

**“Dedicated to ending homelessness in Ventura”**

# NEWSLETTER



(September, 2019 - VSSTF - Faith

committee newsletter)

**Affordable housing** - (Judy Alexandre - VSSTF co-chair)

The need for affordable, very affordable and extremely affordable housing is at a crisis level in Ventura.

Did you know that 25% of Venturans (sp) earn 25,000 a year or less? Think about that for a minute. Rooms rent for 700-1000 dollars a month. One bedroom apt average rent is about 2000 a month. A worker earning 12 dollars an hour brings home 1920 a month before taxes etc. A friend recently showed me 600 sq ft rental for 1800 a month. Where can the average wage worker live?

Given the cost of apt. rentals (home rentals are higher) a working family or individual must earn 34 plus dollars an hour to rent a 1 bedroom and 42.00 an hour to rent a 2 bedroom. That means a yearly income of 88,000 dollars to rent a 2 bedroom unit if you spend 30% of your income on rent. Many are now spending 50% or more of their income on rent.

The annual average renter income in Ventura is about 52,000 a year, therefore insufficient for renting a 2 bedroom apt. To purchase the median cost home a worker needs to earn 132,161 or 64.00 an hour. The monthly payment averages 4,185 a month.

The cost of housing is making it impossible for the average family or new professionals to live in Ventura. Police officers, teachers, nurses, new community college professors etc. cannot live in our city. Childcare workers, waiters, security officers, earn no more than 30,000 a year.

It is clear that we need affordable work force housing.

Then we have those on the average social security of 1500 or less and disability of 800-1000 dollars a month. Where can these seniors and those with disabilities live? We do not have enough section 8 vouchers...waiting lists are 5 or more years. Many landlords will not accept the HUD vouchers.

By not having a sufficient supply of very and extremely low income housing we are contributing to our own homeless problem.

If we want the new, year round shelter to be successful, there must be permanent housing, most with services, for the shelter residents to transition. We have low income housing builders ready and willing to build in Ventura. Where? Will you say yes in your backyard?

We need to explore tiny home developments and other types of alternative housing. We need to waive some fees. It currently cost a minimum of 400,000 to build a unit. City fees are a big part of this. We need zoning to allow housing and mixed use areas. We need ordinances to allow for creative developments. Yes, the developments need to be well managed and aesthetically pleasing. Will you be an advocate?

We must rally and say yes to housing! Please join with VSSTF, Homes for All, the Housing Trust Fund and Housing for Vulnerable Populations Advocacy Network to support the development of housing that all can afford. Our residents and neighbors need our support.

Say yes, in my backyard.

## **Educational Workshop - September, 2019** (Marianne Norton - Faith subcommittee of VSSTF chair)

A special thank you to all that worked to make the Faith Committee's Workshop on Ventura's first Permanent Shelter an informative, inspiring experience. Larry Haines of Mercy House clearly and honestly laid out the mechanics of the upcoming shelter's day to day operation and the organization's underlying philosophy. He further explained what we might expect as a volunteer and added how efforts from the entire community are needed to help transition shelter residents to the ranks of the permanently housed.

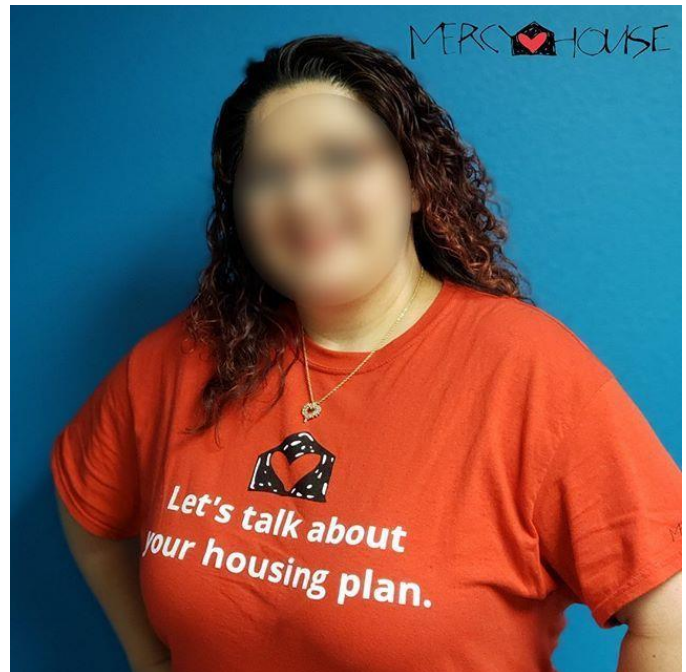
Meredith Hart of the City of Ventura's Safe and Clean Program and the City's overseer of the shelter, spoke about ways that the community can help, both prior to the opening in early January, 2020 and afterwards. Monetary donations are welcome now and on an ongoing basis to help set up the shelter. A Donation Drive Day at the shelter is planned for later in the year for the community to donate physical needs such as furniture, appliances or toiletries. Creating classes or programs for the residents, led by members of the community are also encouraged.

### **Let's talk about your housing plan**

(Marianne Norton - Faith subcommittee of VSSTF chair)

These words, which can be found printed on shirts of Mercy House residents and is an integral part of their case management plan was addressed by Mayor Matt LaVere and Dr. Judy Alexandre. The success of the shelter

transitioning residents from shelter to permanently housed, points to the extreme need for very affordable housing in the city of Ventura. While the mayor listed ways the city could pave the way in facilitating more "very affordable" housing, Dr. Alexandre provided economic statistics on salaries and current rental prices and offered ways for the community to advocate for housing to support those in chronic need of an affordable home.



## **WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT**

If your congregation or organization has an event, volunteer opportunity or need to benefit Ventura's homeless, please submit the information by email to our editor John Jones at [johnsandersjones@gmail.com](mailto:johnsandersjones@gmail.com) by the 15th of any month. Your voice is important.



*please come to...*

# THE SECRET GARDEN

*for an Enchanted Evening*

SILENT AUCTION • DINNER • DANCING



## THE CITY CENTER CELEBRATION

*Celebrate* Changed Lives  
for Children & Families

~ SATURDAY ~  
SEPTEMBER 28TH  
6:00 - 10:00 PM

4047 DOANE STREET  
VENTURA

*Proceeds to Benefit*

the city center  
TRANSITIONAL LIVING

[www.thecitycenter.org](http://www.thecitycenter.org)



Tickets On Sale Now! Visit <https://tccsecretgarden2019.eventbrite.com>

# **CLEAN YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD** **FREE CLINIC**

California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), McGuire Woods and Bank of America will host a **FREE LEGAL CLINIC** for individuals who are eligible to **CLEAN THEIR CRIMINAL RECORD**. During the Clinic, volunteer attorneys will analyze individual criminal records and then complete criminal record expungement paperwork for free. Appointments are highly recommended.

**SPACE IS LIMITED**  
**CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**AND TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL:**  
**(805) 483 – 8083**

## **LIMPIE SU REGISTRO PENAL** **CLÍNICA GRATUITA**

**La organización: Asistencia Legal Rural de California (CRLA), McGuire Woods y Bank of América organizarán una...**

**CLÍNICA LEGAL GRATUITA**

**para las personas que sean elegibles para...**

**LIMPIAR SU REGISTRO PENAL.**

**Durante la clínica, los abogados voluntarios analizarán los antecedentes penales individuales y luego completarán los**

**documentos de eliminación de antecedentes penales de forma gratuita. Se recomienda hacer cita.**

**EL ESPACIO ES LIMITADO  
¡LLAME PARA HACER UNA CITA HOY!**

**PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN  
Y PARA HACER UNA CITA, LLAME AL:  
(805) 483 – 8083**

## **MISSION OF THE FAITH SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE VENTURA SOCIAL SERVICES TASK FORCE**

The mission of the Faith Subcommittee is three-fold:

1. Outreach to the over ninety faith communities in Ventura in order to increase participation in the Faith Subcommittee and in the mission to end homelessness.
2. Coordination among all of the faith groups providing assistance to homeless individuals so that government agencies, private service providers and faith groups can:
  - a. Know precisely what services each provides
  - b. Learn best practices from others offering similar services
  - c. Avoid any unproductive duplication
  - d. Refer those in need to others providing the needed service
  - e. Learn what gaps in services exist and discuss who might best step in to fill each gap
  - f. Share needs with one another in the hope that greater coordination can allow each to do more and can lead to the most effective use of limited resources
3. Facilitate education between the city-wide faith community and other entities, including the VSSTF, government agencies and private service providers in order to:
  - a. Increase awareness within each area of need and strategies or approaches that are proving effective (or ineffective) in reducing homelessness
  - b. Ensure that those outside the faith community have realistic expectations of what needs the city-wide faith community can be expected to meet

*(revised 10/31/2018)*