

## Board Member Bios 2016-2017

**Dave Burkland, Chair**, has served on CHIP's Board of Directors for two years, but his relationship with CHIP is far from new. He started working at CHIP in 1983.

In 1975, Dave moved to Chico to attend Chico State, earning a degree in geography planning and later receiving a master's in planning. He worked in construction during and after college. He then spent nine years working for CHIP as the corporate contractor and then managing the housing rehabilitation program. Dave worked for and retired from the City of Chico Housing Department after that, and returned as a board member in retirement. He is passionate about helping CHIP remain financially stable continue its mission to develop affordable self-help housing and provide housing-related and social services to residents living at our rental properties.

**Samantha Dennison** is a resident at one of the rental properties managed by CHIP. She was born and raised in Southern California where she enjoyed raising her family and studying in Behavioral Sciences. She moved to Chico almost in 2011 where she has been actively involved with the autism community, Special Olympics and various nonprofits that provide a better future for the disadvantaged. She continues to be a full-time caregiver to her autistic son as well enjoy time with her older daughters in this town she loves so much.

**Joe Feist, Vice Chair**, is a practicing attorney in Butte County and has served as a member of the CHIP board since 2009. Originally from Indiana, Joe has called California home for more than 15 years and is an active member of the community who enjoys traveling when possible. Joe acts as an advocate and works tirelessly helping those in most need of it. He has a particular interest in serving veterans. Joe served as CHIP's Board Chair for two years.

**Katie Fowkes** grew up on a walnut and prune orchard in Los Molinos, CA and moved to Chico, CA after completing her BS in Electrical Engineering and MA in Business Economics at University of California, Santa Barbara. Her experience with business management and extensive training in mathematics was a great foundation for her career in the commercial business market. Katie worked at Tri Counties Bank for 5 years as a Commercial Relationship Manager and has since been at Banner Bank for the past 7 years as a Vice President, Senior Commercial Relationship Manager. This position includes analysis and monitoring of multi-phase construction projects, which introduced her to the CHIP organization and expanded her interest to support CHIP's goals in the community. In addition to construction lending, Katie works with businesses in industries from manufacturing to agriculture in all realms of financing needs. She lives in Chico with her husband, Don, with their two girls and with another one on the way.

**Aaron Haar** has lived in Chico for fifteen years after moving from the Midwest. He has worked for Chico Recreation and Park district for twelve years. He is an active volunteer for the community in protecting, preserving and enhancing nature and recreational opportunities. Aaron was recently appointed to the City of Chico Parks and Playground Commission.

**Vanessa Haro** joined the board in late 2016. She is a financial advisor with Edward Jones Investments, and has a passion for helping people and solving problems. She has experience in both banking and property management industries.

**Andy Holcombe** has a long-standing connection and commitment to CHIP and its principals. Andy was a VISTA volunteer attorney through a joint Legal Services and CHIP self-help housing program in 1978, and has been involved in CHIP activities ever since. Andy served as a longtime Associate Member, and helped CHIP and CHIP clients for many years as a staff attorney at Legal Services of Northern California. He was also a founding member of the Chico Community Shelter Partnership which built and operates the Torres Shelter, Chico's 110 bed emergency shelter for men, women, and children. In 2004 Andy was elected to the Chico City Council, serving two four year terms, including a term as mayor 2006 to 2008. As mayor and a council member Andy consistently supported low-income housing programs, inclusive planning and support services for CHIP's clientele and the community at large. After leaving the City Council, Andy was able to formally reconnect with CHIP as a Board Member, and in that capacity continue working for and supporting CHIP and the communities it serves. Andy also serves on the City of Chico Arts Commission.

**Mark Hooper** grew up in rural New York, spending summers in Maine and one memorable summer in Idaho. College took him to Ohio and Nashville for one semester, and he spent two years on the road following high school and before coming to Chico State for nursing school. He has worked as a nurse for 36 years in Chico, spending 34 years as a cardiac rehabilitation nurse. In his spare time, he built his own home and remodeled four other houses which he keeps as rentals. Prior to joining the CHIP Board of Directors 10 years ago, he spent 8 years working with community development in Chico's Chapmantown neighborhood. His experiences have taught him that affordable housing, and a place one can call home is fundamentally important in the education and health of the individual and the development of community.

**Fong Lo** has an extensive background in public service. He works in the federal government sector as assisting with disability and retirement claims. Fong says he is happily blessed with a lovely wife and four beautiful children, the oldest of whom are in college. Fong has received recognition from the federal government for outstanding public service. He co-founded the Butte County Hmong Association, Inc. which helps alleviate poverty in the community. He serves on the Chico Police Advisory Board and volunteers on the "Love Chapman" coalition and helped implement the diversity plan for the City of Chico. He has been a CHIP board member since 2004. He supports affordable housing because he also struggled with poverty and felt he had no one to turn to for questions or help. Fong says he feels blessed with what he has now and wants to build a strong diversity and cultural awareness in Chico and elsewhere.

**Ed Mayer** has served as Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of Butte since 2008. He has 22 years' experience in the affordable housing industry, working previously for housing authorities in Missoula, MT and Santa Cruz County, CA. Ed is an architect and development expert, having constructed and rehabilitated affordable housing in numerous states. He is president of a regional organization representing the Pacific Region's housing authorities nationally, and serves as Chair of a California bond finance authority that funds affordable housing projects in member jurisdictions. A graduate of Yale University, Ed has won awards for his projects and administrative excellence. He has served CHIP since 2011, to further the north state's delivery of affordable housing, in particular self-help ownership housing and service-enriched multi-family housing.

**Joy Murphy** has been involved in a large part of CHIP's history. Her late husband Bill helped establish CHIP through CAVE (Community Action Volunteers in Education) at CSU, Chico, and Murphy Commons apartments were named after him. Joy serves as the fundraising committee chair and enjoys planning events and helping out wherever she can. She's been working hard to plan this fall's "Rock the House" event, along with other fundraisers earlier this year. Together, Joy and Bill have two children and six grandchildren, and Joy now lives on the same farm where she grew up in Orland. She also graduated from Chico State with a bachelor's degree in art, took courses towards her teaching credential, and enjoys painting. She is teaching a weekly math, science and art class to resident children at Rancho De Soto, CHIP's apartment community in Orland.

**Yvette Zuniga** is a student affairs professional at Butte College in the office of Student Life, before that she worked at Chico State in the Educational Opportunity Program and Associated Students. Her passion is to provide access to opportunity for success, whether it's education, home ownership, or affordable housing. Yvette lived in Atenguillo Jalisco Mexico for 13 years, then Corning and now Chico. She graduated from Chico State with a Bachelor's degree in Recreation and a Masters of Public Administration. She has also served as a council member for the City of Corning and a board member for 3CORE. She and her husband have two daughters and lots of pets.