

MAESTRO CARES

F O U N D A T I O N

CHANGING LIVES, BUILDING DREAMS

Update on the Groundbreaking at Together California on Wednesday, February 7, 2024



MCF staff traveled to California this week to celebrate the groundbreaking for Together California (formerly SOS California) in Palmdale, CA on February 7, 2024. MCF is funding this project along with a variety of partners such as The Bale Family, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Goldman Sachs & Co. The event included speeches by co-founders Christian Bale and Dr. Eric Esraillian, as well as Executive Director, Tim McCormick, who we have also collaborated with at SOS Illinois, funding a project at their Chicago site.



Pictured above: Laura Felix, Marketing & Communication Manager, MCF; Jennifer Aguilar, Project Coordinator, MCF; Christian Bale, Co-Founder of Together California; and Enrique Alonso, Sr. Project Manager, MCF.

In his speech, Mr. Bale mentioned that LA County – where Together California will operate – has more foster kids than anywhere else in America, and 50% of those foster kids are at risk of becoming homeless. Once in foster care, 75% of siblings are separated, but Together California plans to change that. Mr. Bale’s speech continued as he looked out at a vacant lot and said, this “muddy triangle” is destined to be a sacred place that will transform and give hope to a new way of looking at foster care in California.

Mr. McCormick said in his speech, “We break ground today, but we also know tonight, the earth will move [beneath] a young child's world. And he or she will feel that their heart is breaking because now [he]/she's going into out-of-home care, being separated from [his]/her brothers and sisters. We must let that be our call to remain together.” The name, “Together California,” refers to how we want to operate, but it also creates a vision: “We are going to journey with you to care for children who are our children... those children belong to all of us, and we can do a better job caring for them when we are together.”

This project will construct 12 foster homes (the first Village of its kind in California) on 2.67-acres. The goal of Together California is to provide an alternative model of foster care by keeping siblings together.

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In addition, there will be a 7,000 square foot Community Center which will offer enriching services to community children, as well as studio apartments which will provide temporary housing for young adults transitioning out of foster care, avoiding homelessness while receiving supportive care for them to thrive into adulthood.

Groundbreaking Ceremony at Together California, February 8, 2024



Speaking of “together” – MCF and CMN have once again collaborated on this groundbreaking ceremony by sharing the wonderful news on our social media accounts!

