

**SUMMER 2025
NEWSLETTER**



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GALA**



WAITLISTED

The 10/25 Golden Gala is
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To be added to the waitlist
for tickets, please email
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(831) 883-3030

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(831) 800-7530

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(831) 649-4522

P.O. Box 3222

Monterey CA 93942

From Caterpillar to Butterfly: Harold's Journey of Renewal



When Harold describes his journey, he speaks in the language of transformation. “It’s like being a caterpillar, shedding your skin until you reach your butterfly stage,” he says. For Harold, that butterfly stage came later in life, proof that it’s never too late to seek help and rediscover yourself.

Harold’s turning point came after a devastating loss. When his wife passed away from ALS, Harold could no longer afford rent in South Lake Tahoe. He moved in with his daughter in Seaside, but the living conditions quickly became unbearable. Soon he was homeless, sleeping in abandoned cars and at constant risk of violence. “When you’re homeless, you really don’t have anything. ... it makes you want to just not exist,” he recalls.

A call to the Salvation Army in Sand City for something as simple as a shower set off a chain of events that led Harold to Interim. Eventually, he moved into Sandy Shores, one of Interim’s permanent supportive housing communities. “This is my forever place. This is what I would probably have been wanting,” he says.

Stable housing gave Harold the foundation to focus on healing. He received mental health support that helped him process grief and begin “coming out of his shell” after years of isolation. Outings with fellow residents, from walks in the redwoods to simply sharing stories, have helped him reconnect with community. Today, Harold is pursuing his GED alongside his daughter—a milestone he once thought impossible.

Harold’s story is not unique. Monterey County’s high cost of living and shortage of affordable housing leave people with serious mental illness especially vulnerable to homelessness. Without stable housing, health deteriorates, safety is compromised, and recovery feels out of reach. But with housing plus wraparound support, transformation is possible.

As Harold puts it: “Be patient—nothing happens overnight. There’s hope out there, and it’s worth holding onto.”

Interim Executive Director Delivers State of the Agency Address at 50-Year Milestone

On June 10, 2025, Interim, Inc. staff gathered for the agency's annual All-Staff Training and Recognition Day, where Executive Director Dr. Rhiyan Quiton delivered his yearly State of the Agency address. This year's message carried special weight as Interim celebrates its 50th anniversary,

Founded in 1975, Interim began as a small halfway house offering community-based alternatives to institutional care for people with psychiatric disabilities. Today, it has developed into a comprehensive nonprofit providing supportive housing, residential treatment, peer-led recovery programs, mental health services, and employment support. The agency has built over 20 supportive housing projects, offering more than 250 housing beds, and 42 treatment beds, and continues to expand its continuum of care.

Reflecting on the past year, Dr. Quiton praised staff for their

commitment and highlighted major progress:

"Just in the last year or two, we've improved our job hiring and recruitment practices, expanded our job retention efforts, and welcomed 50 plus new staff to our workforce. ... housing occupancy has ... hovered around 97%, which is incredible."

From technology upgrades to strengthened financial practices, Interim has focused on building capacity for the future.

"With our new leadership in finance, we've made smarter funding investments resulting in more fiscal stability ... while continuing to have clean financial audits."

Program expansion has also been significant. "We successfully transitioned into serving up to 100 clients versus 50 on our Assertive Community Treatment team ... and we're leading the state with the critical implementation of psychiatric advanced directives."

Housing development remains a cornerstone of Interim's work. With Sun Rose Apartments completed, the agency launched Marina Kai Apartments, securing more than \$15 million in funding—including an award of federal passthrough



funding from State of California that placed Interim among only ten recipients statewide and the only one in Monterey County.

Dr. Quiton reminded staff that success is also measured by resilience, collaboration, and commitment to values.

"What's compelling about Interim is our response to adversity, our resilience and perseverance ... It's choosing collaboration and compromise over conflict."

He illustrated this point by referencing an ancient Chinese proverb: "When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills."

Dr. Quiton then added: "We are battle tested and we have 50 years and counting ... we don't just exist, we thrive."

Project Update: Marina Kai Apartments

Interim, Inc. is moving forward with Marina Kai Apartments, a 24-unit supportive housing development on our Marina campus. This three-story building will include 23 studio apartments and one resident manager unit for adults living with serious mental illness who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Each unit will be fully accessible, with shared community spaces and on-site support offices.

With over \$15.7 million in federal passthrough funding secured from the State of California, the Central Coast Alliance for Health, and private donors, Interim has raised 89% of the \$17.8 million project cost. Rising construction costs have created a \$2.15 million gap, and community support is essential meeting our funding goal. Donors can help close the gap by giving online with the QR code or returning a check with the enclosed remittance envelope.



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Guiding Others Through Experience: Samuel Magaña's Journey as a Wellness Navigator



When you meet Samuel Magaña, one of Interim's Wellness Navigators with the Keep It Real dual recovery program, you quickly notice his approachable style.

Whether connecting someone to housing, food resources, or mental health support, Sam leads with empathy; his story guiding his way.

Before joining Interim eight years ago, Sam faced many of the same challenges as the people he now serves. His turning point came when he was referred to Bridge House, Interim's dual-diagnosis residential treatment program.

There, he began attending groups, learning new skills, and connecting with mentors. From Bridge House, he moved through several other programs, gradually building independence and confidence.

"Interim helped me in all those ways—employment, finding housing, my recovery, my mental health. They've helped me all along the way. I've learned to open up, to talk with someone I trust if I'm not feeling well, and like... you feel like you're not alone anymore".

Sam didn't just receive support—he built a career. Through Interim's Supported Education and Employment program, he was

encouraged to apply for a job at the Omni Resource Center. What started as an opportunity became more than four years of training in group facilitation, transportation, and peer support.

"At Omni, I learned most of my skills—running groups, doing transportation to groups. I've worked across five different departments in the last eight years. At Sunflower I learned med watch, at Academy I ran groups, and at Bridge House I learned a lot too. Every program has helped me in some way".

That investment has paid off, not just for Sam, but for the people he now serves. As a Wellness Navigator, he works with young adults ages 18–25, meeting them where they are—on the streets, in shelters, or at community events.

"I'm not here to tell people what to do. I'm more here to guide them along their journey... the way others guided me". Sam's credibility comes from lived experience. "Sometimes by sharing my own story, it kind of gets them to open up or share a little bit about themselves too".

During the height of COVID-19, Sam personally helped move more than ten people into safe housing at

Moongate Plaza.

"I moved in like, 10 or more... during COVID. A lot of people were kind of scared and nervous, and I kind of was too, but I was able to do it. I felt really proud of that."

His leadership has also grown beyond one-on-one work. In May 2025, Sam stepped onto the stage as keynote speaker at Interim's Mental Health Service Recognition Awards, sharing his recovery story with more than 100 people.

"I was nervous, but it felt amazing to connect with so many people and maybe inspire someone who is where I once was."

For Sam, stability means more than a paycheck. It's the chance to raise his two-year-old daughter with pride and purpose.

"If I can get out of conservatorship and do good, and have a steady job for eight years, I feel like anybody has a shot."

Why Sam's Journey Matters

Sam's story shows what donors make possible:

- **Peer-based support works.** *When people in recovery help others, outcomes improve for both the client and the peer worker.*
- **Meaningful work transforms lives.** *By investing in peer roles, Interim empowers people like Sam to move from receiving services to leading them.*
- **Communities grow stronger.** *Every time Sam helps someone into housing or connects them to care, he multiplies the impact of the investment donors once made in him.*

Help us create more stories like Sam's:

