



December 2, 2021

Dear neighbor,

With your support we can end homelessness in Sitka. For far too long, local people have lived in our rainforest without shelter. That is going to change. Since 2017 the Sitka Homeless Coalition has been working to provide shelter for everyone in our small town. At the 13th Annual Sitka Health Summit in September, 40 residents brainstormed, carefully evaluated, and then selected two inspiring wellness goals. Building a cabin community on Jarvis Street, for people who don't have homes, was selected as a top goal and awarded \$2,000 in startup funds.

The organizing group, the Sitka Homeless Coalition as been meeting weekly and building momentum. At the recent kickoff event for the newly minted community goal, 50 people attended and most signed up to be volunteers. The next step in the project is the local fundraising campaign.

The Shelter Sitka fundraising campaign will go until December 31st. The goal is to raise over \$20,000 in just three months, over \$9,750 has come in already so we are well on our way. Reaching this milestone will show partners and funders from outside of Sitka that our community is committed to ending homelessness. Like with other health summit projects, for example the community playground, money from out of town is preceded by money that comes from in-town.

Everyone who donates—individuals, families, civic organizations, businesses, nonprofit agencies, etc. is invited to join us for a rain or shine photo in early January. The celebratory picture will be at the top of Jarvis Street, the proposed location of the new community asset that will have 12 basic housing units. We hope you will join us. To contribute and find out more about this project go to www.sheltersitka.org or contact Sitka Homeless Coalition treasurer, Kathy Ingallinera, at 907-738-2393 or bristolmom18@gmail.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We know from research that the Housing First model works and with a wave of community support, we can get warm, dry places for all our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Sitka Homeless Coalition and Sitka Health Summit Coalition