

HOPE

HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

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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Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2022



MESSAGE FROM JERRY:

All around the globe it seems August is vacation month, that last big sigh as we say goodbye to summer and welcome fall. But at Sierra HOPE it's grant season and at present I'm 100% focused on pulling together two big grants that will help fund our programs for the next three years – both are due August 30th! The grant opportunities are from the Central Sierra Continuum of Care, a coalition of local government and nonprofit organizations responsible for allocating State and Federal funding to address homelessness in Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties.

One is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and will provide direct assistance for rent or utilities to low-income households who have fallen behind on rent or received disconnect notice for essential utilities such as water, electricity or heat, placing them at risk of losing their housing. It will also help cover the cost of staff

needed to provide services.

They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and that is especially important given the tight rental market. Prevention is something Sierra Hope has very little funding for and wish to do more of. This grant may be up to \$281K over 3 years but does require a 25% cash match to be obtained from other sources.

The second grant is funded by the State of California for a total of up to \$270,000. It will strengthen our housing assistance programs by providing additional funding for services, help meet our match requirements for other grants, and build our capacity to carry out these and other new programs to serve the community.

Homelessness is not just a problem of big cities. Rents are on the rise locally and many rental properties are being sold and tenants forced out. It's critical that grant funding available to our communities be used to help keep our residents housed, especially those who are retired or disabled and living on fixed incomes.

For most non-profit organizations, grants only go so far. They can be very prescriptive and funds cannot be used for anything other than what the funds are intended for. There are any number of crucial items that grants provide little or no allowance for, and organizations have to raise additional funds to cover. These are often referred to as "overhead" and can include portions of staff time, insurance costs, accounting fees, postage, communications, supplies and maintenance. Non-profit organizations are like small businesses and these are the kinds of infrastructure that any business needs to survive.

It's a little ironic that the costs of basic infrastructure often "fall through the cracks" in the very non-profits that aim to help people not to "fall through the cracks" in our social infrastructure.

But that's why we have fundraisers, and we have already received generous support from the business community for our annual Walk for Hope held each September at Big Trees State Park. Thank you! If you want to register and walk or show your support [visit our event page](#).

Jerry

Jerry Cadotte, Executive Director





Where a Walk in the Park Raises Vital Funds for our Community!

We're excited to share that our annual fundraiser is back at Calaveras Big Trees State Park and will take place Saturday, September 24, 2022. Registration for teams is now open and if you want to help raise funds for Sierra HOPE, a local organization on the front lines of providing supportive services for members of the Sierra Foothills communities of Tuolumne, Amador and Calaveras counties you can [register here](#). Participants can walk independently, or form teams to raise funds. Every step counts!

Program Updates

Food Pantry:

The goal of our food pantry is to provide more food items to provide balanced meals for families and individuals in Calaveras County who are experiencing food insecurity, many of whom must choose every month whether to buy medications, pay the electric bill, or buy enough food to feed their families and themselves every day. The pantry serves about 25 families each week with a growing number of seniors and disabled guests. When possible, volunteers may make deliveries for those who are home-bound.

Because of the limited space, we know we can't fill every need so we stick to basics. Things like canned veggies especially in winter, dry beans, rice, pasta sauce – the basics. During summer months we often get fresh produce and this year have been fortunate to get some frozen meat and occasionally, fresh milk. We recently applied for an additional grant from the Calaveras Community Foundation that could allow us to increase our pantry budget to keep up with inflation and provide more nutritious food that fills bellies. Keeping our fingers crossed!

It is a combination of generous community funders like the Calaveras Community Foundation and our committed private donors who participate in our Heroes fighting

Hunger program that allow us to do more. **We thank you!**

HIV Care program:

Debbie Brooks returned in early July to help with outreach on Eastern side of the Sierra's. She made her first trek to Alpine County and will be visiting Mono and Inyo Counties in late August. The HIV program has about 40 clients spread across all counties so planning is essential in our home visit strategy and frequency.

Hope House (transitional housing) Update:

Thanks to a generous grant from the Calaveras Community Foundation a new commercial refrigerator and separate freezer will soon be delivered to our Hope House in Angels Camp. The \$10,000 grant is paying for new appliances for the kitchen and laundry room. We have already received a new heavy-duty washer and dryer from Middleton's in Angels Camp. Hope House is shared by up to 4 families and a resident caretaker, so large capacity appliances that can stand up to heavy use will better accommodate the individual needs of our residents.

OTHER STUFF: NPR - How COVID vaccines have boosted the development of an HIV vaccine



So serendipitously, the COVID pandemic greatly accelerated the development of this experimental vaccine, and in many ways, actually made it plausible. Because the pandemic pushed researchers and pharmaceutical companies, who had no choice but to take a risk and test the mRNA technology in people. Within a year, they proved the technology not only works but actually works really well. Schief says. [\(read more\)](#)

really well, Connor says. [\(read more\)](#)



Serving the
residents of
Amador,
Calaveras &
Tuolumne
Counties



Everyday Ways to Help Sierra Hope

- Amazon Smile.Amazon.com: All you have to do is select Sierra Hope as your Charity and it will store this information for future purchase – it can really add up!
- Donate on [our website](#)
- Be a [Hero fighting Hunger](#)

HAPPY END OF SUMMER, SOON THE LEAVES WILL BE FALLING!



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