

“Dedicated to ending homelessness in Ventura”

NEWSLETTER



(November

2019 - VSSTF - Faith committee newsletter)

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020

2020 promises to be an important year for all of us working to benefit the unhoused, the underfed and the economically disadvantaged in Ventura. In early January, Ventura's first case managed shelter for the homeless will open its doors and congregations that comprise the faith committee of VSSTF will be focusing their joint efforts on ensuring its success. To get a head start in planning for this busy year, the Faith Committee has invited Elizabeth Andrade of Mercy House to speak and answer questions. Mercy House, being the operators of the upcoming Ventura Shelter as well as the one already in operation in Oxnard, welcomes volunteer community support and financial donations.

Because the Faith Committee sees the vital importance of all our congregation's involvement in supporting the Ventura Shelter, we urge you to attend our December 11 and see how your congregation can help to make a great inroad into housing our most needy citizens.

We hope that all of the faith congregations will come to this meeting and it is hoped that a representative from each will be in attendance. The success of the shelter depends on our whole village.

Please Attend--Your Input is Valued

VSSTF Faith Meeting-December 11 3:00 PM
Church of the Foothills 6279 Foothill Rd. 93003

Elizabeth Andrade of Mercy House-the Operator of the Oxnard and New Ventura Shelter

has been invited to...

- * List Ways Congregations can support and help maintain the shelter**
- *Answer questions --give contact information-- explain how congregations can get involved.**
- *Hear your ideas for volunteering and supporting the new shelter**

We welcome as many members of your congregation as possible on December 11

FREE
ALL-CHURCH *Save the Date* **COMMUNITY**
OUTREACH

THANKSGIVING DINNER

You are cordially invited to

*9th Annual Thanksgiving
Outreach Dinner*

**Community Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
1555 Poli Street, Ventura, CA**

November 28, 12:00 - 4:30 pm

Hosted by: CPC Missions and friends

***We are looking forward to celebrating
this wonderful day of laughter, friendship
and good food from our Lord's bounty
with YOU.***

*To help out please contact
Jeri at (805) 804-2870*

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Jeri at (805) 804-2870 or

Sign Ups Sundays on the Patio
between services

***The following positions are open
for volunteers, please see
Jeri to sign up:***

Prep Cooks - Tuesday & Wednesday

Set-up

Food Donations

Welcome/Greeters

Diners and Friendly Faces

Kitchen Help

Dining Room Help

Clean Up

FREE

ALL-CHURCH

Save the Date

AND

**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Where can you Help?

Starting Today!

Please help us by signing up early!

Please call Jeri (805) 804-2870

or visit one of our websites:

CPCVentura.org, or Facebook.com/
vtathanksgivingcommunitydinner2019

We Need You!

No Less Than 4 Week(s) Before:

Please help us by signing up early! We would like to have donations of food items accounted for and volunteers listed so name tags can be made and schedules firmly set. There is a listing of opportunities available in this pamphlet.

The Week of Thanksgiving:

This week we need exceptional people!

We need shoppers, prep cooks, cooks, decorators, set-up people. We need people that can turn our church kitchen into a gourmet, fun, efficient work space full of love!

Our goal is to feed as many if not more than last year (540!) a family style all welcoming, wonderful, hot meal that they will look forward to all year long.

Thanksgiving Week Preparations

Our Kitchen will be available

Tuesday and Wednesday

from 3:00— 6:00 pm and

All Day Thursday 6:00 am—close.

If you have something you would like to donate, drop-off, whip-up or help with...

Please check in with Jeri and we will

gladly let you make your magic,

or help with ours!



Open Opportunities

Bag Runners/Security

Cook Helpers (Mon/Tues/Weds and Thurs.)

Decorating

Greeters / Outside Check-in

In-Hall Socialites

Musicians

Clean-up (During & After Event)

Prayer Team (Before/During and After)

Servers (We need quite a few!)

Shut-In Deliverer

Young Adults Can Help Also:

We sincerely pray that we, as adults, can set an example for our children, young and old, by bringing them along. Perhaps they will be able to help share with our community and can see the hands at work with love that prepares the food and the hand that touches people as Jesus. He would ask us to do to all this for those who would come for a good family- style meal. No job is too big or too small. As the song says "Open the eyes to my heart Lord, open the eyes to my heart". This may be the way to open eyes and hearts.

Let Us Give Thanks to Our Lord!

The Day of Thanksgiving

- ♦ Please pray the day goes smoothly.
- ♦ Try to arrive a little before you are scheduled if you are volunteering.
- ♦ Put on a great smile and expect to have fun and be surprised.
- ♦ If you are unable to make your commitment, please let Jeri know as soon as possible.

In the past all our volunteers have shown up as expected and things have gone beautifully. We have no doubt this year will go better. Thank you to all who want to assist us!



The Aftermath

We need help with clean-up!
Volunteer needs are 6 to 8 in the kitchen, another 6 to 8 in the Fellowship Hall.
Clean-up will begin at 5:00 pm sharp.
Maybe just stop by and help for a few minutes?
Your presence would be welcomed! Many will have felt the love of CPC, other churches, organizations and Our God today.

Dinner served

12:00 - 4:30 pm

Open Seating until 4:00 pm

the
9th Annual
Community
Thanks
Giving
Day
Dinner
November
28th

14th Annual Memorial Service for our Homeless Neighbors

*To affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every
person and remember those who died homeless in
Ventura County this year*

Saturday December 14, 2019 3 p.m.
Plaza Park in Downtown Ventura
(Dress warm as it can be cold at the park)



- * Reflection
- * Inspiration
- * Music

Sponsored by
Lift Up Your Voice to End Homelessness

*A ministry of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura*

POC: Ruth Owens, ruth-groventura@roadrunner.com

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VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

ONE STOP

- ▶ Behavioral Health assistance and STAR assessment by appointment
- ▶ Food Stamp application assistance
- ▶ General Relief application assistance
- ▶ Free TB testing
- ▶ Medical clinic
- ▶ Medication assistance
- ▶ Risk assessments
- ▶ Veteran assistance
- ▶ Free HIV testing by appointment
- ▶ Job Club (Oxnard)
- ▶ Medi-Cal/Covered California application assistance for those without health insurance
- ▶ Case management
- ▶ Whole Person Care
- ▶ Sack lunch
- ▶ And much more...

***Subject to availability*

Event Locations

VENTURA

Every Tuesday
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Public Health Auditorium
3147 Loma Vista
(Hillmont & Loma Vista)

OXNARD

Every Wednesday
8:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Community Action
621 Richmond Ave.
(Richmond & 5th St.)

SIMI VALLEY

3rd Thursday
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Sierra Vista Family Medical Clinic
1227 E. Los Angeles Ave.
(Los Angeles & First St.)

CAMARILLO

4th Thursday
8:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Church of the Nazarene
2280 Antonio Ave.

THOUSAND OAKS

3rd Monday
8:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Conejo Family Medical Group
125 W. Thousand Oaks Blvd.

SANTA PAULA

Every Friday
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Extended hours for showers & medical
El Buen Pastor Church
1029 E. Santa Paula St.

VENTURA

Every Thursday
12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
5777 N. Ventura Ave.

VENTURA

Every Monday
12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
River Haven
Harbor Blvd. & Olivas Park Dr.



VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

ONE STOP

- ▶ Asistencia y evaluación de la salud conductual "STAR" con cita previa
- ▶ Asistencia con la solicitud de cupones de alimentos
- ▶ Asistencia con la solicitud de alivio general
- ▶ Prueba de Tuberculosis gratuita
- ▶ Clínica Medica
- ▶ Asistencia Medica
- ▶ Evaluación de riesgos
- ▶ Asistencia para Veteranos
- ▶ Pruebas de detección del VIH gratuitas con cita previa
- ▶ Club de Trabajo (Oxnard)
- ▶ Asistencia con la solicitud Medi-Cal/Covered California, para aquellos que no tengan seguro medico
- ▶ Administración de casos
- ▶ Cuidado de la persona
- ▶ Comida para llevar
- ▶ Y mucho más...

***Sujeto a disponibilidad*

Health Care for the Homeless...(805) 652-6694

Ubicaciones de Eventos

VENTURA

Martes

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Auditorio de Salud Publica

3147 Loma Vista

(Hillmont y Loma Vista)

OXNARD

Miércoles

8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Acción Comunitaria

621 Richmond Ave.

(Richmond y 5th St.)

SIMI VALLEY

Tercer Jueves

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Clínica Médica Familiar Sierra Vista

1227 E. Los Angeles Ave.

(Los Angeles y First St.)

CAMARILLO

Cuarto Jueves

8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Iglesia del Nazareno

2280 Antonio Ave.

THOUSAND OAKS

Tercer Lunes

8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Conejo Family Medical Group

125 W. Thousand Oaks Blvd.

SANTA PAULA

Cada Viernes

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Horario extendido para duchas y servicios médicos

Iglesia El Buen Pastor

1029 E. Santa Paula St.

VENTURA

Cada Jueves

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

5777 N. Ventura Ave.

VENTURA

Cada Lunes

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

River Haven

Harbor Blvd. y Olivas Park Dr.

Ventura County Action Guide

“People don’t want to be homeless. It happens to anybody. A lot of people think homeless people don’t want a home. They want to put homeless people in one category... I would shake that.” – Daniel, formerly homeless



1) Be Informed

Understand Our Challenge: Our community is facing a homeless crisis that has been made worse by a housing crisis.

Understand Our Solution: Build new affordable and supportive housing for our homeless neighbors so we can end homelessness in Ventura County.

*Supportive Housing using the **Housing First** approach has been proven as an effective solution for persons with disabilities. The model ends homelessness by providing long-term housing stability with the services and support needed to improve health outcomes.*

Understand Our Responsibility: To end homelessness in our community, we all need to work together. **Your support and action are needed to end homelessness in Ventura County!**

2) Get Involved

Talk to Homeless People: Introduce yourself, ask them if they are getting help with housing or services. Give them information about organizations that can help them. Saying hello can **help restore dignity for them and for our entire community.**

*Did you know **Interface 2-1-1** staff are trained to assess and refer people to resources over the phone 24/7? The 2-1-1 staff are also connected to our coordinated entry system for referrals to supportive housing and shelters. Call 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898211.*

Talk to Your Neighbors: Some people worry about what will happen if new affordable and supportive housing is built in their community. Help educate through individual conversations, family dinners, neighborhood meetings, and at religious or other community events.

Talk to Elected Officials: Many of the decisions about funding and construction of affordable and supportive housing are made by city, county, state and federal officials. Encourage your representatives to do all they can to help build the housing we need to end homelessness. **Your voice matters!**

3) Be Engaged

Be Aware: Subscribe to e-news from the following organizations to stay involved in the discussion about homelessness and affordable housing:

California Housing Partnership: www.chpc.net;
National Alliance to End Homelessness: www.endhomelessness.org;
United State Interagency Council on Homelessness: www.usich.gov;
Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC) Alliance: www.venturacoc.org;
Ventura County HOME: www.vchome.org;
Ventura County Housing Trust Fund (VCHTF): www.vchousingtrustfund.org

Did you know? Providing supportive housing is one of the most cost-effective ways to address homelessness, especially for those who are disabled and need the most help. A coordinated entry system is used to assess and prioritize the most vulnerable for housing.

Be Social: Your friends and followers on social media might not know the solutions we are working on together to end homelessness. Spread the word, participate online, share information and inspire others. [#EndHomelessnessVC](#) [#VenturaCoC](#)

4) Take Action

Host a Dinner: The best way to discuss homelessness and housing is around the table with the people closest to you. Why not invite your friends and neighbors over to talk about it? Provide information from the **National Alliance to End Homelessness** for the conversation. Discuss next steps, including one or two specific actions you will take individually and as a group.

Accurate information is essential to increase understanding of those experiencing homelessness in our community. **You can raise awareness** and correct misconceptions about homelessness and supportive housing in Ventura County.

Host an Event: The **National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness** have an awareness week every year during the first full week before Thanksgiving. Plan an outreach event to educate the public and donate to local charities. Add it to the national calendar at www.hhweek.org.

Volunteer: Contact your local homeless services organizations to find out how you can help or sign up for volunteer opportunities at www.VolunteerVenturaCounty.org.

Donate: Our local shelters and supportive housing partners need your support!

The City Center: www.thecitycenter.org
Interface Children & Family Services: www.icfs.org
Gabriel's House Oxnard: www.gabriels-house.org
Gold Coast Veterans Foundation www.gcvf.org
Help of Ojai: www.helpofojai.org
Lutheran Social Services: www.lsssc.org
Many Mansions: www.manymansions.org
Mercy House Living Centers: www.mercyhouse.net

Peoples' Self-Help Housing: www.pshhc.org
Project Understanding: www.projectunderstanding.org
Salvation Army: www.ventura.salvationarmy.org
Samaritan Center: www.samaritancentersimivalley.org
Spirit of Santa Paula: www.spiritofsantapaula.org
Turning Point Foundation: www.tpf-vc.org
VC Rescue Mission: www.vcrescuemission.org
United Way of Ventura County www.vcunitedway.org

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)