

Food shoppers a growing trend at SROs

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are Care Not Cash hotels. Some have community kitchens, others just microwaves in individual rooms. DHS had four hotels on the pantry delivery route and increased its contract with the Food Bank to add six more, plus Abate's shopping job to cover the 10. But SRO space varies and some markets are no bigger than a walk-in closet.

"We really get a lot of bang for our buck," says DHS Housing and Homeless Deputy Director Scott Walton. "For every \$1 of ours, we get \$8 in food. The pantries get set up like little farmers' markets. And the program helps build community in the buildings."

The Empress is in the Department of Public Health master lease program for housing.

Abate says the lure of food is a socializing influence. It brings people together who tend to isolate themselves. They mingle and talk, though some seem unable to partake.

"Some only come to the door and turn back," Abate says. "But you see (social) growth here and when they volunteer it might be the beginning of their getting out of here, like leaving the nest."

The volunteers get to shop first at 1:45 p.m.; they fill their bags and leave. The rest start at 2 p.m. They enter about one per minute into a room that now has the visual flair of Whole Foods and the friendliness of Trader Joe's.

Goodman checks off names on a roster to keep a count and doesn't let the room get crowded. The bread is gone by 2:15 when hip-hop and soul singer Mary J. Blige's voice fills the room from a CD player in the corner.

A few announce they are shopping for



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Despite his heart operation, resident volunteer Gregory Shaw hefts a 50-pound bag from the Food Bank's weekly delivery.

other residents and that's okay. There's a loud argument outside the door over who comes in first. Goodman steps outside and quells it and the process resumes.

The residents usually comment gleefully on what surprises them, the peanut crunch bars, the size of the potatoes in the red wagon, the Shrek gummies. The experience is like looking under a Christmas tree.

At the end of the marketing day, 61 of

the hotel's 82 residents had shopped. Everything was gone, except a few boxed items that would be recycled the next week. In the unlikely event they are continually ignored, they end up in Goodman's Halloween basket.

"What I'm glad about is that the two new residents from last week came down and another person I hadn't seen in a long time," says Goodman. ■

TENDERLOIN HEALTH

a continuum of care

Outreach and Community Events April 2008

Health Promotion Forum

Topic: Disability Housing Options and Rights

Speaker: AIDS Housing Alliance and Tenderloin Housing Clinic

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 22, 12 pm - 2 pm

HIV Treatment Forum

Topic: Newly Diagnosed

Speaker: Jenni Vanderlaag, Gilead

Date/Time: Monday, April 21, 3 pm - 4 pm

Client Advisory Panel

Come talk with Tenderloin Health's Board Client Representative(s) and program managers about plans for Tenderloin Health. Also provide input on new services and how we can improve.

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 9, 11:30 am - 1 pm;

Wednesday, April 23, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Volunteer and Intern for Tenderloin Health

Orientation: Sunday, April 13, 12 pm - 6:30 pm

220 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor
lunch provided

You must register for volunteer trainings.
Stop in/call Emilie (415) 437-2900 ext. 234.

For a schedule of our current groups or for more information call 415.431.7476 or go to www.tenderloinhealth.org

Central City Democrats

The Chartered Democratic Club for District 6



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Annual Meeting of the Central City Democrats
Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 6:30PM
201 Turk Street, Community Room (corner of Jones St.)

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