

Hello! and welcome to our July Newsletter.

Here you'll find all of our updates from the recent weeks, how you can help fight homelessness and how we have been helping our community. At ESGVCH we work hard to achieve our goals and strive to help others in helping themselves out of homelessness.

We believe in giving a hand up and not only, a hand out

Hard work for a non-profit

This month, the new figures for Measure H Funding for 2019-2020 were released. These figures show who was selected to receive Measure H Funding. Sadly, the ESGVCH was again excluded from funding as has been the case since this initiative went into effect in 2017.



What is Measure H funding?

Measure H Funding is a quarter percent sales tax proposed by the Board of Supervisors and passed by the voters as a means of raising additional revenue to address the growing problem of homelessness in Los Angeles County.

"Measure H funds 21 Homeless Initiative (HI) strategies; wherever reasonable, the funding is allocated regionally to each Service Planning Area (SPA). For strategies where funding is allocated by SPA, in FY 2018-19, the allocation was determined based on each SPA's percentage of the 2017 and 2018 homeless count. Measure H funds for each strategy are administered by one or more lead County agencies (such as LAHSA or the Department of Health Services), who in turn generally contract with community-based organizations and government entities to provide services/rental subsidies"

You can find out more [here](#).

In these challenging times we do feel disheartened. Maintaining a non-profit will never be easy and it is even more difficult for us to help the increasing number of people that need our services. We often are not able to help families with temporary housing or provide means of transportation, such as gas vouchers and tap cards - due to lack of funding and donations.

The ESGVCH has also had to put the **Encore program** on hold; a vital program to help those with drug and alcohol addiction - due to lack of funding and donations.

We have over 7,000 guest visits a year to our small office in Hacienda Heights, these visits can range from someone having a vital meal and shower for the day, to families with children, desperately needing temporary housing.

We still need your support, even after 25 years.

EAC June Achievements

At our Emergency Assistance Center in Hacienda Heights we pride ourselves in the successes of our guests and the center

Emergency Assistance Center achieved

- 85 New guests received services
- 605 Guest visits for services
- 576 Meals were given at our center
- 546 Sack lunches were given out
- 220 Showers taken
- 464 Hygiene kits were handed out
- 375 guests received clean clothing
- 200 guests received bus vouchers to get to their appointments
- 31 motel nights were given to young families in need

A Day in the Life of a Homeless Service

Today Zack* signed in for a shower and a hot meal. He was the last to turn up, which meant he still had five people ahead of him in the shower line before we closed at 1:30pm.

When he arrived he seemed a little down but still able to pull together a smile with his 'Good Morning' and continued to politely ask for a clean shirt and a cold drink, if we had any.

Zack* had been waiting for 45 minutes and he only had one other person in front of him waiting for the shower.

As I took out some cold drinks and snacks I asked him how he was doing. He was not happy. 'I'm struggling with my mind, I'm struggling with my body too. I shouldn't be in this situation, I'm only 25. This isn't me. This isn't what I should be. This isn't my mind.' Zach* exclaimed.

I tried to comfort him with the knowledge that many people do get out of this situation and he was still so young.

'This just isn't my body, I want it to all go away, I just want to end it!' He shouted.

'That's not what you want, you have a lot of fight in you and it is a long hard battle but you'll get through it.

We're here to help you.' I attempted to heal.

There was a long silence until I asked him if I could get him anything. He calmed and said 'No, but thank you, just for listening.'

As I walked back into the office I said 'Take care Zach, we're here to help and please know that you can always talk to us. Don't forget to talk to us!'

We were able to help him with contact information for health services and will monitor him over the next few weeks

We are met with different forms of mental health everyday, peoples emotions run high when they feel they are nobody and have nothing.

This can manifest in forms of silence, aggression, outbursts, tears, difficulty concentrating, low self esteem and much more.

The Emergency Assistance Centre is open Monday to Friday and sometimes the biggest help we can offer is an ear to listen and words to try and ease the pain.

Written by Laura Yarber - Volunteer at ESGVCH

A few words from Bob Mckennon - ESGVCH Volunteer since inception in 1990

'It has been a very difficult year for the ESGVCH. Because of substantial reductions in CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding from surrounding cities, the intense competition for Foundation Grants and the widespread misconception that we are receiving Measure H funding, our capacity to provide many needed services has been severely impacted. In spite of these harsh realities, we remain optimistic that needed grants and donations along with Measure H funding, will come our way and we will be able to continue to provide important services to our homeless population that we have provided for the past 25 years.

Your support is needed.'

Here are some of the results from our Fiscal Year End

7,022 GUEST VISITS

501
CHILDREN VISITS

245
FAMILY VISITS

12,733
MEALS GIVEN

28 CLIENTS
PER DAY AVG.

Useful resources for those suffering with homelessness



- Call 211 - For information on referral services and shelters
- Mental Health Referrals - 800-854-7771
- Suicide/Crisis Line - 1 800-235-1191

'How can I help?' - You ask...

You can help by providing the things we need most

- ★ Monetary Donations are most needed
- ★ Packaged food donations for the EAC
- ★ Food store vouchers for our clients, including families
- ★ Gas vouchers for clients to get to work and appointments`
- ★ Bus fare to get to housing and health appointments
- ★ New underwear - Mens & Womens
- ★ Practical Men & Womens shoes/trainers
- ★ Fundraise locally and spread the word about what we do here at ESGVCH



ESGVCH provides:

- Emergency & transitional shelter programs
- Hearty meals to alleviate hunger
- Basic daily needs including; clothing, hygiene & transportation
- Referrals for housing, jobs, education & healthcare
- Raising community awareness about homelessness
- Collaborative work with others to end hunger & homelessness

ESGVCH Programmes:


- **Emergency Assistance Centre;** located in Hacienda Heights, providing direct aid to over 500 guests per month.
- **Transitional Services Program;** helping families transition back to permanent housing.
- **Encore Program;** providing support for outpatient therapy for those who are homeless and addicted to substances seeking recovery.
- **Winter Shelter Program;** Six partner churches donate space for shelter, during the winter months, two weeks at a time. We provide hot meals, showers and beds for over 1500 people living on the streets at this time of year

Find out more about Volunteering with us and how you can help the homeless community near you. ESGVCH are always looking for volunteers and even board members to bring in new ideas and open hearts [Volunteer with us!](#)

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness please do not hesitate to get in touch, using the contact details below. Even if they just need somewhere to shower, a warm plate of food and someone to discuss options with that are available to them.

Our food donations this month, Thank you!

 @ESGVHC

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Coalition of the Homeless

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