



Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, Inc.
A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation
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**HAIGHT ASHBURY FREE CLINICS, WALDEN HOUSE
ANNOUNCE NONPROFIT MERGER**

***Combined organization to provide strengthened safety net to
San Francisco's most vulnerable populations***

San Francisco, CA - Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, an innovator in integrated health care service delivery, and Walden House, a national leader in recovery services, announced today that they have entered into a binding Letter of Intent to merge. The organizations expect to finalize a Merger Agreement during the first quarter of 2011. The combined agency will be headed by current Walden House CEO Vitka Eisen.

"We have been a collaborative partner of Walden House for years and have admired their mission and compelling work," said Ben Ostapuk, Chair of Haight Ashbury Free Clinics' Board of Directors. "The current environment catalyzed the organizations to realize the advantages of a merged structure to deliver high-quality, expanded services to the most vulnerable populations in San Francisco and throughout California."

"Our merger with Walden House enables the combined agency to deliver enhanced health care throughout the city and offers us a statewide platform from which to expand," said John Eckstrom, outgoing CEO of Haight Ashbury Free Clinics. "I believe the strengthened programmatic and financial foundation that the merged organization creates will ensure Haight Ashbury Free Clinics' continued services for years to come."

Judge Harlan Grossman, Chair of Walden House's Board of Directors, said, "Recognizing the synergies between these two longstanding San Francisco institutions; we believe that the combined organization is greater than the sum of its parts, promising to be even greater in reach and impact for the San Francisco community."

Barbara Garcia, San Francisco's Director of Public Health stated, "This is a very important merger between two major non-profit organizations in the City and County of San Francisco. We believe that this merger will make for a stronger organization that can continue to provide quality primary care and behavior health services to those most in need in San Francisco."

Haight Ashbury Free Clinics provides primary health care and behavioral health services to over 20,000 homeless and low income San Franciscans at its two clinic sites. The Clinics ensure that underserved, vulnerable San Francisco residents have access to high quality, non-judgmental, culturally-sensitive health care - regardless of their ability to pay. In addition to the historic clinic that has been operating in the Haight since the Summer of Love in 1967; Haight Ashbury Free Clinics has pioneered integrated care providing "one-stop shopping" to its clients with primary medical care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and case management offered under one roof at its Mission Street facility.

With a mission to give hope and change lives for people affected by substance abuse and mental health conditions, Walden House opened in San Francisco in 1969 and currently serves over 2,500 individuals and families daily throughout California. Specializing in providing comprehensive, innovative, and compassionate rehabilitation programs, Walden House serves uninsured men and women, individuals with long histories of homelessness and mental illness, and those who are currently or formerly incarcerated in state and county correctional facilities.

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