

Mariana believes living honestly and having a family together is most important. “You can have dreams of owning a car, your own home and possessions, but having a family and health is the greatest gift.”

Erika’s husband died and she found herself in a country where she didn’t understand the language. For over a year, Erika and her seven year old son lived in a single room as Erika grieved, quickly gained employment and established her son in school. A social worker helped Erika secure her own housing and once Erika saw Silverado Creek Apartments, she knew she wanted to live there. Silverado was safe, secure, comfortable and peaceful. Now, Erika’s Silverado home is a place where she can relax with her son, cook whenever, eat whenever and have privacy. They had none of this before.

A recent health issue forced Erika to cut back her work hours. In order to pay rent, she exhausted her savings. Resident Services helped her with a Rental Assistance Application and Erika and her son are able to stay in their home while she recovers and can go back to working full time.

Erika is grateful for the kind office team at Silverado and gives thanks for NVCH programs and housing. Without the NVCH programs, she believes she wouldn’t have a place to live.
Josefina grew up in Mexico with a mother who worked long hours in a restaurant. Determined to have a different lifestyle, Josefina went to school, took seven years of university and general law classes and worked in a civil administration office.

Josefina’s life changed dramatically when she fell in love, married, received nearly immediate US residency and then discovered she was pregnant. She had a premature delivery and the baby could not go home so Josefina stayed by her baby’s side for two months until he was released from the hospital.

Presently, Josefina takes her son to therapy sessions in Napa and works a 3-11pm housecleaning shift in Angwin. Her husband works days and cares for their son at night. Josefina aspires to work in an office, assist people and apply her university law knowledge.

When asked what the word “home” means to her, Josefina replied: “A house can be a mansion but not a home. This is my humble home with my husband, myself and son. We will always be united and we teach our son values like honesty and self worth. Home is where you get life’s education.”

Linda lived with her husband and two children in a single room in a relative’s home in Vallejo. Twice a week Linda packed a cooler and baby, walked thirty minutes to a bus stop, took the bus to Napa, ate dinner with her working husband and two children and studied English at McPherson school.

GED classes were held four times a week at McPherson and Linda originally thought it would be impossible to attend. However, with grit and determination, Linda packed the food and baby, walked, boarded the bus, fed her family and attended GED classes.

During this time, the family moved to Whistle Stop and it changed everything. Before, her children wouldn’t go out because they didn’t feel safe. Now, McPherson school – two blocks away – is her youngest child’s school and the bus pick-up for her older child. Linda completed her GED this year, is a certified volunteer in her Vision Y Compromiso (Vision & Commitment) community, a certified Bailar Terapia (Dance Therapy) teacher and always volunteers to help at the Whistle Stop Community Center.

When asked about her extensive volunteer activities, Linda, smiling, replied: “You get back what you give. Even if it’s as simple as a smile.”
Whether they won with the lowest score or peaked at the highest (shown above), participants in our 11th Annual Golf Tournament enjoyed the beautiful weather, excellent food and challenging play at Eagle Vines Golf Course this past May. Our co-chairs Robin Rose and Suzi Hersom of Coldwell Banker Brokers of the Valley credit our sponsors for the phenomenal success of this year’s tournament.

Thank you to Tournament Sponsors Anthony R. Torres, Mechanics Bank, Sunseri Construction Inc. and Umpqua Bank for your support. Thanks also to our other major sponsors Pound Management, RLM Enterprises, Renteria Vineyard Management, RSA+, WNC, Merritt Community Capital, Fairway Napa Valley, RGH Consultants, Harriman Kinyon Architects, Silicon Valley Bank and The Doctors Company. Along with our golfers, our Hole Sponsors, Tee Sponsors, Donors and volunteers, we thank you.

We’ll see you for our 12th Annual Golf Tournament! | May 15, 2019

11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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We’re delighted to be selected as one of the nonprofits for the 2018 Give!Guide. This year our business partners, Renteria Vineyards and the Bank of Marin, will match the first $1000 donated to NVCH. Our Big Give donors, Tarla Mediterranean Grill, JaM Cellars and Andaz Napa Hotel, created a “Night on the Napa Town” and ANY Give!Guide donor contributing to ANY Give!Guide nonprofit on Saturday, December 29, will have a chance to win the prize.

In the last 6 years, Give!Guide donations have contributed an AMAZING $1.4 million dollars to Napa nonprofits. You can support NVCH and other Napa nonprofits this year at www.napavalleyguideguide.org, November 1 – December 31, 2018.

THANK YOU!
We appreciate all who support our mission with their contributions and gratefully recognize the donors who made gifts July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018. Every gift, no matter the size, helps us make Napa County a healthier and more equitable place for all.

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OUR MISSION
To develop, preserve and manage affordable homes and, through its Resident Services Program, teach successful life and leadership skills.

OUR PROPERTIES
ST HELENA 1 PROPERTY
YOUNTVILLE 4 PROPERTIES
NAPA 15 PROPERTIES

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