



July 2018  
Volume 1, Issue 1

## Pathways Newsletter



### WHO IS HART?

Rancho Cordova HART (*Homeless Assistance Resource Team*) is a nonprofit organization comprised of local citizens and faith communities who care about and are dedicated to assisting the homeless in Rancho Cordova. HART serves the homeless community by connecting them to services, providing mentoring, overseeing a winter shelter, and collaborating with the City of Rancho Cordova and other service providers in the Sacramento County area.

As a 100% volunteer-run organization, we rely completely on the generous donations from the community to support our work. We also are dependent on a multitude of volunteers who give of their time to make that work happen.

We are part of a network of HART groups in Sacramento County all of which are supported by Sacramento Self-Help Housing. Other participating HART groups can be found in Elk Grove, Citrus Heights, Carmichael, and Folsom.

Our largest project each year is our Winter Shelter. We also provide mentoring services as well as referrals to agencies that provide specific services needed by each individual client and everyday items that might be helpful. We also collaborate with the City of Rancho Cordova and Folsom Cordova Unified School District to discuss our role in providing more lasting solutions to homelessness and provide resources where needed.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Shelter Update..... 2**

**Community Partners... 2**

**Shelter Photos ..... 3**

**Almost Home..... 4**

**In Our Corner ..... 5**

**FCUSD Services ..... 6**

**Helping Hands..... 7**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **July 19**
- **August 16**
- **September 20**
- **October 18**

*Meetings are held at 12:00 pm at Sun River Church, 11223 Trinity River Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 in the Family Life Center.*

## 4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF WINTER SHELTER SUCCESS!

Rancho Cordova HART provided nine weeks of continuous shelter this past winter serving 105 individuals who otherwise would be sleeping on the streets. With eight participating churches we were able to provide a hot meal and a warm, safe place to sleep each night. We're grateful for the over 500 volunteers who participated over the season to make each week happen. Some of the roles our volunteers covered included intake interviews, transportation of guests, meal preparation and serving, overnight monitoring, laundering sleeping bags as well as just being a presence and offering conversation each evening. We served a total of 105 individuals most of whom are Rancho Cordova residents.

We were also grateful for the generous grant from the City of Rancho Cordova which helped to offset much of the cost of hosting the season as well as replenishing supplies and providing continual resources to our clients during the off season. We are deep into the planning of the next season by first of all, recruiting new churches to act as host sites so that we might expand our season to 12 weeks going forward.

*"HART is a great program for people who want to move forward, and I am a living testimony."- Richard*

## SISTER LOCATIONS

**Carmichael HART**  
[carmichaelhart.org](http://carmichaelhart.org)

**Citrus Heights HART**  
[citrusheightshart.org](http://citrusheightshart.org)

**Elk Grove HART**  
[elkgrovehart.org](http://elkgrovehart.org)

**Folsom HART**  
[hartoffolsom.org](http://hartoffolsom.org)

**2**

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Sacramento Self Help Housing has several programs to assist people in finding and retain stable and affordable housing.

**Housing Resources** obtains information regarding rental cost, policies, and vacancies for over 300 housing complexes to make referrals.

**Outreach to Homeless** visits camps in Rancho Cordova to assess needs and refers campers to programs and services.

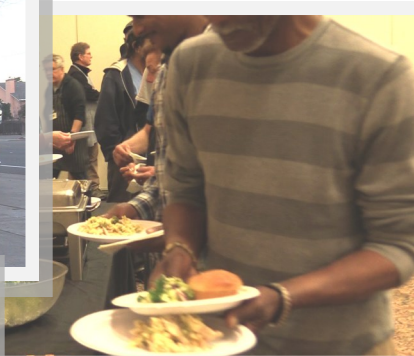
**Friendship Housing** offers case management to address a number of goals, including reunification, health care, enrolling in school, employment, and mental health services.

**Serial Inebriate Program** provides permanent supportive housing and case management once clients have graduated the program's mandatory 90-day detox.

**Homeless Prevention** provides support, guidance, and often a bridge for the tenants and landlords to resolve issues that allow the tenant to remain in their home.







## 2017-2018 WINTER SHELTER



## HOST SITE THANKS!

*HART would like to thank the following organizations for being a host site this past season:*

- Cordova Church of Christ
- Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church
- Next Level Christian Ministries
- St. John Vianney Catholic Church
- Sun River Church
- United Methodist Church of Rancho Cordova
- Unity Sacramento
- World Praise International

*If you would like to be a host site for the 2018-19 season please email us, we would love to partner with you!*  
RanchoCordovaHart@outlook.com

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Be a Volunteer**
- **Join our HART team**
- **Serve during our Winter Shelter**
- **Be a Mentor**
- **Attend HART lead meetings.**
- **Donate Online**
- **Participate in *GIVE ONE DAY***
- **Ask your church to be a host site for Winter Shelter**
- **Inform your congregation about HART and get involved**
- **Organize one or more dinners to be served at another site during Winter Shelter**



## ALMOST HOME

Richard is a kind man with a friendly and gentle demeanor. Because of life's circumstances and several adverse events, Richard lost his apartment and found himself "couch surfing" and living in his van. Eventually, he lost his van and found himself living on the streets. During this time, he also lost his mother which made him sad and depressed.

He came to the HART winter shelter in February after hearing about it through the 211-information line. Richard had been on the streets and homeless for three years. After the shelter closed at the end of February, he sought shelter elsewhere in the greater Sacramento area.

Richard was able to diligently jump all the necessary hoops to get his documents in order before seeking housing. He remained steadfast in all his efforts despite the challenges of the wintry weather, seeking shelter and food, and filling out and completing necessary forms.

With the help of a DHA social worker and a HART mentor, Richard was able to successfully enter the transitional housing and employment program at Mather. He is thriving there, taking classes and has a place where he can become more stable. His desire is to get into the culinary program.

In Richard's own words, *"I am very grateful and thankful for the help and encouragement that I have received. I am very grateful for the HART program and the volunteers I was able to meet. I was given many resources to help me on my journey. HART is a great program for people who want to move forward, and I am a living testimony."*



## IN OUR CORNER

Established in 1963, Rancho Cordova United Methodist Church (UMCRC) has been a great example over the years of a congregation that serves its community. With an average weekly worship attendance of 85, their congregation considers themselves “small, yet mighty.”

The UMCRC has had active volunteers in the Rancho Cordova HART since its inception. Two winters ago, feeling called to open their campus the UMCRC congregation became a Host Church as part of the HART’s Rotating Winter Shelter. They are eagerly anticipating being a part of the upcoming winter shelter season.

The whole congregation pitched in to clear enough sleeping space for 30 cots and a dining area for over 30 guests and volunteers for seven nights. In addition, members and their friends committed to be cooks, dishwashers, evening hosts and overnight attendants. The blessing was, these folks came back with a smile and enthusiasm as UMCRC hosted guests for the following shelter season.



The UMCRC also participates four weeks a year in Family Promise of Sacramento a rotating circuit housing program designed specifically for homeless families. On the third Wednesday of every month, community members are welcome for fellowship at their “Be Our Guest” dinner provided by church volunteers. An annual Vacation Bible School is held in partnership with Cordova Baptist and St. Clement’s Episcopal Church. In addition, you will find members of UMCRC volunteering in many capacities as they serve throughout the community by volunteering for: Cordova Community Food Locker, Assistance League, Community Council, City Invocations, Friends of the Library, California State Railroad Museum, Loaves & Fishes, Mather Veteran’s Hospital, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sierra Service Project, Folsom Cordova and Elk Grove Schools and more.

They truly are a church whose congregation continually steps out of the comfort zone of their own church walls by opening up their doors to serve the community locally and beyond. Rancho Cordova HART is glad to have them in our corner!

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

***HART would like to thank the following organizations for partnering with us!***

- **Chick-Fil-A**
- **Cordova Community Food Locker**
- **Department of Human Assistance**
- **Elica Health Centers**
- **Sacramento Self-Help Housing**
- **Sportsman’s Warehouse**

***If you would like to partner with HART, please email us, we would love to partner with you!***

***Ranchocordovahart@outlook.com***

## FAQ'S

### **How is HART funded?**

*We are funded completely by donations, individual as well as corporate.*

### **What percent actually goes to the homeless? 100%**

### **Where does the money go?**

*Funding our winter shelter, sleeping bags, cots, misc. supplies, resources for clients year-round including bus passes, food vouchers, clothing vouchers.*

### **Do you pay staff?**

*No, we are completely volunteer led.*

### **Are donations tax deductible?**

*As a 501c3, all donations are tax deductible.*

### **What is HART's primary goal this year?**

*To add to our host site locations in order to increase our winter shelter duration to 12 weeks, and to begin the process of procuring a transitional house.*

*If you have questions for HART, feel free to email us and we will include them in our next newsletter.*

6

## FCUSD HOMELESS STUDENT SERVICES

### ***Our Local School District Supports Homeless Students***

Folsom Cordova Unified Homeless Student Services supports families while they may be homeless. By working internally and with partners in the community Homeless Student Services works to see that any student with living situations listed below be allowed to the following:

### ***Students are guaranteed enrollment in school by the federal McKinney-Vento Act and California state law if you live:***

- In a shelter (family, domestic violence, or youth shelter or transitional living program)
- In a motel, hotel, or weekly rate housing
- In a house or apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship or loss
- In an abandoned building, in a car, at a campground, or on the street
- In temporary foster care or with an adult who is not your parent or guardian
- In substandard housing (without electricity, water, or heat)
- With friends or family because you are a runaway or an unaccompanied youth

### ***To enroll in or attend school students in the above situations do NOT need to provide:***

- Proof of residency
- Immunization records or tuberculosis skin-test results
- School records
- Legal guardianship papers

### **Students may:**

- Participate fully in all school activities and programs for which they are eligible
- Continue to attend the school in which they were last enrolled even if they have moved away from that school's attendance zone or district
- Receive transportation from current residence back to school of origin
- Qualify automatically for child nutrition programs (free and reduced-price lunches and other district food programs)
- Contact the district liaison to resolve any disputes that arise during the enrollment process

For more information go to their website:

[www.fcusd.org/Page/2189](http://www.fcusd.org/Page/2189) or call 916-294-9090.

# HELPING HANDS

Volunteer Pam Bradley has a rich background as a nurse in public health. Her job provided her with many opportunities to interface with the public from all elements of society, including persons who were homeless. She first became involved in a HART group eight years ago while living in Elk Grove. She was part of their homeless outreach for three years and after moving to Rancho Cordova she eagerly became involved with RC HART and has served the last four years faithfully.



## RISK FACTORS

What causes homelessness is typically the very common combination of factors, such as:

- Low Income Levels
- Evictions
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Illness
- Shortage of Affordable Housing

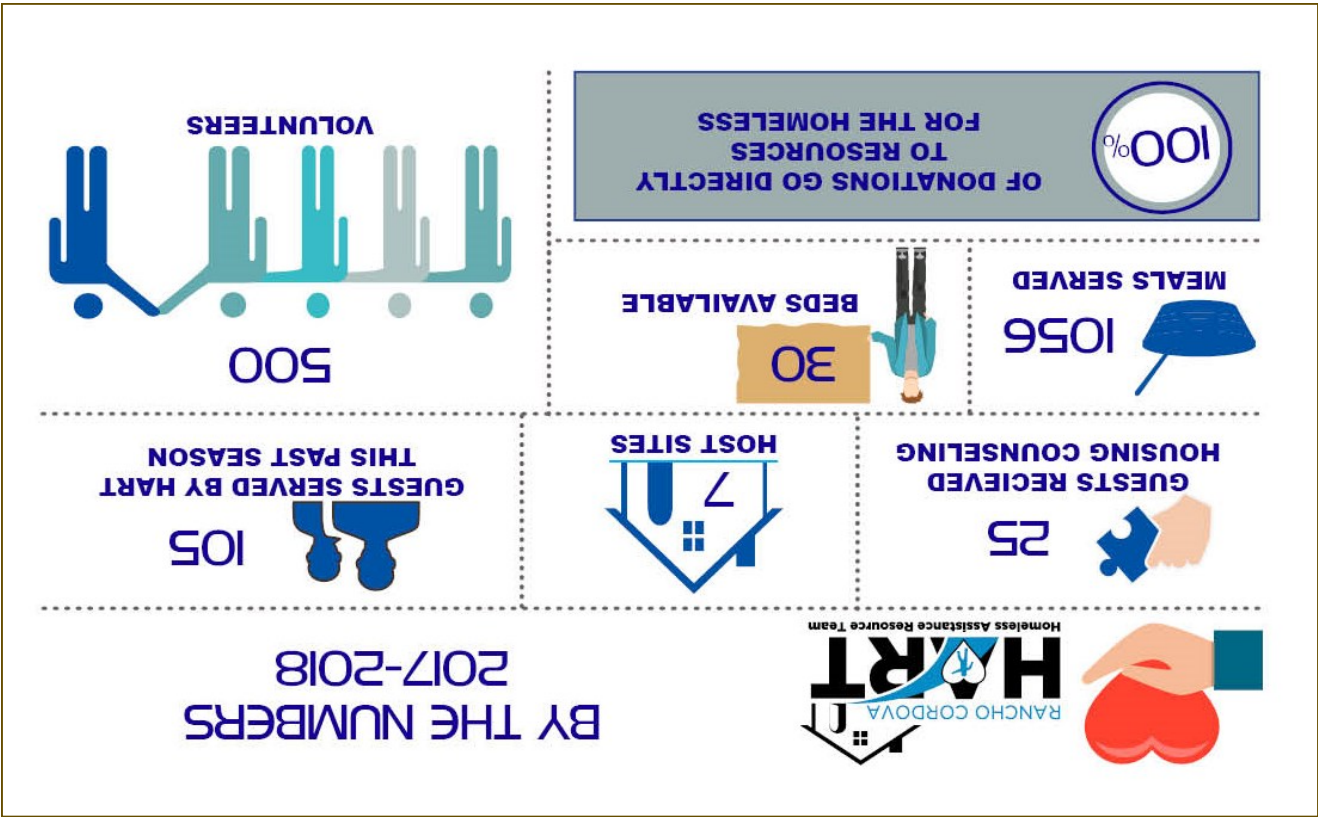
(Source: City of Rancho Cordova, 2017)

*The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. - Coretta Scott King*

Her passion for helping and serving the homeless in our community is contagious and she would even say it is a “calling.” In her own words, *“During the winter season especially, we have a tremendous opportunity to work together to bring shelter and a hot meal to the hungry. How could I not take time out of my schedule to help someone out of the cold, greet them with a warm friendly smile and let them rest from the trials of street living?”*

Pam’s primary passion has been realized in her long hours setting up our mentoring program and training others to come alongside our guests to help them get from one point to the next. She tells us that “a prospective mentor meets with a willing guest for encouragement, guidance, resources and direction. A mentor is one who is a good listener and will help another to help themselves. The goal is to *empower* and not *enable*.

Thanks Pam for inspiring all of us with your compassionate heart!



**STAY CONNECTED**  
[www.ranhocordovahart.org](http://www.ranhocordovahart.org)  
[ranhocordovahart@outlook.com](mailto:ranhocordovahart@outlook.com)

Find us on:  
**facebook®**

**RANCHO CORDOVA**  
**HART**  
Homeless Assistance Resource Team

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE