

# FAITH SUBCOMMITTEE – VSSTF

# NEWSLETTER

## *SPECIAL EDITION*

MARCH 2018

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Dear Members of the Faith Community and Friends,

I would like to take a moment and share with you pieces of good news as we move toward opening a year-round transition-to-housing shelter and the development of very affordable and extremely affordable housing. I also want to share some very specific service opportunities that may be of interest to you.

**First**, the City of Ventura is moving forward with a Letter of Understanding with the County of Ventura which basically states that they will be working together to locate a site for a year-round transition-to-housing shelter. The City has the siting as a goal for 2018.

**Second**, on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at the Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Bennett proposed that the Board approve protocols and policies for working with cities to provide crisis housing, year-round shelter or foul weather shelter for homeless people ([see page 4](#)), including possibly matching the amount of money a city is willing to put into an effort for improvements and operations. This was item #21 on the Agenda and was approved 5-0.

**Third**, the City is open to discussing and evaluating a variety of very affordable and extremely affordable housing options. These issues along with inclusionary housing are and will be part of ongoing agenda items for both the planning commission and council agendas. We need to be alert and offer our support. The State of California is passing legislation to encourage cities to take action to provide for the affordable housing needs of all. In Ventura County, and Ventura specifically, we do have a housing crisis and creative, thoughtful efforts are needed.

There are two upcoming groundbreaking events for such housing: The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura is building Snapdragon II ([see page 3](#)) and the groundbreaking is on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Eleven units will be set aside for people with special needs and for those without a home; Rancho Verde Apartments is a 24-unit new construction multi-family rental development for farmworker households earning between 30% and 50% Area Media income. The groundbreaking will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> 11:00AM at South Satcoy Avenue and Blackburn Road. Peoples' Self-Help Housing is remodeling the old Hamilton Hotel and it will be very affordable housing. This is all good news, and hopefully more will be happening soon.

### **Opportunities to Serve:**

Family Promise of West Ventura County is moving toward opening. We now have 10 host congregations and 5 support congregations. We need 4 more host congregations. Maybe your congregation would be willing to explore this possibility. If so, please contact me: Judy Alexandre, Congregation Coordinator: [judyalexandre@gmail.com](mailto:judyalexandre@gmail.com) . We are also having our first fundraiser...a super run on April 21, 2018. This is a 5K walk-run ([see page 6](#)).

Family Promise along with the existing work of the City Center Transitional Living Center will significantly meet the need of families experiencing homelessness in Ventura.

Many of you have heard about the tragic fire and loss of life at River Haven, a program operated by Turning Point Foundation. The fire destroyed more of the already very fragile domes that were years past their life expectancy. River Haven had been in the process of replacing the domes with Tuff-Sheds. As of now, 5 sheds have been replaced and there is a commitment of 2 faith groups to purchase 5 additional sheds. These sheds are 10' x 10' and have a window and a locking front door and have some insulation. Perhaps your congregation would be able to purchase a shed. The cost (including a 10% discount) is \$4,452.23 including tax. The City of Ventura has purchased a shed and is working to establish improved utilities. The County Health Department has located a Whole Person Health Care Pod (which includes showers, porta-potties and an exam room/mobile care clinic) at River Haven to better serve the residents and others who are experiencing homelessness. The Pod is available every Monday from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM. For more information about River Haven and Turning Point Foundation, please contact: Suki Sir [ssir@turningpointfoundation.org](mailto:ssir@turningpointfoundation.org) .

Please stay tuned and join the progress that is being made. Attached also are 4 petitions that will let the City know that we support the development of the shelter and of very and extremely affordable housing. We would love to have all the petitions turned in by April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to Rob March: [rob.march2@gmail.com](mailto:rob.march2@gmail.com) .

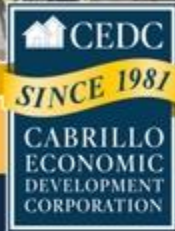
May we continue to work together building Shalom in our community.

Judy Alexandre, Chair

Ventura Social Services Task Force

### **Read on for more information on the following:**

1. Snapdragon II Flyer
2. Board of Supervisors March 20<sup>th</sup> Item #21 proposal
3. Family Promise 5K Walk-Run Flyer



CABRILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

# JOIN US FOR THE GROUNDBREAKING

**FOR SNAPDRAGON PLACE, PHASE II**

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018, 10 AM

11094 SNAPDRAGON ST.

VENTURA, 93003

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In partnership with the Housing Authority of San Buenaventura, Cabrillo breaks ground on Phase II. The 22-unit project will include 11 special needs units, of which four are designated for homeless veterans, and seven non-VASH units.

RSVP to [advancement@cabrilloedc.org](mailto:advancement@cabrilloedc.org).



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

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March 20, 2018

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation of Supervisor Bennett for This Board to Approve Protocols and Policies for Working with Cities to Provide Crisis Housing, Year-Round Shelter or Foul Weather Shelter for the Homeless

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that our Board:

- 1) Approve the concept of working with each interested city in developing crisis housing, homeless shelters, and foul weather shelters to serve the needs of that city.
- 2) Approve using the following core principals as a tool to coordinate cooperation with cities on addressing this pressing need and to help finance and support crisis housing, homeless shelter, and foul weather shelter development and operations:
  - a) The County and the city establish in writing the financial arrangements and other division of responsibilities of a proposed effort.
  - b) Conceptually, the County intends to match the amount of money the city is willing to put into an effort for capital improvements and on-going operations. There is a recognition that there is a limit to this capacity, and the actual funding commitment would be made after discussions with the city.
  - c) The city takes the lead and officially approves the location of the facility.
  - d) A non-profit operates the facility and provides the funds needed beyond the amount provided by the city and the County.
  - e) The city and the County jointly approve the operator of the facility, the operator contract is administered by the city with regular consultation with the County on important issues.
  - f) The County determines its level of support of social services to the homeless population in the facility. The exact services and the amount of services are agreed to in writing in advance with the operator and the city.
  - g) After the above arrangements are finalized in writing and approved by the Board of Supervisors and the city council, a joint effort by city and County staff can explore the more detailed specific possibilities and options.



- h) The second phase agreement would encompass specific operational issues individual to each city regarding matters such as funding requirements, site selection, hours of operation, length of stay, services provided, etc.
  - i) The CEO returns to the Board with the final proposals with any cities that participate, including the budget request for the start-up cost and the annual cost.
- 3) Direct the CEO to communicate our decision and the model to the city managers for their councils to deliberate and determine if they wish to partner with the County under these protocols.

**DISCUSSION:**

The number of residents experiencing or facing homelessness in Ventura County continues to be a significant challenge for local government and our communities.

In the past, our Board offered a \$2 million matching fund to cities to partner in building homeless shelters. For a variety of reasons, that offer has not resulted in any construction of shelter options by a joint city-county effort. One of those reasons is a lack of clarity regarding the intersection of County and city policies and responsibilities regarding such an endeavor. This proposal is an attempt to provide more clarity to that process with the hope that more projects will move forward.

While progress in the overall number of homeless has been made, those facing homelessness still have few options. Even with success in our efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units, there will still be a need for crisis housing. The individual who loses his job and is evicted, the family who has been bunking in with friends and is thrown out, or the person living in their car that is towed -- all of them need a safe place to sleep and access to services that can help them get back on their feet and back into sustainable housing.

Our 10-year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness recommends modest-sized homeless shelters for each city to serve its own homeless. Each community is different, each has unique needs and priorities. Some will focus on a year-round shelter, others on crisis housing for those who have a caseworker and recovery plan. Hopefully, at a minimum, all communities will provide shelter from foul weather.

This proposed partnership alone won't solve all our homeless issues. Just as there are many causes of homelessness, we need many solutions. We may have to start small. Neither our resources nor those of the cities are limitless, but we can and should do something. It is time to redouble our effort to work together, pool our resources, leverage our individual strengths, and move some of our homeless off the streets.

Please join me in approving this effort to provide shelter to our residents when they are most in need.

Sincerely,



Steve Bennett  
Supervisor, First District

Saturday, April 21, 2018



Come be a hero to kids and their families who are experiencing homelessness!

**Join the Family Promise of West Ventura County Team**

([www.FamilyPromiseWVC.org](http://www.FamilyPromiseWVC.org)), and run/walk in the Ventura Galactic Heroes

Run! **Register online at [HTTP://THESUPERRUN.COM](http://THESUPERRUN.COM)**

with code: FMLYPRMS18 to join our team and a portion of your registration fee will be donated to Family Promise in your name! Collect pledges from family and friends and help raise even more money for this awesome program!

### **SUPER RUN FACT SHEET VENTURA GALACTIC HEROES**

**What:** A 5K (3.1 mile) Fun Walk/Run along the beach in Ventura

**When:** Saturday, April 21, 2018

**8 AM-11AM**

**Where:** San Buenaventura State Beach (\$10 Parking Fee)

**901 San Pedro St., Ventura, CA 93001**

<b>Pricing:</b>	<b>Individual Runner</b>	<b>Team Runner</b>
<b>Before March 23rd</b>	<b>\$34.99</b>	<b>\$24.99</b>
<b>March 23rd to April 20th</b>	<b>\$39.99</b>	<b>\$29.99*</b>
<b>April 21th</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>

\*Between March 23 and April 20, you can still receive the lower \$24.99 registration rate, by calling The Super Run office at 856-777-8737, and ask to speak with Christi Swickler, Charity/Volunteer Coordinator. When calling, remember that Christi is in Michigan and on Eastern Daylight Time — 3 hours later than Ventura time.