



Hello Our Town:

My first year as Executive Director has been eye opening not only for the breadth of the challenges we face but also the potential we have to impact the quality of so many lives. I am impressed with our group's dedication to our mission and the community's support of our work. We are on the verge of several exciting projects and I look forward to bringing them to fruition in the coming year.



On behalf of Our Town St Helena's board, staff and volunteers, I wish you a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year. With your help, 2022 will be Our Town St. Helena's best year yet!

Jennifer La Liberte
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We Can't Do It Without You

"I support Our Town St. Helena projects because they are making a positive impact on our community."

--Roger Trinchero
Trinchero Family Vineyards

"Join me in supporting Our Town St Helena in their efforts to provide necessary affordable workforce housing to all in our community."

--Joel Toller
Local Realtor

"Our Town St Helena is helping our community by preserving existing and building new housing units for the working families."

*--Autumn Anderson
City of St. Helena Planning Commissioner*

2021 Was a Big Year for Our Town St. Helena

- Purchased the four-unit Christine Apartments and preserved the rents at affordable levels for 55 years
- Thanks to a significant private donation, purchased property on Pope Street adjacent to property we own, allowing us to expand our approved five-unit Workforce Village to ten units
- Received a second major donation from a local community member to jumpstart a capital campaign for the Pope Street project
- Put the finishing touches on eight new self-help homes on Brenkle Court
- Hired an Executive Director and expanded our Board of Directors

We will start 2022 with projects in every stage of development--from conceptual to move-in ready. Our community is losing population (6 percent in last ten years) because of the imbalance of housing costs to incomes. We all need to work together to keep our town diverse and vital.



"As a local business owner, I know how difficult it can be for employees to find housing. We are grateful that organizations like Our Town St. Helena are helping to fill the gap."

*--Annette Shafer
Owner, Crisp Kitchen & Juice*



Our Town St. Helena Expands Pope Street Project

OTSH recently purchased 951 Pope Street, the property adjacent to our current property at 963 Pope. Joining the two lots will allow us to double the project size from five to approximately 10 units. Located two blocks from Main Street, the “village” will provide two-bedroom, one-bath, income-qualified rental units in duplexes and single-family dwellings. The project will be energy- and water-efficient and include adequate parking. [Read more](#)

Christine Apartments Tenants Secure In Their Homes

OTSH acquired the Christine apartments located at 723 Hunt Avenue this summer. We have put a 55-year deed restriction on the building, which requires rents not to exceed levels that are affordable to local workers and families for generations to come. Three long-term tenants and one new family are now assured that their rents will stay affordable, something that is a greater challenge as real estate prices continue to soar in our area. OTSH purchased the building at market rate using a Community Development Building Grant which was awarded through the City of St. Helena.



We are interested in purchasing additional local properties so that we can preserve housing that is affordable to those vital to our community.



Brenkle Court Is Almost Finished!

Eight families are installing flooring and hanging kitchen cabinets as their new homes round the corner to the finish line. OTSH's Mutual Self-Help Homeownership project, part of a USDA Rural Development program, will be completed this winter. It will add eight new homeowners in St. Helena, freeing up eight local rental units. **Volunteers--especially skilled carpenters--are still needed.** To donate a full or half day, contact Larry Vermeulen at projectmanager@ourtownsthelema.org

Your Support Makes the Difference

"Having a roof over your head, a place to call home, somewhere to raise your family and be part of a community is a common goal for all of us. Sadly, many who work and support our town cannot find that here. Our Town St. Helena is working to provide this much-needed housing for these families. I cannot think of a more meaningful organization to support to keep our town prosperous, generous, diverse and interesting. Please join me in supporting their good work."



--Polly Ogden

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Donate Today!

Our Town St. Helena is a 501(c)3 organization

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P.O. Box 94, St. Helena, CA 94574

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ourtownsthenela.org



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