



Hello Friends of Hope's Village ~ and Happy Holidays!



RVs for Veterans

To date, we've passed on 104 motorhomes, travel trailers and fifth wheels, thanks to Randy at Sky River (who just gave us two more). This is a simple but successful program that we've been running for eight years. We simply connect the donor with the donee and they meet at the DMV to transfer title. We're able to provide tiny homes on wheels for veterans who are ineligible for other services, or those waiting to receive their benefits. There are numerous places where they can legally live in these vehicles in SLO County. When done, they pass on to another person who can use.

A Step Up

A new program provides wheels to more unhoused people who aren't veterans - especially our women. We've now passed on nine vans and other vehicles to those who have been homeless and living in tents - six



were women. If you or someone you know has a van or other vehicle they'd like to pass on (that is in decent shape) please call Becky at 805-234-5478.



The Road Back Home

We have been sending people home (from the very start) who want to go back and try their lives again in their hometown - we'll also send folks to a new area where they have a much better chance at finding housing).

We use the bus or train and people are very grateful. Because at Hope's Village, we know the number one cause of homelessness is the **profound catastrophic loss of family**, and we are that family for many.

Tiny House Builders

To date, we've completed four tiny houses; one by ourselves, two by Cal Poly students (who are starting another tiny for us this school year) and one by the Nipomo Tech High School students - we are grateful! Because we know the way to get more unhoused folks up off the ground is to build tiny houses in sustainable community villages where the villagers will all have a vote and a say. Our plan is to have villagers build the tinies with the help of local community volunteers, of which there are MANY! Consider this like a mini "People's Self Help Tiny Housing" where more folks can afford to live. (The tiny we built was \$3,900).



Showers of Hope

We're now in our fifth year and have provided 5,186 hot private showers to unhoused folks here in SLO County - some come from Los Osos where they still have no showers. Our ages range from 3 years to 80 years and 75% of our guests are local homegrown SLO County folks. We offer up a hot breakfast with coffee, healthy sandwiches for lunch, plenty of "no cook" to go bags, fresh veggies and other nutritious food from the Food Bank that folks can take with them. We provide clean gently-used clothing, shoes and hand-knitted and crocheted hats and scarves, thanks to the "Earth Angels!" We always give **new** undies and socks. We currently have 24 shower volunteers - three of whom are homeless themselves who want to be of use. They are all so dedicated, caring and love what they do - and it shows! Many more homeless folks help set up showers early and take down in the afternoon when we're done. Come by one Saturday from 9:00am until Noon at the United Church of Christ at 11245 LOVR in SLO and we'll give you the tour. Thank you Pastor Jason and congregation members for your support all these years!

A Room at the Inn

We have been providing motel rooms for those being released from a hospital and they have no other option of a place to convalesce - or for those having a breakdown after being homeless for so long - or on the holidays. Can't stand to think of people spending

Christmas in a tent - or worse yet, without a tent - or a warm sleeping bag.



Outreach on the Streets

We now have twelve outreach volunteers - someone is out there each and every day beating the streets finding the encampments where people stay - handing out food, water, and camping necessities. When the SLOPD or park rangers kick them out of an encampment (their favorite place to "clean up" is the Bob Jones Trail), we help them move to some other place. If you live on the ground, there is no legal place in SLO to "be." We know where homeless folks are, and who they are, and do our best to "meet them where they are" until we get more homeless folks into housing.

Kansas Avenue Village

Last but certainly not least, SLO County has built a 'safe parking site' that we call Kansas Avenue Village where unhoused people can stay all day! No more in at 7pm and out by 7am makes for a more stable life (there's a second site near the SLO railroad station - same model). County has hired a manager for these sites and they are working to get more sites - we are SO GRATEFUL! Finally we have a place for people to legally 'be' who live in their vehicles.

It's crowded, but it's doable. The County brought in honey huts, showers, and soon there will be a kitchen and pantry stocked by the SLO Food Bank - thank you Suzie! There are eight children living out there right now and they're talking about building a playground too. We are so happy this has finally come to fruition after many years of asking.

THANK YOU SLO CO.! NOW ALL WE NEED IS A PLACE FOR FOLKS IN TENTS.



From our house to your house, we thank everyone who has donated to Hope's Village, and wish you the best of holidays and hope for a bright new year. We all have SO much to be thankful for.

Anyone wanting to partner with us or get involved in any way, please call 805-234-5478. We're always here!

*Becky Jorgeson & the Board of Directors
www.hopesvillageofslo.com*



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