



## Remembering Doug Ford

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Doug Ford.

Doug was a supporter of our work, a contributor to our success, and a strong believer in social justice.

“He was a good, good man, and an even better friend to many of us,” said Louis Chicoine, CEO of Abode Housing Development and Abode Property Management.

Doug was a longtime advocate for supportive housing who channeled his expertise and passion for fighting poverty to craft a lauded, enduring career dedicated to helping those in need. His many contributions included serving as president of the Abode Services Board of Directors, and as a board member for its maximum number of terms.

He passed away on March 14, 2024.

Doug also joined Chicoine in co-founding the organization now known as Abode Housing Development, the area’s first anti-poverty housing developer and an agency that developed a senior housing site named after him — aptly named Doug Ford



## New Abode Services CEO: Vivian Wan

The Abode Board of Directors recently announced that Vivian Wan has become the chief executive officer of Abode Services, as the organization implements its executive succession plan.

Vivian took the reins of Abode Services' leadership — effective Jan. 1, 2024 — continuing her nearly two decades of dedicated experience

helping Abode fulfill its mission to end homelessness. As part of the succession plan, Louis Chicoine is leading Abode Housing Development and Abode Property Management — as he prepares for his future retirement.

Abode is fortunate to make this leadership transition at this moment, as very few organizations of its size have been able to initiate an executive succession plan while situated in such a robust position of strength.

Vivian has been a leader at Abode for 17 years, transforming Abode Services from a small nonprofit serving close to 1,000 people experiencing homelessness every year to an industry leader now serving more than 15,000 people a year through sustainable housing solutions. Her commitment to excellence, growth of evidence-based practices, and authentic partnerships have helped expand Abode's impact throughout seven Bay Area counties. Vivian's passion for ending homelessness, strategic vision, and deep understanding of its complex and impactful operations have made her uniquely qualified to lead Abode Services.

"This is an exciting time for Abode," said Abode Services Board President Tarrah Henrie. "We are fortunate to have Vivian Wan, a leader within Abode Services, and an expert in the housing and homelessness field, take the helm as our next CEO."

This new chapter in Abode's evolution will ensure stable and visionary leadership for the organization. Abode is confident that this succession plan will keep the organization strong, specifically as it reorganizes its family of agencies tasked with addressing homelessness holistically through services, housing development, and property management.

# All Aboard

We are excited to announce that Theresa Ballard — an award-winning architect and a leader in multifamily community design — has been selected as chair of the Abode Property Management Board of Directors

Theresa is an architect at PYATOK, an award-winning regional leader in multifamily community design. In particular she has developed a professional expertise with affordable housing for residents with special needs.

A natural team leader, her proven reputation is based on creating partnership when working with clients, agencies, teams, and neighborhoods. Past projects have included a wide range of end-users, including senior assisted living, students, and formerly unhoused — each group requiring discernment of particular technical and design priorities.

She recently completed the first two phases of Caritas Village in Santa Rosa, consisting of permanent supportive housing, emergency shelter, a medical clinic and respite center, childcare, and services.

Having climbed the ranks at work from student intern to managing principal, as the company has grown in size from a dozen to over fifty staff, she approaches business management with that same partnership-focused approach. She has served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Newark, and is a past board president for Abode Services (prior to her current position with Abode Property Management).

Theresa holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and is a licensed architect in California.

Please join us in proudly welcoming Theresa Ballard to the Abode Property Management Board of Directors!



## REMEMBERING DOUG FORD (cont. from page 1)

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Community Apartments. Doug was among several community leaders who spoke at the development's Feb. 7 grand opening.

The Fremont site provides 90 new units of permanent supportive housing for people age 55 or older who are very low income and/or have experienced homelessness.

Doug Ford Community Apartments is a fitting tribute to Doug's legacy as a tireless advocate for people experiencing homelessness or living with low incomes.

"We have lost a housing warrior," said Vivian Wan, CEO of Abode Services. "Doug was a truly dedicated partner in our mission."



# The Greatest Journey

Abode proudly welcomed hundreds of people to its 19th annual Journey Home Breakfast fundraiser one recent Friday morning, as leaders of the nonprofit organization discussed its successes and future plans with community supporters and local leaders.

The yearly event allows Abode to further its mission of ending homelessness in Alameda, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Napa, and Solano counties.

During the March 1 breakfast at the DoubleTree by Hilton Newark-Fremont, supporters made generous donations and pledges that will help Abode continue to serve more than 15,000 individuals each year. The 60-minute event — Abode's only fundraiser of the year — was held in person for the first time since 2020.

Darrian White, chair of the Abode Housing Development Board of Directors, served as the event's emcee. He was joined by elected officials, business leaders, and other community members who shared a meal and learned about the powerful impact that Abode's work is having on those in need.

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# THE GREATEST JOURNEY (cont. from page 4)

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Featured speakers included new Abode Services CEO Vivian Wan; Tarrah Henrie, chair of the Abode Services Board of Directors; and Louis Chicoine, CEO of Abode Housing Development and Abode Property Management.

Leticia Tate-Azevedo, an Abode client, delivered a poignant speech about experiencing homelessness and how the stability of finding a home has helped her transform her life and provide for her young son.

The fundraiser also presented a video featuring seven Abode clients: Mark, Louis, Kimberly, Geno, Bernice, Harold, and Julie. Each client shared their personal story about overcoming challenges that led to them experiencing homelessness before they gained and kept permanent housing with Abode's help.

You can watch the seven-minute video on our website at [abode.org](http://abode.org).

We thank everyone who attended the breakfast for their support and commitment to our mission.

Lastly, Abode would like to thank the event's generous sponsors:

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All gifts for the program were matched up to \$50,000, thanks to the McMurtry Family Foundation. To give online today to Abode, visit our website at [abode.org/donate](http://abode.org/donate).





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