



Options
Recovery
Services

Helping People
Reclaim their Lives
from Substance
Use Disorders
Since 1996

Options Donor Appreciation Night



September 19, 2025

www.optionsrecovery.org

Options Donor

Masters of Ceremonies:



Susan Champion
Options Board Co-President

Deputy Director of Stanford's Three Strikes Project, focuses on post-conviction litigation for life-sentenced individuals. She holds a J.D. from Stanford Law, an MFA in performance, and serves on multiple boards supporting reentry, housing, and substance use recovery. She's also a recognized speaker on prison record advocacy.



Justin Phillips
Options' Executive Director; LMFT, MAC

A licensed therapist with over 14 years of leadership in behavioral health and substance use treatment. He developed Alameda County's first detox center, serves as APAC (Addiction Professionals Association of California) Board President, and is dedicated to delivering impactful services to underserved communities across the Bay Area.

Night Program

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Reception Susan Champion & Justin Phillips

Fiesta Fare Barbara Madeiros' "Fun and Food"

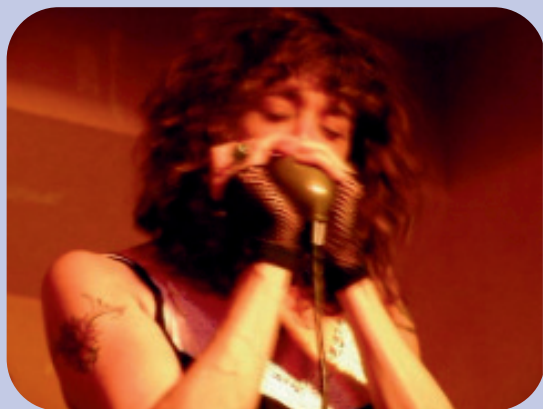
Entertainment Kim Addonizio & Danny Caron

Recognitions and Closing Susan Champion & Justin Phillips

Musical Performances:

Danny Caron

Caron is a Grammy-winning guitarist from Maryland rooted in blues, jazz, and Zydeco, known for collaborations with Charles Brown, John Lee Hooker, and currently teaches at The Jazz School while actively performing.



Kim Addonizio

Kim Addonizio is an acclaimed poet, author, and performer whose work spans poetry, fiction, music, and visual art. A National Book Award finalist, she also performs blues and teaches writing across various platforms.

**From the Beginning to Today:
Dedicated to Our Donors – Individuals, Foundations,
Local Civic Organizations, Churches, and Volunteers**

THE BEGINNING

He entered the courtroom from the holding cell and the judge said, "Oh not you again, didn't I see you a month ago?" The district attorney responded by saying, "Yes, your honor, he was sentenced by you to 30 days in jail for violating his probation for a drunk in public charge. Now he is back for the same offense." The judge looked at the defendant and asked him what happened. He said, "I don't know, I just don't seem to be able to stay sober and off the streets."

At this point the Judge turned to Dr. Davida Coady in the jury box and asked her to go back to the holding cell and talk to him about finally getting some help.

It was 1997, Dr. Coady had been attending the 2pm misdemeanor arraignment court every day for the last three or four months. She was there at the invitation of the Berkeley judges to evaluate the defendants coming before them to see if they were amenable and willing to go into treatment for their addiction problems. After the interview she would recommend the next step to the judge, whether or not to release the defendant for treatment which she would facilitate. On a typical day, Dr. Coady would see three to four defendants, men and women.

She soon discovered how hard it was to place people into treatment so she set up a once-a-week group to work with people who were seeking treatment and waiting for beds to open up in residential or other treatment facilities. She started these groups in spaces donated by Berkeley Mental Health. When that became too small the groups moved to the basement of the Veterans building in Berkeley in space provided by the Multi Agency Service Center; a homeless program and operated by BOSS (Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency) and a shelter operated by the Berkeley Food and Housing Project, now Insight Housing.

The groups expanded to three days a week and became popular with over 20 people attending each group. Soon it became obvious to Dr. Coady and her supporters that treatment was happening in these groups. With the help of a talented grant writer, Dr. Coady and her supporters obtained a \$300,000 grant for three years in 2001 from the California Endowment to hire staff and provide for operation costs. Options Recovery Services was born.

One of the original group participants was Tom Gorham, a frequent defendant in the Berkeley Courts. He prospered in the groups and was hired by Dr. Coady to be Options outreach worker. He soon became a valuable staff person. Tom started to take classes at JFK University in Pleasant Hill for his BA, then went on to get his master's in counseling and a license in Marriage and Family Therapy. The rest is history. Tom retired as Options Executive Director in 2018.

THE BERKELEY DRUG DIVERSION COURT

At the same time, the Berkeley Municipal Court Judges were encouraging Dr. Coady to staff a Drug Court in the felony arraignment court. Davida and her staff evaluated first time felony drug defendants and recommended them for treatment. At the end of successful completion of treatment, the charges against the drug court participant were dismissed. With the support of the judges, the Berkeley Police Department and the District Attorney's Office she was able to obtain a stipend from the Alameda County Superior Courts to staff the Drug Diversion Court.

The late Jeffrey Tauber, judge in the Oakland courts and founder of the nationwide National Drug Court Association, worked closely with Dr. Coady to help make the drug diversion program a success. Options expanded on its unique collaboration with the Alameda County criminal justice system including the courts, district attorneys, public defenders, local police departments, jails, prisons, and probation/parole departments to bring treatment to as many people as possible. With limited resources but strong community support from the City of Berkeley, the courts and the Berkeley Police Department at the beginning, Options has grown into a statewide model for treating substance use disorders as a public health issue, shifting the focus from punishment to healing, serving over 1000 clients each year with compassionate person-centered care.

CLEAN AND SOBER HOUSING

It soon became obvious to Dr. Coady and her staff that the people coming to Options for treatment were homeless with serious addiction problems and they needed a clean and sober environment if they were going to succeed.

In 2002, with funding from her own personal home equity loan and additional financial support from long-time supporters and Martin Sheen, a personal friend, Options began offering sober housing with the purchase of its first recovery home in North Oakland near San Pablo Avenue.

Between 2005 and 2018, Options grew from having purchased one recovery residence to purchasing a total of nine residences with a capacity of up to 160 adults per night. With the help of two very generous foundations noted for funding capital improvements, and many individual donors, Options was able to renovate these old, large, multi-room houses into efficient and supportive recovery residences. Options' many supporting churches, including St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Danville, CA, have provided ongoing support to furnish and maintain these houses.

In 2018, Options opened a specialized recovery residence for pregnant and postpartum women. With additional grants from our capital improvement foundations, Options was able to purchase a home near downtown Oakland to be renovated and upgraded to provide a comfortable and supportive home for up to twelve women and their young children. The Episcopal Impact Fund and the Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Charitable Foundations have invested substantial funding to ensure a supportive recovery experience for these mothers and their families.

MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

Many clients came to Options with serious mental health issues in addition to their substance abuse addictions. It became obvious to the Options staff that if they did not address both problems, they were only doing half the work. In 2004, Options approached the Wright Institute for Professional Psychology in Berkeley to support a mental health clinic as part of the Options treatment program. They agreed and Options opened its Mental Health Clinic with interns from the Wright Institute providing the counseling. The Clinic operated for more than 10 years, until Options contracted with Alameda County to incorporate its mental health counseling services into Options' regular treatment program.

IN-PRISON PROGRAMS

In 2006, with support from the Warden at San Quentin State Prison and our local State Senator, Loni Hancock, Options began a pilot in-prison counselor training program for inmates with substance use disorders. The intent was to have these inmates provide counseling to their fellow inmates in turn. This program has now grown into a multi-million-dollar contract between Options Recovery Services and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to provide in-prison counseling and training for qualified inmates in seven California prisons. There are now over 500 supervised graduates of the Occupational Mentor Certification Program (OMCP) providing peer mentoring services in all California prisons. Many of the mentors have been released from prison over the years and are now employed by Options and in counseling programs across the State. Options also contracts with Alameda County Behavioral Health to provide classes in Santa Rita Jail.

REENTRY PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In the past few years, Options has developed programs for adults who have been incarcerated and are returning to society after imprisonment. Services provide appropriate level SUD treatment and support, and also include housing support, job training, on-the-job training, and help with obtaining personal and career goals. Options trains reentry clients as community navigators and credible messengers to perform community outreach activities, providing such services as outreach to homeless encampments and providing mentors for troubled youth. Funded by such entities as the Governors' Office of Business and Economic Development, the California Board of State and Community Corrections, the City of Berkeley, and now the Contra Costa County Behavioral Health Department, these programs are directly impacting communities affected by addiction.

COVID

The COVID pandemic of 2019 through 2024 created challenges for both the housing and treatment programs. Most treatment was conducted online. The houses were reconfigured for client safety and isolation. Our church supporters, local foundations such as the Lowell Berry Foundation, the West Davis and Bergard Foundation, and organizations such as the Berkeley Rotary, the Albany Rotary, and the UC Berkeley Chancellor's Office, as well as many long-term donors and first-time donors, stepped up to support our efforts to continue quality treatment and supportive housing during the pandemic.

Options has continued to grow and thrive for nearly 30 years with the support of our community of donors. Thousands of clients have found their individual roads to recovery, countless lives have been saved, families have reunited and prospered. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our donors.

There were times in the beginning where we were not sure we could go on because of financial issues, but our donors and supporters came through.

- **EVERY GIFT HELPED;**
- **EVERY DONATION FROM INDIVIDUALS AND OUR SUPPORTING CHURCHES HELPED;**
- **EVERY VOLUNTEER HOUR MADE THE DIFFERENCE.**

Options is honored to recognize your support, and to designate this night as a special night to show our appreciation. We thank you.

Options' Honored Donors

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California Endowment
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Van Loben Sels/Rembe Rock Foundation
Mal Warwick & Associates
West Davis & Bergard Foundation
Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Foundation
Tom Bates and Loni Hancock



Susan Bookman Koerber has chaired Options' Fund Development Committee for 28 years, has overseen over \$1,000,000 in donations, and has welcomed over 2,000 donors. She thanks them, every one.

Thank You



And more than 2,000 donors over 28 years.

Thank You from Options' Board



Martin Sheen



Susan Champion



Bill Joyce



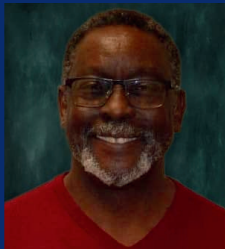
Patrick Sweeney



Susan Bookman Koerber



Joey Harrison



Sol Irving



Melissa Martin



Sarah Shannon



From Options' Senior Leadership



Justin Phillips



Suzoni Camp



Mike Thomas

and from Options Staff, clients, former clients & families

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www.optionsrecovery.org