

HARTs Together Newsletter

June 2021

Carmichael HART Celebrates Student Buddy Ministry

HART volunteers, students, family members and supporters gathered at Gibbons Park in Carmichael in early June for a Bar-B-Q celebration of the 2020-21 school year. During the year, adult "buddies" followed COVID-19 guidelines to share lunch with students most every week. Their goal is to provide supportive, nurturing relationships with youngsters who often don't have permanent housing. In the past two years, HART has been training mentors who also must be certified by the San Juan Unified School District. Mentors typically commit to meeting with mainly middle school students for an hour or more per week. Their goal is to improve a student's self concept, social skills, learning capacity and life goals. They also seek to support families' overall competence, self-sufficiency and child-rearing skills. Carmichael HART plans to expand the Student Buddy Program next fall. The school district also is interested in expanding the program to other HART communities.

For more information about the Student Buddy program, visit: Carmichaelhart.org/student-buddy-program/.

Saturday Shower Program!

Beginning last month, Carmichael HART's shower program continues every Saturday at Carmichael Presbyterian Church's McMillen Hall. The last few weeks they have provided showers to an average of 7 guests each Saturday. With 16 available slots to fill, they are currently promoting the shower ministry among their unhoused neighbors during Carmichael HART's Thursday Lunch outreach. They are also seeking more volunteers to assist with facilitating the program.

They need more volunteer power!
If you would like to volunteer,
please contact Carol Horst at CarolHorst60@gmail.com

North Sacramento HART Monthly Meal Outreach

North Sacramento HART has started a monthly meal outreach project to help feed their unsheltered neighbors. This past month, North Sacramento HART President, Kamilah Watson, recruited local youth interns who helped assemble donated meal items and water into lunches and then distributed the lunches among unhoused neighbors who live in the Hagginwood Park area. The lunches were also accompanied with MREs (Meals-Ready-to-Eat) donated by HandsOn Sacramento and the Sacramento Medical Corps.

North Sacramento HART is seeking donations
for food, water, and hygiene kits to distribute among folks in need.

If you would like to make a donation
please contact them at NorthSacHart@gmail.com

"April Showers! And a Shot!"

Spring has sprung with Citrus Heights HART's "April Showers! And a Shot!" event as they welcomed dozens of unsheltered neighbors during the week of April 26th thru April 30th. During the 5 day event guests were able to shower, rest, visit with navigator Toni Morgan, have a hot meal and a nutritious to-go meal as well as have the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Citrus Heights HART sends their thanks to Pastor Greg Kaiser and **Antelope Road Christian Fellowship** who continue to open their doors and shower on these occasions to truly make a difference in the health and wellbeing of people experiencing homelessness in the Citrus Heights area.

The residents of **Grace House** prepared and served over a 100 meals during the 4 hours each weekday. They also offered clothing, encouragement, companionship, and demonstrated to many guests that a path out of homelessness is not walked alone.

Toni Morgan, the Citrus Heights Navigator, visited every day and reported that she was able to interview 10 people and actually complete an initial intake for 9 new clients. 3 folks are on track for housing: one to transitional housing and two for a rehab program. Toni was also able to meet with existing clients to check on progress they have made to replace IDs, Social Security cards, and work on their resumes.

Sgt. Seth Cimino and CHPD were supportive of the event and ensured the

safety of the ARCF campus. Officer Cox and Counselor Carol picked up a guest from the Greenback/Binet Drive area. This guest was able to shower, receive new clothing and hospitality as well as a blanket and two days of food. Officer Cox then returned and drove the guest back to his preferred spot.

Dignity Health filled a unique and important role in offering the vaccine. Ms. Josie Espino RN and pharmacists, Mr. Jim Walsh and Mr. Wil Giang, put the guests at ease and were truly thoughtful and considerate as they administered the vaccinations. 14 single-shot vaccines were given to community members.

Citrus Heights HART also extends a special "Thank You" to volunteers, **Ms. Kay Brown** and **Snackman Alfred Sanchez** for hitting the streets in the weeks leading up to the event, handing out invitations and flyers to unsheltered neighbors.

During the 73 visits by guests - certain supplies including hygiene items, shoes, solar device charges, laundry cards - were offered to help their neighbors. Everyone was offered "all new unders": T-shirts, boxer briefs, and socks.

There were 5 to 7 volunteers who participated each day and helped everyone follow safety and behavior guidelines. Additionally, they ensured all guests and volunteers complied with the current CDC COVID-19 recommendations by cleaning, sanitizing and maintain social distances.

Host Location:

Antelope Road Christian Fellowship

Volunteers from:

Advent Lutheran Church

Antelope Road Christian Fellowship

Celtic Cross Church

City of Citrus Heights community members and Citrus Heights HART members

Holy Family Catholic Church

LDS Ladies Relief Society Citrus Heights Stake @ Celtic Cross Church

Messiah Lutheran Church

Guest Services provided by:

Grace House - All hot meals and to-go meals for guests and volunteers

Laundry cards - anonymous donation

Dignity Health - Vaccine, PPE, First Aid supplies, Hygiene items

City of Citrus Heights Navigator - Ms. Toni Morgan

Just Serve - Guest Registration and Intake

AA Representative - David Connick

Starbucks Partners - Paper products and food

Therapeutic Chair Massage - Ms. April Jacek

CHPD - PPE, Advice, Safety

**South Sac HART & Friends
host Community BBQ and Vaccine Clinic
for Unhoused Neighbors**

Brother Carter of the Poor People's Campaign serves up hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken off of the grill alongside community volunteer, Joyce, and South Sac HART President, Fatemah Martinez.

Faye Kennedy and Ken Bennett share resources and information with guests

South Sac HART Intern Reiln next to Fran and Fatemah pose with District 8 City Councilmember Mai Vang at the resources booth offering hygiene supplies, clothing, and survival necessities.

Fatemah (with Carol in background) pose with Dr. MK of Sacramento County Public Health and the Streets Medic team who helped administer COVID-19 Vaccinations to guests.

Winter Shelter 2022: Arden Arcade HART seeks locations

Arden Arcade HART is organizing their first winter sanctuary program for the next winter season! They have formed a Winter Shelter Committee and are presently reaching out to neighboring faith-based communities as well as city officials in search of available safe spaces to host the program.

They are current seeking:

- Minimum of 4 host locations as over-night shelters (1 location per week)
- 1 intake center location
- Location volunteers

They will provide:

- On-site HART staff at all times during over-night
- Food and activities
- Sanitation & COVID protection
- Connection to resources & service providers

If you would like to get involved
or if you know of any opportunities as host spaces, contact:

CeeCee Coleman
ArdenArcadeHART@gmail.com
916-996-2595

**Arden Arcade HART Awarded Most Valued Partner
from San Juan Unified School District**

Some HARTs Return to In-Person Meetings

HART of Folsom:

June 15th

7:00pm

Oak Hills Church

1100 Blue Ravine Road

Folsom 95630

Fair Oaks & Orangevale HART:

June 22nd

6:00pm

at Christ the King Lutheran Church

5811 Walnut Ave, Orangevale 95662

(every 4th Tuesday of the month).

Rancho Cordova HART

Thursday, June 24th

6:30pm

at Sun River Church

11223 Trinity River Dr, Rancho Cordova 95670

For more Information & all other HART meeting times
visit Hartstogether.org/get-involved

Did you know?

- 93% of people experiencing homelessness in Sacramento are originally from Sacramento or were long-term residents
- Over 20% of the homeless population in Sacramento are families with children and of those families, 33% were living in vehicles. Families with children are the fastest growing demographic experiencing homelessness.
- Around 40% of Sacramento's homeless youth identify as LGBT (The national number of homeless youth who identify as LGBT is between 20%-34%)
- In Sacramento, Black/African Americans are three times more likely to experience homelessness than the general population. American Indian and Alaskan Natives are four times more likely to experience homelessness than the general population
- Sacramento City Unified School District serves 43,000 students and of those, 13,000 students experience homelessness at some point during the school year
- 25%-40% of unhoused people who are also employed either full- or part- time

- The 2019 Point-In-Time Homeless Count results suggested around 10,000 - 11,000 people experienced homelessness in the greater Sacramento area

Sources:

https://www.saccounty.net/Homelessness/Documents/Infographic%20Final_Chronic%20Updated.pdf

<https://www.cpradio.org/articles/2019/07/05/sacramentos-newest-homeless-shelter-offers-healing-space-for-lgbt-young-adults/>

<https://www.philanthropyca.org/news/mapping-housing-and-homelessness-crisis-california-root-causes-and-philanthropic-opportunities>

<https://parade.com/643064/beckyhughes/working-homeless-population-grows-in-cities-across-the-u-s/>

<https://familygateway.org/about-us/facts->

<statistics/#:~:text=Families%20are%20the%20fastest%20growing,not%20making%20a%20livable%20wage>

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<https://truecolorsunited.org/our->

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<https://sacramentostepsforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Final-PIT-Report-1.pdf>

<https://sacramentostepsforward.org/racial-equity/>

