Throughout the BSC’s 85 years, we have served over 80,000 students, each with their own unique experience, and many of whom have struggled to overcome a variety of barriers to successfully pursue a college education.

The barriers they encounter today may be greater than they’ve ever been. Today the cost of tuition at UC Berkeley is approximately $14,000 per year. Room and board in a campus dormitory is over $17,000 per year. That’s $31,000 per year to attend a public University. The sheer cost is one of the greatest obstacles to attaining a college education and having access to the opportunities that accompany it.

The BSC costs $7,218 per year. Without affordable housing, many students simply cannot attend UC Berkeley as the cost of living in the Bay Area makes it unattainable. They end up having to choose other options in the UC system or going to community college and seeking to transfer due to concerns over the crushing weight of student debt.

“How do we open the doors to low-income students and those from traditionally marginalized backgrounds and level the playing field?”

This the challenge that we are confronted with – how do we help make a significant impact in who gets to attend and stay in college?

This is what the BSC is and always has been about – and we’ve demonstrated through the past 85 years that we’re up for this challenge. The need has never been greater. Through our collective capacity our ability to have a lasting and meaningful impact has never been greater.

Better understanding who we serve, and who we need to be serving and are not yet, has been the major focus of the co-op for the past decade. And there are many accomplishments we are proud of:

• We have focused on strategic outreach so that we can recruit the students who need affordable, supportive housing communities the most through collaboration with campus departments and student activism.

• We have continued to focus on our theme housing options, including African American Theme House, Person of Color Theme House (Andres Castro Arms), LGBTQ (Oscar Wilde), and substance-free Cluney to support the unique needs of underserved students.

• We have consistently increased the amount of scholarships we are able offer each year. Over the past several years, we have more than tripled the number of scholarships we are able to award. This year, we were able to offer 170 students $175,000 of...
scholarships to help defray the cost of education.

Being able to support the student leadership in making this progress has been wonderful to be a part of. And we should celebrate these successes and all the BSC has been able to do during the past 85 years. All of this work that we have done together has laid the foundation for our future.

I also want to invite you all to imagine all the potential we have not yet tapped. Indeed there is more to do. There are ways in which we can serve and support our current membership better and many more students we are not yet serving that need our help.

- Housing in the BSC has consistently cost less than half of what dorm housing cost — but our waitlist is long and many students need access to the affordable housing we offer. We need to focus on expansion and providing the opportunities to everyone who needs them.
- Though we’ve more than tripled our scholarship program, this is only enough to help 1/3 of our members who applied for a scholarship and demonstrated significant financial need.
- Our buildings are aging and in order to ensure not only an affordable, but also a safe, high quality, accessible, and sustainable housing community we need to invest in our buildings through capital improvements and seismic retrofits.

As a broader co-op community of current student leaders, alumni, staff, and community partners there is much we can do to make a significant impact to address the student housing crisis and make education truly accessible. Financial support is obviously helpful, and no amount is too small — everyone contributing even a small amount to collectively get more than we ever could alone is ultimately what our economic model is all about. There are also many opportunities to volunteer and lend skills, expertise, and advice to student leaders tackling these projects and professional networking and development for students so they are well-positioned to succeed once they transition to alumni.

The challenges we face today are great — but we believe that through cooperation we are up to the task — together we can solve these problems and making a lasting impact. I hope that we all enjoy 2019 celebrating our community and all that we’ve accomplished thus far; while also networking, envisioning the future, and starting to plan how we all can support the BSC’s ability to continue to grow into all that we are able to become.
The BSC’s 85th Anniversary was an occasion to celebrate our origins, history, and our living, evolving, student-run organization. The experiences of our students are represented and given voice when these same students assume our many leadership positions. We will always be answerable to the needs of our students and we will continue learning from our students how we can best serve our mission.
Thank you Erin Bridges, Lorenzo Galdon, and Tim Blair for bartending!

Current and recent board directors with Kim Benson.

Pondering the BSC Game of Life. How do you pay rent when financial aid is delayed or your family needs help with medical bills?

Venus David, Dorothy Walker, and Narsai David.

African-American Theme House

Kingman Hall

BSC President Shilo Pinto-Quintanilla with Miguel Duarte, BSC staff and alum.
I am a Mexican immigrant who grew up in Ceres, a small Central Valley town surrounded by even more small towns. Ceres is populated, on the one hand, by people who have never lived more than 15 miles away. On the other, a large fraction are immigrants who are farm laborers, seasonal factory workers, or construction workers; at least, that is how my family made a living. My mom, Bertha Ruiz, worked sorting almonds and dried fruits and cutting turkeys at Fosters Farms for several years. These minimum wage jobs were not enough to live; she sold everything on the side: gold jewelry, Avon, tupperware, herbalife, and the list goes on. She taught me what it meant to hustle in a world that did not want us to succeed. Now she is her own boss by selling Princess House-quality kitchen products—full time, and she really is living her best life.

When I was in seventh grade, some kids came to school with a confederate and United States flag on Cinco de Mayo. In my English class we had debates, and immigration always came up. These 12-year olds called Mexican immigrants lazy; they said they took resources from hard working citizens and so on—everything they learned from their parents. I never participated in these debates because I was scared. I was scared of what they thought of me. I was scared to cry in front of them. I could never find my voice to confront these kids, but I will say that thanks to Berkeley and the amazing people I have met in this journey, I have found my voice, and I am not afraid to use it in response to xenophobia.

Throughout grade school, I found solace in my math classes. I did not have to think about the horrible history of the United States or literature I had no connection to. I found my voice through this universal language of numbers that eventually turned into Greek letters. I loved math, and I loved helping my friends understand it, so I thought I was going to be a math teacher. Then I learned about nuclear fusion in stars, and I was mesmerized. I nerded out the next two years in high school. Every chance I got, my project somehow had to do with stars—a research paper on the life cycle of stars, a poem on the death of stars, a presentation on nucleosynthesis, and there might be more. Then I decided I was going to study astronomy or physics, and I’m actually studying both!

I remember when I first told my mom I wanted to study astronomy, she said, “Do you want to be an astronaut? What job are you going to have?” I shrugged. Not knowing about any other careers, I said “NASA?” She said, “Que chido mija, tu estudia lo que quieras.” (how cool, you study whatever you want). Those words echo in my head everytime I question my presence in this field. I once told my uncle I was going to study astrophysics and he laughed because “only a handful of people are successful in those fields, and they are talented well-rounded people.” As soon as I got home, I told my mom, she hugged me and said “don’t you remember what I always tell you? You make your own decisions, and only you know what will make you happy. It is your life.” I am lucky to have my mom’s unconditional support. Her ability to push me to work hard while still being in charge of my own

“We Embody Resilience”

The BSC is not just about economics. At our 85th Anniversary Celebration, Arcelia Hermosilla Ruiz helped us understand what it’s like to be a low-income, first-generation student of color, and how the BSC community is an integral part of her life in college.

"Here in Rochdale, I feel like I belong, and I am comfortable being vulnerable. Regardless of our differences and similarities, our experiences are not questioned, but validated.”
life has really helped me get this far. I am now a fifth-year student double majoring in physics and astrophysics. These past 4 years I have worked day and night on problem sets, learned how to balance school and life, observed the spiral arms of our galaxy, tried to recreate Nobel-prize winning physics experiments, and explained how big our universe is at the planetarium. I am now applying for astrophysics PhD programs and hope to be a professor one day.

Berkeley has given me the opportunity to find my voice by advocating for the needs of students of color in STEM. There is an ongoing cycle where students come to Berkeley passionate and interested in a certain major, but soon they realize they were not prepared for Berkeley’s rigorous curriculum. Admission to a university does not guarantee success; educational inequity persists, impacting students with backgrounds like mine. We do not find many students with similar backgrounds. We constantly hear “it’s easy, we learned this in high school” but in fact we did not all learn this in high school. It’s the first week of school, and we already have to play catch up.

My community here has helped me stay motivated to continue pushing while taking care of myself. Low-income, first-generation students of color especially struggle with mental health, diet, finances, and imposter syndrome. We feel like we don’t belong because we don’t meet people that share similar backgrounds. We believe that everyone else is significantly smarter and deserve to be here. We lose hope that one day we will know that we are cut out to study such a field. We are constantly stressing about paying rent. The stigma against seeking therapy hinders our opportunity to improve our mental health. We go through a lot, but we are still here. We embody resilience, and we deserve credit.

Here in Rochdale, I feel like I belong, and I am comfortable being vulnerable. Regardless of our differences and similarities, our experiences are not questioned, but validated. I will run into friends in my hallway and every corner of this complex. We have meaningful conversations; we exchange advice; we support each other. The entire time you will see us nodding our head in agreement, saying the words “dude, same” or “I was just thinking about that the other day.” I am understood for having a breakdown; I am understood for skipping a lecture; I am understood for asking for an extension on an assignment. I am understood.

So, the BSC is not just about the economics. For me, it has been a place where I can rest and gather strength from my community so that I can continue fighting for my dreams. Thank you, BSC for being such an amazing institution. After graduating, I plan on checking in and supporting your work so that students after me can also have this opportunity.
Why I’m Leaving a Significant Gift to the BSC in my Estate Plan

There are two significant ways to create long term impact to the co-ops. The first is making regular annual contributions now but the largest impact that I can offer is a significant gift in the future after my death. Many BSC alums have the good fortune to have children and grandchildren. Perhaps, you could consider ways to provide for both your offspring and the BSC. If you make the effort now with a change in your estate plan to include BSC, then you make a material impact to generations of future students.

I have benefited from a booming real estate market and rising stock market since leaving the Berkeley Student Cooperative and now is the time to pay it back by helping the BSC. Here is why and how I decided to give back to this organization and the students it supports.

My story and my case for support. Many of you experienced profound growth and self discovery in the Co-op, and I did too. The highlight of University for me was the lessons I had at the Co-op — how to work and live with really smart people from a wide range of backgrounds, how to trust, how to delegate and the joys of creating meals to bring 100 people together at the table. I remember stepping in to help out with dinner prep and being applauded for my contribution and leadership. What a confidence booster! I ultimately became co-House Manager for two quarters. Additionally, as a young man just coming to terms with my sexual orientation, I couldn’t have found a more supportive home. Certainly, I learned a lot at Cal but the skills I developed in the Co-ops served me well throughout my entire career.

To the BSC, you are a somebody. As a donor, you are not likely to get a meeting with the UC Berkeley Chancellor. UCB has a huge operating budget and unless you are writing a really large check you will never meet the people in charge. In contrast, the budget for the BSC is $11.2 million. I have met Executive Director Kim Benson and Development Director Madeleine Loh at least twice, including a casual beer near my home in Palm Springs. When I asked, Madeleine even arranged a meeting with the Workshift Manager and House Manager.

By Jeffrey Wright (Chateau 1977-80)

Jeff retired early from a corporate job with AT&T followed by a decade of real estate investing. He enjoys traveling and spending more time with friends and rediscovering his large extended family.

Jeff retired early from a corporate job with AT&T followed by a decade of real estate investing. He enjoys traveling and spending more time with friends and rediscovering his large extended family.
of Oscar Wilde House (the LGBTQ-themed house). These students are really making the most of their college and Co-op experience. They brought tears to my eyes as I could see first hand, the difference between growing up as a LGBTQ person now versus in the 70s.

The BSC needs money for capital improvements. If the buildings don’t survive then neither will the BSC. The BSC is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a laudable social justice mission. Functionally, it is in the business of running and maintaining 20 aging properties. After a decade in real estate, I better understand the concept of entropy. The buildings are slowly falling apart and the task of keeping them safe and attractive to students is big. However, with money and work they can be maintained so they continue to house many future generations of Co-opers.

It has taken many years to get capital improvements moved higher in the BSC priority list. Today, the students are burdened with catching up with years of insufficient re-investment into its capital stock. Over 33% of student rents goes towards capital preservation and maintenance. That’s a lot of upward pressure and it is up to us alumni with financial capacity to open the pressure valve.

The BSC’s work leads to outcomes for students whose struggles are often hidden in plain sight. I want my legacy to serve people who live in my community, yet whose struggles are often overlooked. I feel a strong affinity with the BSC and I love that that students today are getting the same quirky and special Co-op experience I did, while earning a prestigious degree. However, I am also aware it isn’t 1977 anymore. The BSC isn’t just a great option for today’s students. It’s the only option for students who would otherwise have to drop out.

Call to action. Both my mother and father spoke about leaving some money to the universities that they attended. However, they never got around to doing the paperwork to make this happen. I decided to not make this same mistake and I urge you to join me in this. The time to work out an estate plan is now, when you have a clear head to think about the impact of your gift on future leaders being educated here at Cal. By including the BSC in your Estate Plan, you can make sure that students who otherwise could not afford to come to Cal get the opportunity to grow into the next generation of leaders. This is not about a couple of people writing big checks, this is about everyone participating with what they can give. If we all give something, it would make a dramatic improvement for this organization and the services they provide. This is something that can provide real lasting impact for the next generation and to our entire community.

WHAT’S OUR LEGAL NAME?

Our legal name is Berkeley Student Cooperative, Inc. a California not-for-profit corporation, with its principal place of business in Berkeley, California. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and confirmation of our tax-exempt status is provided in the form of a letter from the US Department of Treasury, available upon request. Our Federal tax ID/EIN is 94-0948140.

If you have questions, please contact our Development Director, Madeleine Loh, at (510) 649-8984 or mloh@bsc.coop

If the BSC is already in your bequest, we hope you will inform us so that we can better plan for our future and show our gratitude!
JOIN OUR SPECIAL GIVE VOLUNTEER TEAM! CONTACT SPECIAL GIVE CO-CHAIR
KEVIN RAMIREZ, KEVINHAROLDO@BERKELEY.EDU

WHEN YOU DONATE TO BERKELEY STUDENT COOPERATIVE, 100% OF YOUR DONATION DIRECTLY HELPS:

- KEEP RENTS AFFORDABLE FOR 1,260 STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE LOW-INCOME AND FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS.

- MAKE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SO OUR 20 BUILDINGS ENDURE AND STAY SAFE

- OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS IN NEED

- GIVE STUDENTS A TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN OUR STUDENT-RUN COOPERATIVE

I am very grateful and appreciative of everything the BSC has done for me and many other students!

Thank you lovely people!

TRISHA DALURO

I am a 4th year Environmental Science Major. I hope to become a conservation biologist who will work for either the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife or the US Fish and Wildlife service. This is my first year staying in the BSC and I’ve never lived so comfortably in Berkeley. I was fortunate enough to get into Fenwick and have been blessed with amazing housemates. I can decorate and personalize my room, something I’ve never been able to do in my last 3 years living in a triple. It is thanks to your support that I can enjoy the last year of my undergrad career doing the things I’ve always wanted to do and not have to worry about a finding a place to live.
As a transfer student from Ventura, CA, I had doubts that I would be able to achieve my dream of attending UC Berkeley due to the extremely high cost of living. Despite the hard work that I put in during community college, I considered turning down my admission offer as I was unsure how I was going to make ends meet. Thankfully, the BSC was able to make my dream a reality and I am now entering my senior year studying Political Science and Public Policy. Since joining the BSC in Spring 2017, I have had the pleasure of working in the Central Office as the Social Manager Coordinator and am currently in my 4th semester of being Workshift Manager at Stebbins Hall. The BSC not only has provided me with housing and food stability, they have also provided me with a strong community full of friendships that will last a lifetime. I am forever thankful to the BSC for the unique and positive experience that attending University has been for me.

Not only are you supporting the organization, you’re supporting members like me. I’m a third year student studying Physics and Astrophysics. Coming from a low-income area I’ve always worried where I’d end up after I had to leave the dorms. Thanks to BSC and to you, I have a wonderful community for me at Rochdale. Thanks so much for your support.

As a first-generation college student there were many things that worried me about Berkeley. The academic rigor. Finding housing in the nation’s most expensive college town. Living with introverts people who only study. I no longer have to worry about Berkeley’s academic rigor because I’m living it. Having a fun community to come home to after each school day makes it all worth while. Everything is more wonderful when you’re surrounded by people you genuinely care about and enjoy, and I love walking through the front door to see my friends grooving to music and cooking dinner. I am thankful for donations such as yours for they make possible so many positive experiences for hundreds of hardworking students such as myself. I look forward to creating great memories at my house, Lothlorien, and hopefully giving back to my community (BSC) someday just as you have done. Thank you!
David Pon (Casa Zimbabwe and Stebbins Hall 2009-12) and Sara Williams (Euclid, Kingman, Stebbins Hall 2011-12) met while they were both working at the Tilden Little Farm in the Berkeley hills. Their favorite Stebbins memories include bonfires in the backyard (thanks Kidd!) and late night dance parties in the kitchen. Today, Sarah teaches first through third graders in the Mt. Diablo school district and David works at a nonprofit in San Francisco Chinatown. Though they no longer live in the Co-op, they still hold dear the values of spending less and living more. That’s why they decided to celebrate their marriage with a three-day camping trip in the redwood forest with 180 of their dear friends and family. David and Sara, the BSC congratulates your happy marriage and thanks you for giving back in so many ways!

Kaela Colwell (Davis House and Sherman Hall, 2010-2012). The BSC felt like home for so many years. I made some of my closest friends while living in Sherman and Davis. We spent many hours in the kitchen together making up recipes and sampling new ingredients. Special Dinner was always a favorite occasion and I really enjoyed being a part of house management. I give back to the BSC because of what the BSC gave to me – lessons on household management, deep connections with peers, a robust social life, nutritious food and an affordable place to live. I also regularly volunteer with Compass, a nonprofit organization that partners with business and legal professionals to provide strategic guidance to local nonprofits.

Will Langer (Ridge House 1945, 1948-50). At age 17, I was a part of a December 1944 High School graduating class in Petaluma. I was able to gain entrance to UC Berkeley starting in January 1945. But, where to live? One of my teachers knew about the Coop, so I lived in the old Oxford Hall till June 1945, I got drafted. I enlisted in the Merchant Marines and made two trips to Japan and then did two years in the Navy. Returning to Berkeley in the fall of 1948, I was three years older than other freshmen students. I was assigned to Ridge House, and was the only freshman living there. Some of the work assignments at the Co-op made later work assignments easier to accept. My first workshift was cleaning the garbage cans outside the Central Kitchen at Oxford Hall. Half full of congealed grease and whatever smelly stuff to fill them up, they were pressure washed and steam cleaned by me. Also, living with other people in a shared bedroom and study room was quite a change for a single child from a small town. I also worked at
the Central Office my last semester and started a manual card catalog of Board motions passed in prior years. I never did complete it, but I am sure someone else did so when computer data bases came into use. I stayed at Ridge for two years. During a party at Ridge, I met my future wife, Helen Wilkins, who boarded at Stebbins Hall.

We married in February 1950. We now have been married 68 years, thanks in part to the party at Ridge House!

I guess my early days were rather different, being an only child. Being of German descent and having two WWI veterans living on either side of us, we had problems as WWII was starting in the late ’30 and early ’40s. My dad was a barber, so we also had financial issues. Where else could I have gone but the Co-op. On returning to Berkeley in 1948, the G I Bill paid all my education thru graduation even after getting married. So, I fondly remember the BSC for those early years, and am able to support the BSC in a small way.

Jerry Sakai (Cloyne Court 1953-57). When I enrolled at Berkeley I did not know that four of my high school friends had also enrolled. Four of us are Japanese American (3rd generation), and one a Filipino American. We came to Berkeley from Stockton, California a mere 80 miles away. We were all from families of modest but comfortable means. We did not lack for good food, a nice (but small) home, and access to our parents’ one car. Our parents funded nearly all of the costs of attending, thus had to be mindful to keep costs to a minimum. That is why we all chose the Berkeley Student Cooperative, and in particular, Cloyne since 4 of us were Engineering majors. What a good choice it was for the variety of students from various parts of the country and other countries. Plus there was a good mix of non engineering types. I give back because I am indebted to the BSC and UC for the good life I have since enjoyed.

Richard Lira (Barrington Hall and Ridge House 1963-67) and Gretchen Taylor take every opportunity during their travels to reconnect alumni to the BSC and our work. Thank you for your ambassadorship!
In Memoriam:

BISHOP G. RICHARD MILLARD

Bishop Millard was one of the founding members of the Berkeley Student Cooperative, which in his time was known as the University of California Student Cooperative Association (UCSCA). He came from a railroad family and grew up in the lumber town of Weed, CA. It was a low-wage, low-rent, rural town. Attending UC Berkeley was a financial struggle.

Bishop Millard and other students, with the support of Stiles Hall, YMCA, and Harry Kingman, learned of a vacant fraternity house on Ridge Road. “We rented it and furnished it with cast off furniture – that was the first Co-op. We paid $20.50/month plus five hours of work a week. In the summers we worked for a farmer in the Delta area for $1.50/day. In two months you could save $60, and that paid for three months’ room and board at the Co-op!” You can find some of his Co-op recollections on Youtube.

Bishop Millard named the first student Co-op. “I went to the library to look for a name that would bring some class to a bunch of fellas with no class. I found our name on account of the cooperative movement in England. The residents liked it and we became Barrington Hall.”

After graduating in 1938, Bishop Millard married fellow Berkeley graduate Mary Louise Gessling and began a career in the Episcopalian Church. He ministered in Alameda and was elected suffragan bishop for California, then became Bishop of American Churches in Europe. Another highlight of his life was marching with Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama in 1965. Eventually, Bishop Millard and his wife retired in California to be with their children.

Bishop Millard became re-acquainted with the Berkeley Student Cooperative around 2011, and was extremely proud and supportive of our organizational direction. At the age of 97, he jumped in to help the BSC fundraise for seismic retrofit work: “I hope you will join me in making a sacrificial gift to the Berkeley Student Cooperative – an organization which saw us through difficult times and continues to provide an important service to university students.”

The then-BSC President Spencer Hitchcock, Executive Director Kim Benson, Development Director Madeleine Loh and other alumni helped him celebrate his 100th birthday at his home. Still sharp and witty, Bishop Millard reflected on the Co-oper spirit – which he said is about being willing to roll your sleeves up and contribute, but also being able to “hang loose.” After Bishop Millard passed, BSC President Shilo Pinto-Quintanilla and Vice President of Capital Affairs Nick Johnson paid their respects at Bishop Millard’s memorial at Grace Cathedral, where they talked to the Bishop of California about Dick Millard’s role in establishing the Berkeley Student Cooperative. As his son Joseph stated, “Father spent a lifetime building and maintaining institutions he believed in.” We are honored to have been a part of his life and grateful for his lifetime of support and the legacy he is leaving behind.

“Father spent a lifetime building and maintaining institutions he believed in.”

— Joseph Millard, Son
Cooperatively Yours Spring 2019

In Memoriam:
CAROLYN SKINNER

By Larry Hartsough

Carolyn and I first met our sophomore year, when Kidd Hall, where I lived, held a dance party in Spring of 1962. As she related later, the attraction was mutual and became stronger when she discovered how compatible we were dancing to moves we both had learned from American Bandstand. I made sure that I was the one with her permission to walk her back to Hoyt at the end of the evening. After several study and concert dates, our relationship deepened and it became harder and harder to get her back to Hoyt in time for curfew over the next two years. We both had come to feel that we were fated to be together, although there were a few rocky times in early days. We were engaged in Spring of 1964 and married after I finished undergraduate school in 1965, having taken five years as a participant in the Engineering Work-Study Program.

Coming from a small town in the Central Valley, Carolyn was really stimulated culturally and intellectually by the other students with whom she interacted at the Coops. She was especially impressed that Julie Bridges, daughter of the Longshoreman’s Union leftist leader Harry Bridges, lived at Hoyt.

After her second year at Hoyt, Carolyn managed to become a kitchen “supie” during dinners for her workshift. She took great pride in making sure that the food prepared in Central Kitchen was properly cooked and presented. One time, the gravy did not seem hot enough, so she had it heated to the boil before it was served. Turns out all the houses, except Hoyt, experienced food poisoning! She was rather proud of that!

I’m not privy to how, or why, but several Ridge House residents presented to Carolyn the shirt in the accompanying picture. The signers of the shirt were: Don Goslin, Carlos Ynostroza, Gerald Haight, “Jumping” Jim Johnson, Roosevelt “Mack” McElroy, and Tony Tokar. It must have been special to her, because she saved that shirt all these years.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, Carolyn continued in the Graduate School of Education, joining the nascent School Psychology. Carolyn was Program Director for the School Psychology program for the remainder of her career.
Thank You to the growing number of friends and alumni who support the Berkeley Student Cooperative each year! We are deeply grateful and humbled by your generosity.
Donor Bob Reyes (third from right) recently enjoyed dinner at Cloyne Court.
What started out as a quick call to update my credit card info for our monthly donation turned into a great conversation recently with Madeleine Loh, Development Director for the BSC. After a short chat about the BSC’s fiscal health, the 3-year strategic plan, and their progress toward goals, like 75% of students being from low-income households, I have more confidence than ever that the BSC is a great investment for our limited charitable dollars.

If you are a parent or guardian of a current or former Co-op student and you’re reading this now, I urge you to make a monthly contribution to the BSC in any amount. Here’s why we are giving.

My daughter’s experience in the BSC had a profound, positive impact on her, more than any other aspect of her undergraduate education at Berkeley. UC Berkeley did provide an excellent education for both of our offspring. But when asked for charitable donations, we chose to give to the BSC, a small, student-centered non-profit, rather than to the university (since we can’t do both at this time).

Our daughter (Class of 2018) could state what she has gained from the Co-op better than I can. From my perspective, the experience of being an integral part of a complex, diverse, self-determined co-operative provided our daughter with a model for a way of living that is just and sustainable, and that she will maintain for life. She learned a way to live and be in the world which is far better – for people and the planet – than the way most of us exist today.

It is inspiring to see our daughter continuing to expand on co-operative living principles and ideas as she enters her postgrad phase, and to know she will take the BSC framework and practices wherever she goes. The college friends that will be in her life for life, our daughter’s closest friends, are Co-op friends. They are absolutely incredible human beings who, at this very moment, are out making a difference in the world, while (presumably) paying their own bills. We feel fortunate to know those interesting friends of hers, and to be a part of their extended community of fans and supporters.

Finally, as parents who were fortunate enough to be able to support our children through school financially, we saved thousands of dollars because our daughter was in the Co-op. Giving back to the BSC allows us to continue to be a small part of something truly transformational. The money we give makes a difference to the BSC – student fees don’t cover the entire cost of housing a student – but it makes an even bigger difference to us. We are living in a time when it feels hard to find hope, and hard to know when or where our efforts matter. Giving a little bit to the BSC every month helps us be a small part of their unique community. It just feels really good!

We give $25 a month, which is substantial for us. Maybe you could give more, or less, but whatever the amount, I promise that participating in this cause and community will feel good to you too.

Sincerely,
Julie Tapp

P.S. Monthly donations are critical, in that they are a reliable source of monthly income for a not-for-profit organization. Giving monthly is easy to do – just set and forget. Please give what you can to support and be part of this remarkable cooperative community!
Donate to the BSC!

The BSC is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible. Your donations directly support the BSC’s work.

Choose your gift:

☐ $100.00
☐ $1,000.00
☐ $________
☐ $________ /Month
☐ I am making a gift in my will
☐ I am donating appreciated securities

Choose your area of support:

☐ Seismic Retrofit Fund
☐ Scholarship Fund
☐ Where It Is Needed Most

Give Smarter

Don’t forget that many employers will match your donation. Ask your HR department. The BSC has received matching employer donations from Google, Apple, Applied Materials, Lawrence Livermore National Labs, Macquarie Group, Robert Wood Johnson and others.

For those 70 1/2 and older, make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA. Pay no income tax on that amount and satisfy your required minimum distribution.

Donate appreciated securities and avoid capital gains tax.

The Berkeley Student Cooperative is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible. Our tax ID is 94-0948140

Join the Alumni Association

The BSCAA is a separate 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization. Your dues are tax-deductible contributions to the BSCAA.

Lifetime Membership, BSC Alumni Association
☐ $500 Lifetime Membership
☐ $250 Recent Grad Lifetime Membership

Annual Membership, BSC Alumni Association
☐ $50 Annual Membership
☐ $20 Recent Grad Annual Membership

To donate online with a credit card or bank transfer visit

bsc.coop/donate

☐ My check, payable to the BSC, is enclosed.
☐ Please charge my credit card $______________ .
Card No. ________________________________
CVV/CSC No. __________
Exp. Date ______________
Signature ______________ Date ______
Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
Email ________________________________
Phone ________________________________
Your BSC History ________________________________

THE BSC WANTS TO REACH ALL ALUMNI
(Whether you pay dues or not)
bsc.coop/alumni/update

Moved? Changed your name? Different email address? Let us know so we can keep you informed about local events and BSC news that matter to you. Use the online form, or contact Madeleine Loh at (510) 649-8984 or mloh@bsc.coop

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR FALL 2019 ISSUE

May 1, 2019

We welcome your submissions! Submissions may be edited for length and clarity, and publication may be postponed.
Berkeley Student Cooperative, est. 1933

The mission of the Berkeley Student Cooperative is to provide a quality, low-cost, cooperative housing community to university students, thereby providing an educational opportunity for students who might not otherwise be able to afford a university education.

You are warmly invited!

**LOS ANGELES**
Saturday March 30, 2019, 3pm
Hollywood Sign Hike with BSC Board members & Happy Hour. Join members of the BSC Board of Directors for an undemanding hike to the Hollywood sign with an optional post-hike happy hour.
Contact: Ireland Wagner, alumni@bsc.coop

**PORTLAND**
Saturday March 28, 2019, 5-7pm
Portland Oregon happy hour. Aalto Lounge.
Contact: Madeleine Loh, mloh@bsc.coop

**BERKELEY**
Saturday April 6, 2019, afternoon
Home Improvement Day. Volunteer to work on a gardening or home improvement project with our members!
Contact: Orlando Gonzalez-Gudino-Guizar, darcon2@bsc.coop

**ANYWHERE**
April 22-26, 2019
Special Give Funraising Campaign. Join our fun, supportive community of volunteer fundraisers! Your time is valuable and appreciated. Make a big impact with only 5-10 hours.
Contact: Special Give Co-Chair Kevin Ramirez, kevinharoldo@berkeley.edu

**BERKELEY**
Tuesday May 7, 2019, evening
BSC Graduation. Seeking alumni who graduated in the last 5 years to volunteer!
Contact: Bonnie Prestridge, bonnie@bsc.coop

Please update your contact information:
bsc.coop/alumni/update