

## **Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund**

The Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund aims to prevent 50-60 individuals and families from becoming homeless each year.

"50 percent of newly fallen individuals and families to homelessness could be prevented", according to the Ventura County Homeless & Housing Coalition Working Group.

The fund is aimed to assist individuals and families who currently have housing, but are at severe risk of becoming homeless due to an extraordinary set back. These are families that are living balanced on the edge maintaining their homes now, but are at risk for losing their homes when an unexpected circumstance hits. Imagine a disabling injury that prevents a tradesman from working for a couple of weeks or a needed car repair that prevents the family breadwinner from getting to their night job. Oftentimes, these are the types of set backs that leave people unable to pay the rent or mortgage, potentially forcing them to live in a car or on the streets.

"Helping households maintain their housing is less costly and more effective than helping households obtain housing after they become homeless." Ventura County Housing and Homeless Coalition.

The Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund will allow qualifying residents of the city of Ventura to receive one-time financial assistance for up to \$1,000 or so to address special circumstances that put them at risk for homelessness. Individuals and families would only be able to access these funds one time per year and only for extraordinary circumstances. Catholic Charities, Project Understanding and Salvation Army will use their professional case management skills to assess individuals and families to determine whether they are in the appropriate circumstances to use the fund.

Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund hopes to raise \$60,000 this year and prevent more than 50 families in the city of Ventura from becoming homeless.

Prevention is the key to solving the issue of homelessness and it begins with your support. Won't you please help by making a contribution today?

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Credit Card: Visa MC (circle one)
Card #
Exp. Date:
Signature
e to: UWVC/VHPF
or
United Way of Ventura County/
Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund)
Donation in Honor of: