



## Je'net Kreitner, Founder/CEO



Je'net Kreitner founded Grandma's House of Hope in an effort to give back to a community that helped her rebuild her life after she experienced an episode of homelessness in 1991. Je'net found herself living on the streets in California, with a young son to take care of. After hopeless months of struggling to survive and bouncing from one motel to another, an angel entered her life. His faith in her, and the unconditional help he offered them, allowed Je'net to land back on her feet; eventually he became her husband. Today, Je'net wants her programs to offer others the help and hope that she once so desperately lacked in her life. She now considers her trials a training ground that prepared her to carry forward the blessings of a loving God.

Grandma's House of Hope now has over 35 employees (40% whom have experienced homelessness at one time during their life) and will have 16 Shelters open in 2020. Additionally, Grandma's House of Hope operates a community center for at-risk youth and families called "HopeWorks!". "Nana's Kidz," a third program, has provided over 3,000,000 meals to children and families living in motels, and low-income or unstable housing in Orange County.

Je'net has been working with the homeless since 1998, beginning with a monthly Homeless Outreach at her church in Orange and volunteering with The Gleaners Jail Ministry Team. Between 1999 and 2008, Je'net worked full time with non-profit organizations that serve the poor in Orange County. Her experience includes Special Projects Manager at Second Harvest Food Bank, Program Manager/Associate Director of Development for Giving Children Hope, and Senior Case Manager for OC Rescue Mission's Village of Hope. Je'net also served the Cleaners Jail Ministry for 12 years.

In 2014, the Association of Fundraising Professionals named Je'net Founder of the Year. In 2013 and 2014, she was recognized as one of Orange County's 100 Most Influential People and was a Finalist for the James Irvine Leadership Award. Je'net served a two-year term as the Co-Chair of the Collaboration to Assist Motel Families in Anaheim and currently serves as a Chaplain for Mariners Church in Irvine. In 2013, Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait appointed Je'net to serve on the Anaheim Housing Element Ad-Hoc Committee. Congressman Ed Royce appointed Je'net to the Anti-Human Trafficking Congressional Advisory Committee where she served two consecutive terms. Je'net is also a committed partner with the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Orange County.

Je'net was awarded the "Women Helping Women" Ruby Award by Soroptimist International from both Brea/La Habra and Garden Grove Chapters, for her work with Human Trafficking; 2011 the "Woman Making a Difference" Award by California State Senator Lou Correa; the "Spirit of Service Award" by California State Senator Mimi Walters; and in 2018 the Award of Hope by The United Nations Association of OC.