This year’s Sacramento County Winter Shelter will begin on Friday, December 1, 2017. It will be the second year that Sacramento Self-Help Housing is being contracted under First Step Communities to provide the intake operations for the 100-person winter shelter.

SSHH is also responsible for providing housing counseling and referrals to other resources such as mental health services, employment opportunities, alcohol and drug services, and other critical needs.

Success Story: Veteran Cliff Rogers
Sun Sprite House
Our Veteran’s House
Amazon Smile No-Cost Donations

Spotlight HART of Folsom

‘There are three things they worry about every day – where they are going to sleep at night, how safe they are, and where they are going to eat,’ she said.

‘When they are done with those three things, they are exhausted and they don’t have time to do anything else. They don’t know how to get out of the pit they are in.’

Smallwood said when you take away the elements of hunger and sleeping arrangements, the homeless are able to focus more on what they should and can be doing with their lives.

‘They didn’t start out wanting to be homeless. No one starts out that way. A lot of times, there is no family support. They lose their job or their home, and they have no where to go. It’s not a choice.’

You can read more here.
Cliff Rogers has found permanent housing! Cliff is a recent client that was referred to us by Sacramento’s Volunteers of America Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. Our Housing Operations Specialist moved Cliff into our low-barrier transitional Cathedral House right away. Now, two weeks later, he has already found permanent housing. Cliff Rogers will be moving into a Kavanah Mini Home as of this afternoon on October 17, 2017. Rent will cost around $125 per month including all utilities. Many service providers are still working with Cliff on his case. The veteran only makes $316 per month because of income garnishments, but Representative Doug LaMalfa’s Placer County office is working with Cliff on this issue. Kevin Jones, a Volunteers of America Case Manager, and Jim Quaschnick Jr., CEO of Kavanah Industries, are currently finding funding for the Veteran’s deposit costs which will be $250.

Kevin Jones is going above and beyond to get Veteran Companion papers for Cliff’s dog. Cliff himself is also working on getting a HUDVASH Voucher which would provide for stable housing with case management. Moreover, the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) finished completing an employment intake with Cliff to help him create a resume. He is currently looking to get employed as a Crossing Guard for the Sacramento Unified School District.

We at Sacramento Self-Help Housing, and other service providers that worked with Cliff, are happy to hear that he is getting closer to a life of independence.

A note from Case Manager Kevin Jones:
“I’m incredibly pleased and inspired by the efforts of all our community partners. Without your contributions, Cliff Rogers would still be living in a tent in Placer County. Helping a veteran that is in crisis and burdened with numerous barriers takes a concerted effort from all the interconnected sectors of the Continuum of Care community such as nonprofits, government entities, businesses, faith communities, property owners, law enforcement and more. I want to thank Mike Kennedy and Jeremy Baird from Sacramento Self-Help Housing for providing temporary sheltered housing for the Veteran at their Cathedral House in Sacramento.”

*The client’s name has been changed to protect his privacy*
Elk Grove’s Sun Sprite House

Elk Grove HART (Homeless Assistance Resource Team) organized 24 volunteers that donated over 100 hours to renovate a fence for the new Sun Sprite house in Elk Grove.

The Sun Sprite house is a six-bedroom home for disabled, low-income individuals in Elk Grove. It is made possible by a partnership between the City of Elk Grove and Sacramento Self-Help Housing (SSHH). The City purchased the home, and then arranged for SSHH to take ownership and provide property management. This house is a new affordable housing option in Elk Grove that will allow qualified individuals to rent a room for about $500 a month.

Various home renovations are underway to prepare for occupancy. This includes installing a new fence and landscaping, air conditioning repairs, and general clean up. Over the month of September, many volunteers were led by Elk Grove HART to assist with many of these renovations.

Volunteers included Sheldon High School Building Trades students, community members, and SSHH staff. A number of neighbors stopped by during the project to express appreciation for the improvements.

You can read more here.

Upcoming HART Meetings

Rancho Cordova HART
Thursday, October 19, 2017 12PM
Sun River Church, Rancho Cordova

Carmichael HART
Thursday, October 19, 2017 6PM
Christ Community Church, Carmichael Room M2

HART of Folsom
Wednesday, October 25, 2017 6:30PM
Lakeside Church, Folsom

Citrus Heights HART
Thursday, October 26, 2017 12PM
Holy Family Church, Citrus Heights

Elk Grove HART
Thursday, December 14, 2017 4PM
Elk Grove City Council Chamber
We’re thankful for everyday above the ground.
—Robert Irvin

Mike Kennedy and Scott Yeager, Housing Operations Specialist and Intern, carry boxes of plates and cups to the front door of a single-family house with a clean cut lawn. A red Marine Corps flag gently billows at the post of the front door. Within a few seconds, Robert Irvin opens the door to greet them with a courteous smile.

This is one of two houses in the Veteran’s Shared Housing Program. The veterans here have experienced homelessness for many years. Despite wanting to pay their way and remain in charge of their own lives, they have met various barriers to renting a room in Sacramento. The Veteran’s Shared Housing Program gives these veterans an opportunity to live in stable and affordable housing despite their barriers. Like the other houses that Sacramento Self-Help Housing manages, the landscape is green, the interior is well-kept, and the residents are peaceful. This particular house has been home to five veterans since the program began in June of 2017.

Originally from Kentucky, Robert joined the U.S. Air Force in June of 1969 and was stationed at the Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento in 1972. In December of 1975, Robert was discharged and has since continued to live in Sacramento. "I watched it turn from a small cow town to what it is now…"

Robert’s story is similar to many who experience the plights of homelessness. At some point, Robert fell through the cracks. “You look up one day, you don’t have a job, you don’t have a place to live. What do you do? You have to do the best you can.” Couch-surfing between houses and eventually sleeping in his car, Robert battled with homelessness for 10 full years. On top of that, Robert suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder that wasn’t diagnosed until 2007. “Post-traumatic stress is a very insidious thing. You don’t even know what it is, you don’t even
recognize it until they start putting the pieces together and tell you, ‘This is what’s going on.’” Despite the circumstances, Robert is positive. “I’ve served my country, and I’m proud of it.”

Three more occupants come out from their rooms to welcome the visitors. Mark Willis, a Marine Corps veteran, browses through the donated plates and cups, and puts them away. While inspecting his new coffee mug, he offers coffee to all.

Robert continues to recall his years serving in the Air Force as a Missile Systems Analyst. “You see too much and you do too much…” He motions to Mark, “Mark over there, he has suffered all kinds of stuff, big time. But that’s what it is. People and things get sacrificed for the greater good. We’re thankful for everyday above the ground.” Robert talks about how, too often, discharged veterans are expected to return to society and lead regular lives with so little support. “Twenty-one. Remember that number: twenty-one.” The most recent statistics show that approximately 21 veterans die from suicide each day (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).

“There are many veterans, and there’s more and more hitting the streets today,” Robert contemplates. He stresses the importance of organizations that help the homeless stay off the streets and the necessity of community support. While homeless, he was briefly assisted by the Sacramento Veteran Resource Center. In the end, it was Sacramento’s Volunteers of America (VOA) that connected him up with Sacramento Self-Help Housing in May of this year. Soon after, he was housed in this Veteran’s Shared Housing Program.

Sacramento Self-Help Housing is a nonprofit organization. At the Veteran’s Shared Housing Program, we keep the rent as low as $450 including utilities and case management. Clients also have access to any resources the assistance and support of Mike Kennedy, the Housing Operations Specialist and the entire Sacramento Self-Help Housing team. When clients have stabilized their lives and are ready to move out to their own place of residence, Mike and other staff will help them navigate the market to find affordable housing. The Veteran’s Shared Housing Program makes it possible for homeless individuals like Robert stabilize their lives, live with dignity, and start a new chapter in life. We would like to thank our generous benefactor, US Bank, for making this program possible.
Amazon Smile No-Cost Donations

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Sacramento Self-Help Housing every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a 0.5% of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

To donate, all you have to do is shop on smile.amazon.com and choose Sacramento Self-Help Housing as the organization you’d like to support. Learn more here.

Thank You from Our Staff!

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