

A HOME FOR CURTIS

After a year of struggling to pay rent on his own, Curtis was offered a chance to move into an affordable rental home on Maidstone. "I really like the neighborhood. I feel safe and we have shopping centers at a walking distance. Best of all there is a community college nearby where I hope on enrolling and continue to enhance my education," said 24 year old Curtis.

The Maidstone House, along with four other homes in Norwalk, are owned and operated by Home Ownership for Personal Empowerment, Inc. (HOPE), a non-profit organization committed to creating stable, affordable housing for people with developmental disabilities. The homes provide an opportunity for the residents to live independently while paying no more than 30% of their income for rent.

Each year, the City of Norwalk receives a small allocation of HOME Investment Partnerships program funds from the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). HOME funds may only be used for affordable housing. For the past two years, the City has partnered with HOPE to fund the acquisition and rehabilitation of four homes using the City's HOME funds. To complete these projects, HOPE supplements the City's HOME funds with HOPE's own funds, foundation grants, and conventional financing.

The Maidstone House was completely renovated to accommodate three tenants, an updated and wheelchair-accessible kitchen, front and back wheel chair ramps, larger bedrooms, new electrical wiring throughout the house, new flooring, installation of brand new appliances, and front and back yard landscaping.



HOPE was founded by a group of South Bay parents and concerned friends in partnership with the Harbor Regional Center in Torrance who believed that all persons-no matter how severe the disability-have the right to live where and with whom they choose, as a valued member of the community. Today, HOPE owns over twenty affordable rental properties that include single family homes, condominiums, and multi-family duplexes or triplex properties in Los Angeles County. As occupants of the affordable rental properties, HOPE's nearly seventy tenants pay rent that is no more than 30% of their monthly income.

For more information about HOPE, you may visit them at <http://www.hope-homes.org/>