

nibbi *news*

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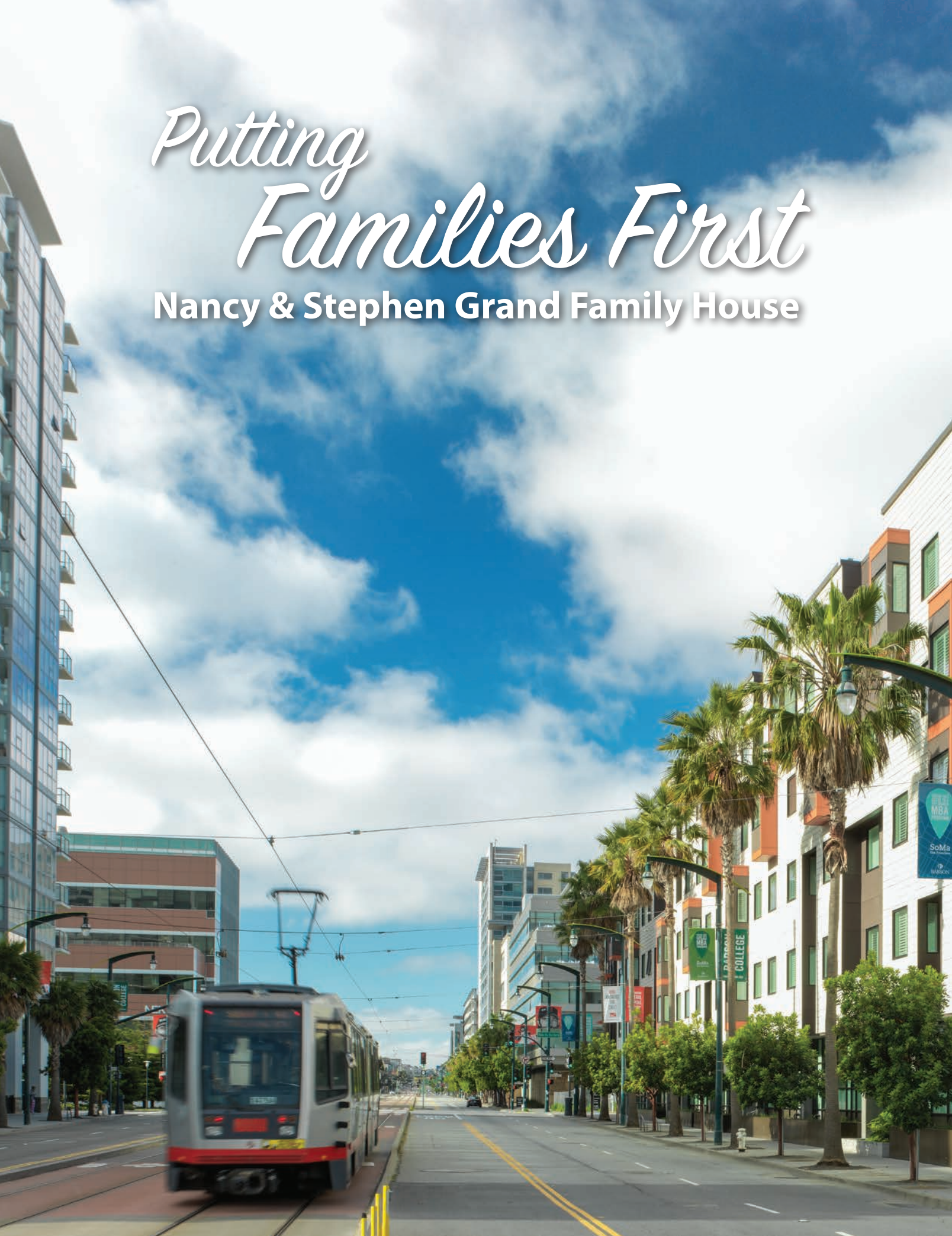
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An Inspiration
in the Bayview

Putting Families First

Nancy & Stephen Grand Family House





Every so often, we're asked to build something truly special, something designed to make an indispensable contribution to our community. In the case of the Nancy & Stephen Grand Family House, Nibbi has built a new facility that's an inspiring model of compassion.

Family House provides free temporary housing to families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Benioff Children's Hospital. Before Family House was founded in 1981, these families struggled to find housing in San Francisco. For many families, staying in a hotel for days, weeks or months was completely beyond their financial means.

When the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital announced plans to relocate to Mission Bay, Family House decided to leave behind its Irving Street and 10th Avenue homes and build a bigger, better new facility in the Mission Bay neighborhood. The goal at this new location was to provide no-cost housing to as many as 80 families at a time. That meant raising \$42 million — no easy task. In 2013, a breakthrough came when a significant donation from philanthropists Nancy and Stephen Grand provided a major catalyst for making this new Family House a reality.



The Nancy & Stephen Grand Family House

Owner: Family House
Architect: Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects
Construction Cost: \$29 million
LEED® Status: Platinum

photos by Roger Swanson AIA

The Family House mission stirred all of us at Nibbi. From the beginning, Project Manager Josh Bazinet and Assistant Project Manager Nick Turner were inspired to go beyond a normal building delivery scenario. They took site visits to the existing Family House to meet families and learn firsthand what was most important to them.

“We learned that Family House is not just a place to stay. It’s a place where families can find comfort and support each other when they are going through a difficult time,” Bazinet said. “At times during construction, I would visualize kids running around in the wide hallways, knowing we were working on a facility with great functionality.”

At five stories, the impressive new facility can accommodate 80 families, almost triple the capacity of the previous two buildings combined. It also accommodates all Family House staff in one office location. The U-shaped building design provides a central courtyard with plenty of natural light. With environmental features, including



Families are referred to Family House by social workers at the Children’s Hospital and must travel from at least 50 miles outside San Francisco. Recently, one of the families came from as far away as Tibet!

rooftop solar hot water, high-efficiency lighting and landscape reduction, the building is LEED® Platinum-certified.

This new facility also got some major help from all sorts of other businesses. All mattresses were supplied by European Sleepworks, modern Elfa closets were provided by The Container Store, and many stylish furnishings were donated by Pottery Barn. The result is

a dynamic, attractive and supportive community of exceptional quality.

The staff at Family House is also aided by over 2,500 volunteers a year, including several Nibbi employees who continue to volunteer for various support activities.

More about Family House can be found online at www.familyhouseinc.org.

Past the Punch List

We Do More Than Just Build

People say that anyone who is touched by Family House’s mission is drawn to help in some way — and that’s certainly true for three young Nibbi employees.

Kira Feuz, Josh Bazinet and Nick Turner were on Nibbi’s Family House project team. Although construction has ended, each of them volunteered to serve on the Family House Young Professionals Advisory Council (YPAC), with Bazinet taking the lead as the new co-chair.

The YPAC coordinates fundraising events and activities benefiting the families staying at the house. A recent achievement of the YPAC was the

coordination of this year’s annual Fall Gala (at The Fairmont Hotel), attracting more than 400 guests and raising more money than any Family House gala to date.

Spending time with the families is one of Feuz’s favorite aspects of volunteering. “I think it’s been really gratifying to speak with and help the families,” she said.



Occasionally, they volunteer their time for other tasks — like recently painting the columns in the garage a vibrant orange, with the Family House logo spray-painted onto them. “Now, they pop,” Turner reported.

Nibbi President Bob Nibbi is proud of Feuz, Bazinet and Turner, among other employees, for building lasting relationships with the community through volunteering. He said, “It’s exciting to see our younger employees getting involved with organizations that they feel passionately about and continuing our firm’s tradition of community involvement that we’re so proud of.”

At right: Preparing dinner for families at Family House