



MEDIA STATEMENT FROM THE PROVIDENCE FOUNDATION



“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

Founded in 1997, the Providence Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has operated as the charitable wing of the Providence Baptist Church. The mission of the Providence Foundation is to provide vital community support services and “protective care” for children, families, senior citizens, and our unhoused neighbors in the Bayview Hunters Point District of San Francisco, as well as supporting similar initiatives throughout other neighborhoods in the city. The Providence Foundation has been committed for decades to serving the chronically unhoused and unfed and has worked tirelessly in doing so.

During the early days of the organization, the Providence Foundation provided loving and protective care for the homeless when no one else would. Equipped with passionate and hard-working church volunteers, the organization provided emergency shelter to the unhoused, a food pantry for those in need, tutoring and other educational services to children to break the cycle of poverty, as well as services for senior citizens and other vulnerable individuals. These services have aided over a quarter of a million individuals and families over the course of the organization’s lifetime. Today, our organization has built a stronger infrastructure to serve the broader San Francisco community and the entire Bay Area to address the seemingly intractable issue of homelessness. In all, the Providence Foundation’s impact is significant as it aims to improve the quality of life in low-income communities and empower individuals to become self-reliant.

Leveraging our relationships in the faith community, the Providence Foundation was able to quickly open spaces at various churches to meet the needs of the City of San Francisco and ensure our unhoused neighbors were cared for during the Pandemic. We also partnered with the City of San Francisco to operate a shelter-in-place hotel program. In 2025, the Providence Foundation operates supportive housing and provides case management services to both individuals and families in San Francisco through the

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Oasis Family Shelters and Armstrong Senior Housing, in collaboration with the Office of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. Providence Foundation works with youth to help them create pathways to life for themselves and their families at Bayview Hills Garden Housing, while also continuing to offer services to residents of Bayview.

In 2024 when the City of Francisco brought allegations of fraud on behalf of the Providence Foundation to the public, the organization swiftly went into action to mitigate the accusations. We do acknowledge our failure with contract compliance with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, which eventually led to a Suspension Order by the City.

The Providence Foundation has taken these allegations seriously and is committed to transparency, accountability, and restoring public trust. Since the issues came to light, we have worked diligently with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and the City of San Francisco to resolve this matter. In our recent 2025 settlement with the City of San Francisco, Providence Foundation has agreed to pay civil penalties addressing employee wages, maintenance work reimbursement, and other fees, which total \$1,000,000.00.

Additionally, the Providence Foundation has spent over \$300,000.00 to create transparency in our past operations, while setting the stage for our current operations and future growth. We took this action to ensure we can continue to service our mission of providing “protective care” to the vulnerable people in our community.

Moreover, we have also implemented the following comprehensive measures to address and rectify the situation:

- Independent Audit: Providence Foundation commissioned a thorough third-party audit of our financial operations to identify and correct deficiencies.
- Governance Reforms: Restructured our Board of Directors to include members with expertise in nonprofit governance and compliance.
- Policy Overhaul: Revised our financial and operational policies to ensure strict adherence to ethical standards and regulatory requirements.
- Expanded Our Staff Capabilities: We have expanded our staff skills and acumen to ensure excellence in our commitment to governance and business operations.

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- Staff Training: Instituted mandatory training programs for all staff on compliance, ethics, and financial management.
- Community Engagement: Established regular forums to engage with stakeholders, listen to concerns, and incorporate feedback into our practices.

The Providence Foundation understands the gravity of this situation and the impact it has had on the communities we serve. Our mission remains steadfast: to support and uplift those experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. The organization's history of compassion and culturally relevant care extends to all of its employees, volunteers, our partners, and the community at large. The Providence Foundation is committed to not just addressing homelessness, but breaking cycles of instability, fostering resilience, and shaping an equitable San Francisco for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Alpha Buie

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