

# MERCY HOUSE

## Ventura County Newsletter

May 2025

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### **NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH TRADER JOE'S BRINGS FRESHNESS AND JOY TO OUR SITES**

Thanks to their support, our shelter sites are now filled with beautiful flowers that brighten spaces and spirits alike.

But it doesn't stop there! Fresh fruit, high-quality ready-made meals, and wholesome ingredients are also being delivered to our permanent supportive housing site, helping to nourish our residents and foster a greater sense of home.

### **Community members show up for shelter clients in a big way!**

We're incredibly grateful to Jesse Giglio and the Neue Church community for their continued generosity and support! Over the past several months, they've gone above and beyond to show up for our shelter guests and housing residents in meaningful ways. From delicious holiday meals to a festive Super Bowl Sunday feast, and most recently, providing several beautifully curated Welcome Home Baskets—Neue Church has consistently helped make our spaces feel warmer, fuller, and more like home.

### **Easter Joy Thanks to Reality Church Ventura!**

A special thank you to our Board Member Richard Lopez, his wife Susan, and the entire Reality Church Ventura congregation for spreading Easter joy to our shelter guests! Their thoughtfully prepared gift bags, filled with sweet treats and uplifting messages, brought big smiles and warm hearts to those we serve.



### **CLIENT SUCCESS STORY**

When Erika arrived at Mercy House, she was facing more than homelessness—she was also managing serious health issues, including regular dialysis treatments. Despite the challenges, she remained hopeful.

Mercy House provided a safe, supportive place for Erika to rest and recover. With stability, she was able to focus on healing and planning for her future. Taking initiative, she added herself to the Ventura Springs permanent supportive housing waitlist—and when a unit opened, she was ready.

Thanks to our Rapid Re-Housing program, we helped cover initial rental costs and ease her transition. Today, Erika is thriving in her own apartment, managing her health with dignity and rebuilding her life.

Her story is a powerful reminder of what's possible when resilience meets opportunity. We're honored to be part of her journey.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, QUESTIONS, OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR, CONTACT  
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### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

DONATE toward our seasonal needs:

- **Spring:** lightweight clothing (men and women), sunscreen and sunblock, shampoo, conditioner
- **Summer:** breathable clothes (men and women), sun protectant hats, deodorant, hair tie, comb
- **Fall:** jackets and sweaters, jeans, weather resistant pants, toothbrushes and toothpaste
- **Winter:** gloves, socks, coats, thermal underwear, lip balm and moisturizer

### OXNARD NAVIGATION CENTER

We're excited to announce the upcoming opening of Casa de Carmen—a brand new, purpose-built facility that will soon welcome clients from the Oxnard Navigation Center into a space designed specifically to meet their needs.

For years, the armory building has served as a temporary shelter, and we are deeply grateful to the City of Oxnard for its continued support in making that possible.

Casa de Carmen represents a first for the City of Oxnard: a site that combines emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing in one central location. Leasing and move-ins for the housing units are expected to begin in August, with the shelter component gradually filling in starting in September.

Nestled in the heart of the city, this innovative model will allow clients not only to find refuge, but to build a foundation for a brighter future—all under one roof. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with the community and continuing our mission to end homelessness, one life at a time.

### THE ARCH VENTURA

This year marks five years since The ARCH opened its doors in Ventura—a milestone made possible by decades of dedication from the local community. For over 20 years, passionate advocates, faith leaders, and business owners pushed for the creation of an emergency shelter to serve Ventura's unhoused neighbors. Their efforts culminated in a partnership with Mercy House, following a visit to our Orange County sites that sparked a shared vision for compassionate care.

Since opening, The ARCH has become a cornerstone of support in Ventura. We're deeply grateful for the ongoing trust and collaboration from the City and local residents. With their support, we've expanded our services and continue to grow—not just in Ventura, but throughout the county.

Here's to five years of impact—and to the many more ahead.

### CASA ALIENTO- OXNARD

Exciting progress is underway at Casa Aliento in Oxnard as we begin Phase 2 move-ins! Last fall, we welcomed home the first 32 residents in Phase 1, marking a major milestone in our mission to provide stable, supportive housing in our community. Now, over the coming weeks, we're preparing to fill the remaining 37 units, completing this transformative project.

**As we welcome these new residents, we're seeking community support to help them start this new chapter with dignity. Our Welcome Home Basket Drive is underway, and we invite you to join us in providing essential items—like towels, kitchenware, toiletries, and cleaning supplies—that make a house feel like home.**

Together, we can ensure every resident at Casa Aliento begins their journey with the warmth and support they deserve.

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