

MERCY HOUSE

Ventura County Newsletter

February 2025

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MERCY HOUSE IMPACT:

STATS FOR 2023-2024

- In the last year Mercy House ended homelessness for **3,907 people**
- **1,052 people** exited emergency shelter for permanent or temporary housing
- **381** disabled and chronically homeless individuals were provided housing and services

VENTURA COUNTY IMPACT:

STATS FOR 2023-2024

- **375** homeless individuals were provided emergency shelter and services
- **44 people** exited emergency shelter for permanent or temporary housing
- **15 households** secured housing through our Oxnard Rapid Rehousing Program
- **100%** of those served with Rapid Rehousing remained in permanent housing at exit

Faith community members, you're invited!

We are reaching out to faith communities like yours because we recognize the power of collective action and the strength that emerges when diverse groups come together for a common cause.

We'd like to invite you to tour our shelter site. Let us tell you all about our programs, and how your faith community can get involved.



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Carla arrived at the shelter with nothing but a suitcase and hope for a better future. A survivor of domestic violence, she had faced unimaginable hardships but remained determined to rebuild her life. With the support of dedicated advocates, she secured a safe place to stay and set her sights on a long-term goal—finding a home of her own. Through months of perseverance and careful saving, Carla reached her financial goals. With assistance from the Rapid Rehousing (RRH) program, she found a beautiful, safe home where she and her beloved dog, Troubles, could start fresh. Today, as she unlocks the door to her new home, Carla stands proud—not as a victim, but as a thriving survivor. Her journey is a testament to resilience, support, and the power of second chances.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, QUESTIONS, OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR, CONTACT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST, ANNA VARELA, ANNAV@MERCYHOUSE.NET

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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 share that five more clients from the Oxnard Navigation Center have moved into permanent housing—a huge step toward stability and independence! This past Super Bowl Sunday, a wonderful group of volunteers visited the center, serving a delicious lunch and bringing joy to our guests on game day. Thank you to Jesse Giglio for your continued support! We also hosted our first "Clean Slate" clinic, thanks to California Rural Legal Assistance. This initiative is helping clients expunge records and remove legal barriers to housing, creating new opportunities for a fresh start.

THE ARCH VENTURA

We recently partnered with California Rural Legal Assistance to bring "Clean Slate" clinics to our sites, providing clients with a fresh start. The first clinic, held in January at The ARCH, brought together attorneys and support staff to help clients begin the record expungement process, removing legal barriers to housing.

Additionally, over the holidays, dedicated volunteers shared a warm, home-cooked meal with our clients at The ARCH Ventura—a true blessing that brought comfort and community during the season.

CASA ALIENTO- OXNARD

We're still under construction! Casa Aliento's first phase of construction was completed in October and we are happy to say that everyone is adjusting well. Clients are settling into their Permanent Supportive Housing units and staff are adjusting to a new kind of case management. We are eager to welcome our new residents in the next couple of months.

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