



Curry Senior Center

*Aging with health,
hope, and dignity*

*A Report to the
Community*



Hard times fell upon John Boutte in 1990. Homeless and ill, John found Curry Senior Center, where he obtained suitable housing, healthy meals, and medical care. He received help with paperwork and bills, which were daunting tasks for him. When John underwent surgery for lung cancer, Curry staff visited him in the hospital. Continuing to see his Curry doctor and case managers to this day, John lives his credo that the people of Curry make all the difference.



"They never turned their back on me."
John Boutte—Curry client since 1990

In 2003, 60-year-old Billie Akers fled an abusive relationship and sought help in the San Francisco homeless shelters. After recovering from an accident that broke her neck, Billie was guided by hospital staff to Curry Senior Center. Curry rescued Billie from the city shelter system, helped her find a psychologist, and provided her with medical care and rehabilitation services. Today, healthy and sober, Billie is a volunteer receptionist at the Center's front desk.



"They saved my life...and I want to give something back."
Billie Akers—Curry client since 2003, volunteer since 2004

Our Message:

We are proud to be affiliated with an organization whose mission statement reads: "To provide seniors with services that promote independent living while maintaining their dignity and self-esteem."

This year, our organization promoted independent living for approximately 2500 low-income elders living in San Francisco's Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods. We provided medical care, substance abuse treatment, community programs (in collaboration with partners New Leaf, the ARC, Self Help for the Elderly, and Jewish Family and Children's Services), a congregate meal program (in collaboration with Project Open Hand), permanent housing, and case management.

To prolong our diverse, complex clientele's independence as long as possible, we connect them with lifeline services such as mental health and adult day health programs. Doctors, nurse practitioners, case managers and substance abuse treatment staff make home visits to frail and homebound elders. Curry Senior Center staff and volunteers continue to provide their unique brand of comprehensive, "one-stop" care for the central City's elderly—many of whom live alone or are homeless—as they have for over three decades.

We're proud to present this report to the community. If you don't know us, it will acquaint you with our vital programs and internal operations. If you already know the Curry Senior Center, you may be especially interested in our accomplishments and in our plans for the future. On behalf of our staff and our clients, we thank you all for your interest and support.

David Knego, MSW
Executive Director



David Knego—Curry staff member since February 2007

Gay Kaplan, RN, MSN
Director of Services



Gay Kaplan—Curry staff member for over 25 years

The year is 1972.

In the low-income Tenderloin and South of Market areas of San Francisco, a disproportionate number of elders are dying alone and unattended.

Frail, forgotten, or simply afraid to go out, these individuals have no support system to help them obtain the healthcare, medicine, and nutrition they need.

Dr. Francis Curry, a native-born physician and Director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, is alarmed by the reports from public health nurses and the city Coroner.

In cooperation with government, health, and social service agencies, Dr. Curry establishes the first comprehensive senior assistance center to meet the needs of central city residents.

Today, Curry Senior Center continues to bring health, hope, and dignity to San Franciscans over 55 who live in the City's Tenderloin and South of Market regions.



Curry Senior Center today (formerly North of Market Senior Services)
333 Turk Street, San Francisco, California, 94102



Working with patients here is inspiring, interesting, and challenging. The patients I see really enjoy their lives and their activities and want to maintain their independence and keep on living their lives.

Richard Zercher, MD
Medical Director
—Curry staff member
for over 17 years

Our mission remains the same:

To provide seniors with services that promote independent living while maintaining their dignity and self-esteem.

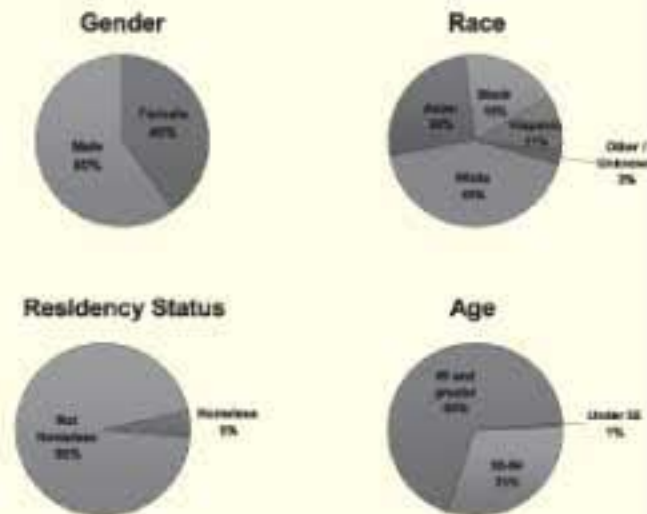
Curry Senior Center

Then...	Now...
It began with one doctor and one nurse.	A team of 35 staff members and volunteers serve 2500 clients per year.
Its clientele was mainly English-speaking widows living alone.	Its clientele includes Southeast Asians, Russians, Latinos, and African-Americans.
Seniors visited the clinic with limited medical needs only.	Seniors have complex problems such as multiple chronic diseases, mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness issues.

Our Clients

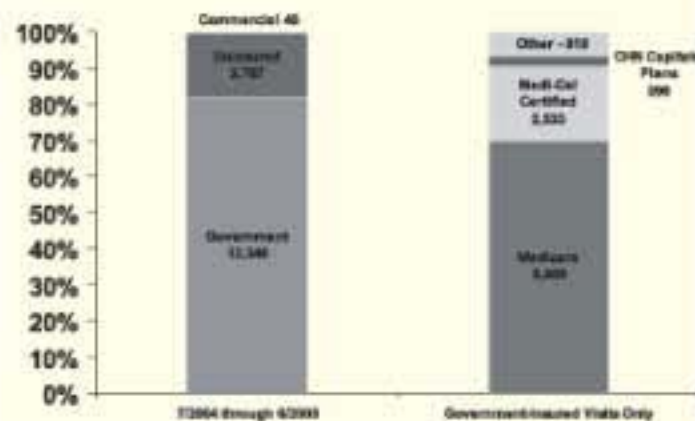
Needy seniors typically find the Curry Senior Center through referrals from social service professionals at medical facilities. Most others reach us via family and friends.

Whom We Serve



*Data from Curry Utilization & Patient Characteristics Report, July 2004-June 2005
N = 1,504 and reflects the number of unique patients

Curry Senior Center Insurance status at time of visit—number of visitors



*Data from Curry Utilization & Patient Characteristics Report, July 2004-June 2005
N = 13,161 and reflects all visits, including multiple visits by the same patient

Our Programs

MEDICAL SERVICES: CURRY PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

Seniors can see a podiatrist, pharmacist, nurse practitioner, or physician in the clinic any day of the week.

Home visits to frail and homebound seniors are an important element of Curry's care. Everyone—including the medical director—makes house calls, which average 30-40 a month.

In 2005, Curry Senior Center was added to the SFGH/UCSF Eye Van program, which brings eye exams to seniors in their own neighborhoods.

The multidisciplinary approach to care is so important here at Curry. We see ourselves as something more than a health care clinic. By working alongside the other social and behavioral programs we have here, we can live up to our motto of promoting health and dignity in the elder population.

Richard Zercher, MD
Medical Director

We know our patients by name, not by a number.

Paul Wieland, LVN
Clinic coordinator and hands-on nursing
—Curry staff member for over 25 years





When you meet the people they are quite compelling. Their level of income and their housing situations are bleak, and yet they still keep an amazing outlook!

Laurie Josloff
Senior Case Manager
—Curry staff member for over 15 years

The Curry model is unique. It's an interdisciplinary team environment. People are expected to work together to help clients.

Michael McGinley, LCSW
Manager, Case Management Program
—Curry staff member for over 2 years



Social Services

CASE MANAGEMENT

Our case managers facilitate access to opportunities available to seniors, such as housing, income, medical escorts, money management, meal delivery, home health workers, and Medicare/Medi-Cal.

MEALS

Project Open Hand provides breakfast and lunch to seniors over 60, every day of the year.

SOCIALIZATION

Our bilingual staff provides group interaction for seniors who might be otherwise isolated, including recently emigrated, developmentally disabled, or lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender elders.

MULTILINGUAL TRANSLATION, INFORMATION, AND REFERRAL

New residents who speak only Cambodian, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Lao, Mandarin, Filipino, Russian, and Spanish, can take advantage of classes in English and citizenship, as well as translation services.

HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS

Curry Senior Center has 13 apartment units with a resident manager and a transitional case manager to help stabilize previously homeless seniors for re-entering the community.

Those who stay clean and sober [in the Tenderloin] are the heroes on the battlefield.

John Staley,
Supervisor, Drug Abuse
and Hands-On
—Curry staff member
for over 15 years



Behavioral Health

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Curry Senior Center is the first San Francisco program for seniors to treat addictive behavior such as alcoholism, drug abuse, and eating disorders. Counseling and referrals are offered both in the clinic and through home visits.

COUNSELING

Elders trying to cope with difficult issues such as loss, grief, illness, or depression can find comfort with one of our geriatric counselors in a non-threatening, home-like setting that fosters respect and self-esteem.



Curry Senior Center is proud that the Lao/Cambodian New Year Celebration is one of Curry's largest annual events.

Thelma Gonzales,
Community Programs Supervisor
—Curry staff member for over 9 years

Our Challenges

Put simply, government funding is shrinking while the need for senior services is growing.

Sixty-plus is the fastest growing age group, expected to grow by 28% by the year 2020—which is not far off. By then, it is projected that there will be 174,000 elders living in San Francisco, many of whom will need assistance with daily activities such as dressing, bathing, walking, and obtaining food.

An expansion, not a contraction of services is needed to meet the predicted demands. However, recent cuts in funding have caused Curry Senior Center to reduce staff. For the first time in its history, the Center has had to place people on a waiting list for some of its social services.



Our Plans

Curry Senior Center looks forward to continuing its leadership role in service provision to the low income, diverse, aging population of the Tenderloin/South Of Market neighborhoods. We have expanded services with our new partner, **Family Services Agency**, to provide enhanced mental health, substance abuse treatment, and primary care services to the chronically mentally ill/chronically homeless senior population with a grant from funds through the Mental Health Services Act. We look forward to continuing and strengthening our existing partnerships.

In order to sustain our other supportive services we count on the generous donations of time, goods and services, and money from our contributors, volunteers, and staff. One hour of volunteer time can point 6-8 seniors in the right direction, assist in teaching 2-3 new immigrant seniors about life in San Francisco, or serve lunch to 50 seniors. A set of sheets, a blanket, and towels can help a newly housed homeless senior with the essentials of setting up a household. A monetary donation of \$25.00 or more helps to support the programs that we consider a "lifeline" to many we serve so we can spend less time on fundraising and more time on services.

Our Board of Directors

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Richard Sullivan, Treasurer
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Susan Obata, MD
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Antonio Nierras—President



Richard Sullivan—Treasurer

Our Management Team

David Knego, Executive Director
Gay Kaplan, Director of Services
Rick Crane, Chief Administrative Officer
Perry Klecak, Administrative/Human Resources Associate

You can help.

Visit our website at www.curryseniorcenter.org or phone us at (415) 885-2274 to make a donation or to volunteer your services.

Help us to continue to provide quality programs for seniors in need.

One hour of volunteer time can point 6-8 seniors in the right direction, assist in teaching 2-3 new immigrant seniors about life in San Francisco, or serve lunch to 50 seniors.



Curry Senior Center | 333 Turk Street | San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 885-2274 | www.curryseniorcenter.org