



FEATURED DEVELOPMENT

Belmont Apartments • Belmont, California

Tucked away behind a commercial property, the Belmont Apartments are within walking distance of El Camino Real's bus line and the Belmont Caltrain station. Residents, who were formerly homeless, now live in pre-furnished studio rooms, with plenty of on-site activities and services to support their independence. The San Mateo County Department of Housing was proud to partner with the Mental Health Association to develop the Belmont Apartments, providing \$2.3 million in funding for the construction of this project, as well as ongoing supportive housing vouchers that help keep monthly rents affordable for the residents.



Resident Testimonial: Debé Fireall

Debé was living in Colma when she became homeless. She was referred to the Mental Health Association's Spring Street Shelter and settled into a daily routine. As she began to socialize with residents, she realized how isolated she had been. This time gave Debé a chance to get back on her feet and maintain her 19 years of sobriety. In January 2006, Debé became a resident of the Belmont Apartments. She is enjoying living by herself for the first time in her life. Her musical instruments have been unpacked and she appreciates having the space to play her music. She is an active participant in the occupational therapy groups offered on-site and is taking a Spanish class and music courses at the College of San Mateo. Debé says the services she has received from the MHA "have saved her life" and she is "blessed and grateful for the opportunity to start over in a quiet and safe place."

DEVELOPMENT PROFILE

Open Since: 2005

Property Manager: Pinnacle Property Management

Developer: Mental Health Association of San Mateo County

Number of Units: 24

Type of Units: Single-Occupancy Studio Apartments

Monthly Rent: \$625

Population Served:

Formerly Homeless Adults with Serious Mental Illness

Amenities:

Central courtyard, community areas, internet access, on-site group activities, and case management

The Mental Health Association of San Mateo County has been serving the community for over 60 years. In the 1970s, MHA focused primarily on direct service programs, but with the advent of the deinstitutionalization of mentally ill individuals, MHA began to address the housing need in the mid-1980s. MHA has previously opened an emergency shelter and transitional supportive housing. The Belmont Apartments was the first new construction project undertaken by MHA, in partnership with several County departments, foundations and private donors.