



Sierra HOPE's mission is to promote individual dignity and support the health and well-being for at risk members of our community through compassionate services

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2023 NorCal AIDS Ride with Sierra Hope's Xan Adams Riding Along!

Message from Jerry

It's been a busy quarter starting with a Board Member work day at Hope House, followed by a spectacular weekend at the 2023 NorCal AIDS Ride in Sacramento with Sierra Hope riding along!

My assignment this year was to be the "Doctor's Drive" to chauffeur around wherever she needs to attend injuries, etc. Thankfully there were no injuries this year – in past years I've set up and manned a rest stop so it was a nice variation.

All Sierra Hope participants met their minimum fundraising goals and a good time was had by all raising about \$3,000 for our team. NorCal Aids has raised over \$140K (their goal was \$175K); with 32 riders which was a bit down from prior years but still a great turnout. The weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed the dinner and entertainment at friends and family night!

There are many reasons why we find it necessary to fundraise here at Sierra Hope:

- Contracts run short and we have to curtail services in our homeless prevention and other support services. With discretionary funds, we can serve more people should a contract run short of its intended coverage period.

- Here's another reason though and it's not something people like to fund but it absolutely crucial to our success: Infrastructure. Like so many in the area, Sierra Hope's fire insurance on our Transitional House was dropped. Fortunately, we obtained coverage through the California Fair Plan but the result is that our commercial property insurance premium increased from \$4000 to more than \$10,000. That's 150% more than last year just for property insurance. Commercial and Professional liability insurance costs also increased by 27% this year. This is a necessary cost of doing business, whether you are a non-profit organization or a for-profit company.
- During our board member work day, while it was a successful effort, the fact is that everyone out weed whacking is "not a spring chicken" and there is so much grassy area, we didn't quite finish. Joe Jackson, volunteer from Murphy's church, came and finished the job for us (Thanks Joe!) But, as they do, the weeds are growing again and we really do need a mower of some sort to help keep up when the weeds spring up. If you're replacing a mower, think of donating your old one to Hope House!
- Finally, while we completely replaced all of the necessary kitchen and laundry appliances last year through the generosity of the Calaveras Community Foundation, now we're getting estimates for new AC units as it's quite clear they are now on their last legs.

That said, we are grateful for all of the support we've received from our generous community. We are in the process of developing a new fundraising campaign that we hope will not just raise money, but raise awareness in greater detail about the important work our staff do each day to improve the lives of those struggling in our community with food and housing insecurity. It's a growing issue and one we're passionate about addressing! Stay tuned!

Jerry Cadotte

PROGRAM UPDATES

HIV Support Program

Bonnie continues to be busy with new referrals as well as a couple of new intakes last week. While cases grow our funding unfortunately does not. This affects staff hours and services we can provide, and we're finding a way to continue with consistency. Debbie, our other P/T nurse in Mono & Inyo has been helping with some QA issues and updating charts and assists Bonnie with client services.





Rapid Rehousing & Hope House Transitional House

Kate is our new housing case manager and a new employee overseeing the rapid rehousing program and is the backup person for our transitional housing program. "It's really been a hand in hand process for some of my clients," says Kate. "I've been hearing from a couple of people about how we've changed their lives as a result of assistance from Sierra Hope." It can be difficult because Sierra Hope does not maintain a waiting list. Kate works with clients on a first come basis working with them actively to find housing or referring them out to other services. Furthermore, while we can bring them into our program, it's still mostly on them to find that rental opportunity which can be challenging in this housing market.

One thing a lot of people in this situation don't have is time. Their lease may be terminating or other aspects that are out of our control. People need to be on the verge of homelessness to reach eligibility; Sierra Hope is working to influence and improve that process but we don't make the rules. Kate has also noticed an uptick in people losing their housing as more properties are being purchased and then turned into vacation rentals to let, which is feeding the current housing crisis.

To be eligible for the very limited supply of permanent supportive housing Sierra Hope manages, a person needs to be homeless or on the street with a permanent disability of some kind. As I have read many times, the general consensus is that California doesn't have a homeless problem, they have a housing problem and it's affecting middle income earners as well – we need to be able to provide increased assistance to those in need. It's not only cheaper to prevent homelessness than it is to re-house someone, but it's a whole lot better for their general well-being!



Food Pantry Needs Help!

Meet Steve Parkison, a volunteer for Sierra HOPE who has been managing our Food Pantry effort since 2016! Steve is anticipating having to be away for a while – and we don't have a backup volunteer for him while he's out. Here's what Steve does – if it sounds like something you can help with, call Jerry at (209) 736-6792 ext. 305!

Every Monday/Tuesday Steve goes and shops at the food bank in San Andreas, then manages the inventory in our food pantry. On Wednesday morning he comes to fill the bags of supplies and does the distribution in the afternoon. We do have one volunteer comes in and helps Steve bag Wednesday mornings so you'll have a little help.

Food Pantry Bonus!

We were able to access two pallets of donated food and household goods from the Bishop's Store House in Stockton and Jerry, Xan and Kate made the journey down (twice) to pick up our newfound supplies! These don't count toward our allocation so it's over and above!



Sierra Hope Board hard at work



at Hope House in Angels Camp



Jerry, Kate, Sue Brown and Jeri Carson-Hull assemble and fill raised beds so fresh veggies can be grown and enjoyed by all, and just one small corner of the weed whacking done. (Replacing your mower? Think of donating your old one to Hope House!)



There was an interesting article recently in the San Francisco Chronicle -- **Gavin Newsom has an aggressive new plan to fight California homelessness. It has fatal flaws.**

Excerpt: At its root, California homelessness is a housing problem. The state's decades-long failure to build enough homes — particularly affordable ones — has priced countless people out of the market, leaving them with nowhere to go but their vehicles or the streets. Working one or even two jobs isn't always enough to stay housed. And despite the constant refrain online that California's liberal permissiveness has made it a dumping ground for the social ills of the rest of the country, a recent UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative study of homeless adults — the most comprehensive statewide survey in nearly three decades — found that 90% became homeless in California, and the primary reason was loss of income.

[Read the Full Article](#)

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