



[HARTofFolsom.org](http://HARTofFolsom.org)



## A Tribute to Judi Alexander

### President, Past President, and Life Volunteer for HART of Folsom

Last month marked the end of a major chapter in the book and life story of HART of Folsom. Judi Alexander, our faithful leader and life blood of HART of Folsom, stepped down from her current position as Past President of HART of Folsom and will move back into the ranks as a volunteer.

This will mark the completion of six years of a commitment by Judi that we rarely get to see in action by an individual so committed to a cause. Judi was there in the beginning when HART of Folsom was not much more than a vision and a dream of many of our Folsom residents. We would hold meetings, we would talk about the future, the creation of a winter shelter and the surging attendance of many residents wanting to take action to help the unhoused. But there was the forming of the non-profit, registering with the state, figuring out Board Members, setting of budgets and figuring out Where would the shelter be! But in the midst of it, Judi was always in the forefront, assisting the first HART of Folsom President Ed Kelly, encouraging the crowd that we were pressing on, it was happening!

Judi was always ready to meet with any group who might suggest they wanted to know about HART and the plan for the Winter Shelter. She would always come back to the monthly meetings telling of the contact groups she had made, the volunteers that wanted to join us, and always the never-ending enthusiasm of - this is coming so get ready to sign up!!!

Judi would ultimately take the reins of the Winter Shelter. She put her heart and soul into the shelter formation, creation, planning meetings, securing host sites and always coming back with the results of her efforts and HART's newest members recruited to host a volunteer site. If a host site rejected HART, it just meant to Judi that the site wasn't meant for us and others were out there to secure it. There would be two great challenges that would arise during Judi's tenure with HART of Folsom. But who knows, perhaps Judi's commitment to HART and its success was so great that even some of the harder episodes in HART's history were just melded into Judi's ongoing purpose to see HART succeed. She just didn't let us see which ones joined with the swipe of the pen, but also those that took a marathon effort! As Paul Harvey would say (noted radio host to us of the older generation), we soon found out the rest of the story.

In the spring of 2020, COVID would take off. When the HART Winter Shelter Planning Team came together late in the summer of 2020 - there were decisions to be made - where would we go? How would we even think about starting? There are approximately 10 HART's in the Sacramento Region and Judi started the community meeting by informing the group that HART of Folsom would be the only HART in the region considering planning for a Winter Shelter 2021. Judi asked for a raising of hands of those who thought we would have a shelter in 2021. To be honest, many did not believe it could be done and the hands were few. But Judi encouraged us and said we would plan, move forward, organize, take in volunteers, and prepare with the expectation of a Winter Shelter 2021. Judi was right! No agency stepped in to stop the planning or opening of the HART of Folsom Winter Shelter in 2021. Judi received a call from the Sacramento County Head of Health Services applauding and thanking HART of Folsom for reaching out to the unhoused in the Winter of 2021. Ironically, after extensive protocols and preparation for our unhoused guests, not one guest tested positive for COVID in the 2021 shelter.

Just when it seemed HART of Folsom had tackled its greatest obstacle of gearing up for the 2021 Winter Shelter, Judi's second challenge would rise up before her. Ed Kelly, the first President of HART of Folsom stepped away from the position. Faced with a loss of leadership, Judi was elected as the second President of HART of Folsom. She did one season as both President and Shelter Director before concluding this was too much work for one person. Judi transferred the management of the Winter Shelter to Bev Siess. Bev has managed the Winter Shelter for the last two seasons. Judi has a passion for the Winter Shelter and for serving the unhoused. She stepped away from the Shelter to serve in a greater capacity for the HART of Folsom.

Judi presided over the HART of Folsom Board as President for the last three years. She has participated in multiple HART functions, and has brought on new Board members. Judi was a pioneer in the formation of HART of Folsom. She has a loving heart and is a faithful servant of the unhoused. We have all been blessed in the presence of Judi Alexander's service to HART of Folsom and to the unhoused folks in our community.

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## **Thank you to our Folsom Rodeo Volunteers!**

Thank you to all of you who braved the heat to staff the entry area of the Folsom Rodeo! We do this each year in support of our



community and all the guests at the rodeo. It's always great to see so many folks out there enjoying the entertainment and fireworks. It was a warm weekend - many thanks to all of the rodeo volunteers who helped this year during a historic heat spell!! Thanks so much to all of you who said "yes" to this task!! Bless you all so much!!



## HART of Folsom Case Management!

We are pleased to announce that HART of Folsom has contracted with First Step Communities (FSC), a Sacramento homeless services provider, to bring case management services to the residents of HART of Folsom's transitional housing program.

FSC has assigned Alex Garlinger, an experienced case manager and housing navigator, to work with the HART of Folsom resident clients in Bidwell Studio Apartments and the HART trailers at Oak Hills Church. Alex, a Case Management Supervisor at FSC, brings extensive experience working with clients in homeless services programs.

Alex will be helping all clients with efforts to create an individual plan for permanent housing and he will be entering all clients in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), where they can be connected to other services as their individual programs require. Alex comes to HART of Folsom with certifications in Mental Health First Aid, Domestic Violence Counselor, First Aid all levels, CPR AED, and is a Ready-to-Rent certified instructor. We look forward to working with Alex on our Folsom HART Team.



If you'd like more information about the Folsom Winter Shelter or you might be interested in joining our shelter leadership team, please send an email to [bevsieess@HARTofFolsom.org](mailto:bevsieess@HARTofFolsom.org)

Kind regards,  
Your Team at HART of Folsom

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