



Serving the
residents of
Amador,
Calaveras &
Tuolumne
Counties



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.

Volume 3, Issue 1

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2023

MESSAGE FROM JERRY:

This past December we bid a fond farewell to two of our long-time Board members. **Carol Phelps** had been a long-time supporter of Sierra HOPE and on the board since 2008. During her time on the Board, she served in leadership positions including Chair and currently as Vice Chair. Carol also served on the board of The Resource Connection for 22 years prior to joining Sierra HOPE. She grew up in Southern California and will be returning to be near her family there.

Jamie Leigh joined our Board of Directors in 2015 and served as Chair since 2016. Jamie's background in Non-profit Management and Human Resources influenced her leadership and was a valuable resource for the organization. Jamie intends to spend more time traveling after retiring from the Board. Both Carol and Jamie were instrumental in the founding of Hope House, our transitional housing program for homeless families with children. We give a heartfelt thanks for all their hard work and support.

Robin Bunch, a member of the Board since 2021 also tendered her resignation in January for personal reasons. Thank you Robin and we wish you the best!

New Board Officers were elected in January to replace our outgoing Chair and Vice Chair. **Sue Brown**, formerly Board Secretary, was elected to be the new Chair, and **Bertha Underhill** will be Vice Chair. Our Treasurer remains **Jeri Carson-Hull**, and **Matthew Graham** will serve as the new Secretary.

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It's important for the community to work together to support those who are struggling and help them access the resources they need to get back on their feet. This is where resourceful board members come in to advocate, influence/educate, fundraise, and raise awareness in our communities about the important work we do here at Sierra Hope. In this newsletter we talk a bit about board committees and what role they play.

If the issues Sierra Hope addresses are close to your heart and you have a desire to help by joining the board, please contact jerry@sierrahope.org. It's a great time to join as we plan to have another ¾-day board retreat later this year with board and staff.

Jerry

Jerry Cadotte, Executive Director

Program Updates

HIV Care Program

Bonnie continues to have new referrals. There have been 47 clients served this year in the HIV program in our original Tri-county area and 3 new clients from our expanded Inyo and Mono counties. Funding has not kept up with need so we have two part time case managers instead of full time. Every time funding gets reduced it affects staff hours. Again, this is why we fundraise – to fill the gaps created by demand outpacing program funding.

Hope House Transitional Housing

A new family moved in before Christmas who were living in their car which included a 7-year-old boy. This brought Hope House to capacity and all is going smoothly. The staff, board and especially Steve, the volunteer who runs our food pantry, and who coordinated with Toys for Tots to get new bikes for the kids, made sure residents had what they needed to create a happy Christmas holiday together.

Permanent Supportive Housing – Maybe you too can help?

All units are now occupied in our 3 newly refurbished main street apartments. The residents are thrilled with the improvements! Tenants pay 30% of their income toward their housing costs, and a grant from HUD covers most of the remaining costs.

A woman who had been living in her car for two years was successfully placed in one of the units which had a vacancy. Unfortunately, while we placed one new previously homeless individual in our main street units, there were two other women also living in their cars that Sierra Hope was not able to assist due to the lack of permanent housing in the area. However, we are beginning talks with area property owners who may be able to help provide similar units for subsidized housing. More property owners are realizing the dire

need and how others have had a very positive experience working with Sierra Hope on this very important initiative. If you are a homeowner interested in learning more, contact [Jerry Cadotte](#) to find out more about how the program works.

Rapid Rehousing Grant is falling short of community need

Looking to fill a \$20K Gap

Rapid Rehousing assists individuals and families who are homeless to get into permanent housing with rent deposits and temporary rent subsidies. The \$129,000 HUD grant, which runs through May 31, 2023, will run out of funding in March. As a result, we've had to stop admitting new people to the program and are projecting what we're going to need for those already in the program. If you are in a position to assist with gap funding, please visit our website where the [Donate Now](#) button is easy to find. We're looking to fill a \$20,000 Gap to see us through to the previously scheduled program duration.



Food Pantry

Remarkably stable thanks to YOU!

Seeking a few more volunteers for pick up and deliveries

In addition to our Calaveras Community Foundation grant and the Support of our Heroes Fighting Hunger team, Sierra Hope has started accessing the generous grant from the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-Day Saints, which provides the opportunity to shop at their Bishops store house in Stockton. They had an impressive selection, it was very well stocked, very clean, and we were able to purchase eggs, cereal, pasta, rice and some 4-pound Turkey Roasts for the holidays.

Because it's in Stockton and a distance away, we may shop there once/month in order to provide items we haven't been able to provide in the past. We have a new volunteer assisting Steve with filling bags and picking up donated food from Aria Bakery in Murphys.

We continue to need a more food pantry volunteers: 1) to help pick up and distribute food, 2) to help distribute on Wednesday afternoons 01:00 PM – 03:00 PM; and 3) shop on Mondays for supplies and be available to fill in for Steve when he is not available. This is so important as we continue to see increased demand for this resource.



Board News

As the board continues to actively recruit, it is also in the process of crafting structured committees based on the activities that the board has been involved in over the past few years as well as new initiatives that have emerged like digital communications. That said, what follows are some of the activities that the board engages in to provide some insight into current opportunities to contribute:

Someone has to have oversight and evaluation of board performance; conducting board committee assessments, board member recruitment and nomination, coordinating the completion of annual audits and annual reports with the Executive Director; and meeting compliance and regulatory requirements. This is often under a governance/finance committee label.

Fundraising activities – all non-profits engage in fundraising but it's not always under the banner of a fundraising committee. The most recent initiatives Sierra Hope has engaged in here are online auctions, digital cause-related email campaigns, and we're currently considering several potential special fundraising events for 2023 – some that would be familiar and others, new and different.

One of the more recent initiatives is the addition of digital communications vs. paper-based outreach. Sierra Hope expects this area will grow as we're seeing it as an important element of support for all other programs. These include producing the quarterly Sierra Hope e-Newsletter, the various cause-related email campaigns, and promoting existing long-standing events like Sierra Hope's annual Walk for Hope at Big Trees as well as our new initiatives.

All activities are important elements in supporting the good work that Sierra Hope does for the community; and like other non-profits, the committee structure should align with how the organization operates. Once formal committees are set, we'll let you know what they are! If you're interested in exploring board membership, [get in touch!](#)

NorCal AIDS Cycle Event

May 20-21, 2023

The mission of the NorCal AIDS Cycle is to support organizations throughout Northern California, with an emphasis on the Greater Sacramento Valley, that are working to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic and care for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS

RIDE WITH US!

The NorCal AIDS Cycle is an annual cycling event born out of a need that continues today. Diminishing resources to support those living with HIV/AIDS lead to a dedicated group of volunteers planning and producing a four-day cycling event to raise funding for AIDS Service Organizations struggling to keep their doors open.

Over the past eighteen years, cyclists and crew from all walks of life and abilities have come together as a community to make a difference, with the money raised benefiting those in the community who need some hope. We're proud to have distributed over \$3 million since our founding.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our 2023 event will be a two-day ride on May 20 and May 21, 2023. NCAC participants who meet the minimum fundraising levels will also be invited to participate in our Pumpkin Pedal ride on October 28, 2023 with no additional fundraising requirements or registration costs. For more information about us, resources available, and to access our calendar of training rides, please visit us at: norcalaidscycle.org

Other News:

Amazon ended its charity donation program [AmazonSmile](#) Feb. 20, 2023 after a series of other cost-cutting measures. To all of you who participated in this on behalf of Sierra Hope, we say THANK YOU and hope you'll continue to support us in the other ways outlined in our newsletter and website.

Everyday Ways you can help Sierra Hope:

Make a tax deductible donation anytime on our website at [Donate Now](#)
Sign up to be an ongoing supporter of [Heroes Fighting Hunger](#)



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