

## Clausen House – An Oakland success story

**C**LAUSEN HOUSE, a nonprofit organization, has been helping adults with developmental disabilities live full and productive lives in Oakland since 1967. It has been known as a cause worthy of community support; less well known may be the ways in which Clausen House and its clients have supported the Oakland community over the past 42 years.

Since its inception, Clausen House has contributed to the stability of the Adams Point neighborhood through the conservation of the historic houses that serve as its group homes. The latest example occurred in April when Clausen House's historic landmark Earl Warren home at 88 Vernon St. was the site for a Rebuilding Together Oakland project headed by a team of volunteers from the law firm of Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean LLP, with help from McGuire and Hester Construction, Masonry Services, Inc. and Richard Larson, Landscape Architect. A close neighbor, Whole Foods, provided lunch for the volunteers.

Warren's home and the home of famed architect Arthur Brown, along with a classic craftsman in Adams

Point, are Clausen House residences. A small apartment house in the neighborhood offers slightly more independent living. A larger number of clients who have achieved enough self-sufficiency live



*Chris is a client of Clausen House's Independent Living Services program. He lives on his own in Clausen House's Lenox apartment building in Oakland and is employed full time. In his spare time, Chris is an accomplished jazz musician.*



*Annika, a Supported Employment client, has been a courtesy clerk at Safeway for more than three years. With training and support provided by Clausen House job coaches, clients master the skills needed to succeed at various retail and office jobs. Other Supported Employers include Walgreen's, CVS Pharmacy, and Noah's Bagels.*

on their own in apartments throughout Oakland.

Clausen House means jobs – both for staff and for clients. Approximately 70 people are employed providing services

in Clausen House's five discrete programs. In addition, many clients have worked for employers throughout Oakland. Clausen House's supported employment partnership with Safeway and Kaiser, for example, goes back more than two decades. Through this successful program some Clausen House workers have remained with the same employer for more than 15 years.

Resources for all Oaklanders are available at the Clausen House Thrift Store at 4834 Telegraph Ave. in the heart of the Temescal neighborhood. The store is a popular destination for high-quality gently used goods such as vintage clothing, furniture, house wares, and books. Savvy antique and treasure seekers throughout the city know its value, as do families on a

budget looking for children's clothing and toys. Neighborhood volunteers regard the store as an ersatz community living room, and Clausen House also makes use of the store as a job-training site for clients.

Many Oaklanders remember the old Berman's/Thomasville furniture store at 650 Grand Ave. at the end of Lake Merritt. Seven years ago Clausen House reopened the remodeled and reconfigured building as a community center. During the week the place hums with classes in life and job skills, computers, dance, art, fitness and nutrition. Weekends find the center sourcing a rich and varied social life for the disabled community.

From all over Oakland people gather for dances, talent and art shows and a variety of recreational activities. The center is also the gathering point for organized departures for hikes, ball games, horseback riding, and other field trips, even dance classes at Cal State East Bay.

The successes of Clausen House may not call out to us from headlines in the media. But quietly and steadily for over 42 years, Clausen House has been making life better not only for the disabled community, but for all residents and businesses in Oakland.

Painting by Anthony Holdsworth, "A Clausen House Portrait," 1997



# Clausen House

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Helping adults with Developmental Disabilities contribute to the community since 1967

### Programs and Services

Job Training and Placement, Housing, Independent and Supported Living, Adult Education, Social Recreation.

Call Peter Brooks, Director of Development, at 510.839.1114. or visit [www.clausenhouse.org](http://www.clausenhouse.org) for

more information. Clausen House is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Mailing address: 88 Vernon Street, Oakland, CA 94610.

**You can get involved now!**

Support the Clausen House Thrift Shop, 4834 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510.653.6812