



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Beginnings Recognizes Steve Baird as Landlord of the Year**

(SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.) – New Beginnings was honored to recognize Steve Baird as its Landlord of the Year at our educational luncheon held in March, in which we focused on how we end homelessness by forming collaborative landlord partnerships. As Operational Director of Camp Flores, a home for veterans in Santa Maria, Baird has helped house close to twenty of our veteran clients over the years. New Beginnings is also grateful to Fred Pratt, who owns Camp Flores and has served as a mentor to Baird.

Baird is a former client of our Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program, which makes him one of our greatest client success stories. In his remarks, Baird shared how he became homeless after losing his job, and subsequently disconnected from his family and support system.

New Beginnings staff helped Baird secure housing and provided case management that allowed him to improve his sense of well-being and find the momentum to turn his life around. Today, Baird leads a nonprofit organization that operates Camp Flores and that uses team sports to restore the sense of brotherhood that diminishes for many veterans when they return home. Baird now serves as a leader and as a mentor for veterans across Santa Barbara County.

Baird shared that the success of our partnership is due to New Beginnings' commitment to serving as a long-term support resource to both clients and landlords.

"Relationships with landlords and property managers, like New Beginnings has with Steve Baird and Fred Pratt, are essential to our success in housing people across the county," shared Kristine Schwarz, Executive Director. "We are grateful for their partnership and collaboration. We encourage and welcome others."

New Beginnings Counseling Center provides quality, affordable counseling, shelter, case management and education that strengthens our community and provides our clients with the ability to lead healthy and productive lives. New Beginnings Counseling Center, located at 324 East Carrillo Street, Suite C, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, (805) 963-7777, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.sbnbcc.org](http://www.sbnbcc.org).

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact our development department at (805) 963-7777 x112 or email at [mberton@sbnbcc.org](mailto:mberton@sbnbcc.org).



Our Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program Coordinator, Victor Virgen (left) with Landlord of the Year, Steve Baird (middle), and property owner of Camp Flores, Fred Pratt (right)

