

# *Pursuit of Happiness* Comes True Twice

By Pat Murphy

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A homeless father and small son awoke this morning to the warmth of their own studio apartment, secured through private philanthropy brainstormed barely two weeks ago.

Their annual lease is one dollar.

A haute couture designer decorated the studio with speed of a godsend which made her whole.

"I didn't sleep that night," reflected Sophie Azouaou, proprietor of [Sophisticate Interiors](#), Friday night after John and namesake son moved in.

[Sophie Azouaou](#) caters to an upscale clientele which finds money no object, who donated to the project instantly when asked by Azouaou. She learned of the project less than two weeks before father and son took possession of their new home.

"I am very happy," Azouaou told the Sentinel. "I was very lucky that I was able to do it."

"I thought, my God, they are sleeping in a bed. They are warm. They have food in the refrigerator.

"If I have done something in my life, this is it.

"I hope I can do more, but you know if something happens to me I will be very happy -- I've done something," Azouaou cut short in emotion.

A native of France, Azouaou has been a designer for 15 years, is an attorney, and graduated with a minor in art.

[Benefit Magazine](#), geared to the lifestyle of giving, served as touchstone for the project.

Benefit staff had approached [CitiApartments](#) as a potential advertiser, but were met with a startling suggestion.

With 5,000 apartment units in CitiApartments stock, there always remain a few apartments which go vacant, executive officer [David Raynal](#) told Benefit Founder and Editor [Tim Gaskin](#).

Raynal proposed to set those empty units aside for the homeless.

"It's just great!" Gaskin said.

"I think that using the largest renter in San Francisco, if we can create a model with him and get some of his friends who are very large renters themselves, we could over three years grow 60 units of housing the homeless in San Francisco -- better than City government," Gaskin predicted to the Sentinel.

CitiApartments agreed to set apartments aside permanently for the homeless.

As families move on to other accommodations the units they vacate will be filled by the homeless.

Johnny and his son now live next door to a second father and son family as additional applicants are sourced from three non-profit service agencies.

[Hamilton Family Center](#), [Raphael House](#), and the [AIDS Emergency Fund](#) collaborate in the effort.

Applicants are without a history of criminal behavior, without mental issues, and have demonstrated the ability to live by a rental contract.

*Pursuit of Happyness*, a silver screen hit chronicling the struggle of a San Francisco homeless father and five-year-old namesake son, is now the leading box office draw.

The story above is true, too.

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