

NEWS RELEASE

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## **Wells Fargo Investment Fuels Success of Local Workforce Development Program**

*Company partners with local housing nonprofit to provide job training and placement for formerly homeless individuals*

**(SAN FRANCISCO, Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016)** – In San Francisco, where a soaring cost of living and a lack of affordable housing make upward mobility nearly impossible for the city’s underprivileged, one organization is providing a foothold for some deserving individuals: those who have experienced homelessness and are now housed and ready to enter the workforce.

Community Housing Partnership’s Employment Pathway program has provided work training and placement services for twenty years. It targets low-income San Franciscans who have been homeless but are now stably housed, providing fully-integrated and case-managed job readiness workshops (“The Learning Academy”), on-the-job training (“Solutions SF”), and permanent job placement and retention services in the property management industry. Because Solutions SF is a social enterprise, CHP’s workshop participants have immediate access to a paid job. This comprehensive model leads to long-term success: 85% of people placed by Solutions SF into permanent work are still employed 12 months later, a staggering number compared to most workforce development programs.

A key partner for the program is Wells Fargo, which has committed funding to CHP for nearly 20 years. “Their giving has grown in tandem with the program and has been integral to its success,” says Laurie Bernstein, the Employment Pathway’s Program Director. “We’ve seen a 60% increase in program participants and 122% increase in social enterprise sales over the past 3 years alone.”

Recently, Wells Fargo’s West Region Urban and Rural Economic Opportunity Grants Program invested \$100,000 in the program; an additional \$60,000 has been donated by the company’s foundation. “Wells Fargo commends Community Housing Partnership’s work that provides homelessness in San Francisco with job training and placement. As a community bank, we are proud to support solutions that help people achieve self-sufficiency and create stronger communities,” said Greg Morgan, EVP and president of the Greater San Francisco region.

The investment also supports the organization’s larger strategic plan to pioneer a national model that provides tailored pathways to self-sufficiency for those who have experienced homelessness. “Our work proves that supportive housing is the most effective way to end homelessness,” says Gail Gilman, CHP’s Executive Director, “but support from community partners like Wells Fargo ensures our ability to go beyond housing to provide the sense of self-worth and hard skills necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.”

### **About Community Housing Partnership**

Community Housing Partnership is an outcome-focused nonprofit that fulfills its mission to help homeless people secure housing and become self-sufficient by developing and managing high-quality supportive housing and providing services to homeless individuals, seniors and families. Community Housing Partnership currently owns and/or operates sixteen sites that serve formerly homeless adults, seniors, Transitional Age Youth, and families. Community Housing Partnership also engages in community and economic development through its certified job training programs, community organizing programs, and a social enterprise that employs formerly homeless adults. For more information about CHP, visit [www.chp-sf.org](http://www.chp-sf.org).