

Newsletter May 2019



Hello! and welcome to our May 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



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 clients 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 .

The Winter Shelter results

Each year from December 1st to the beginning of March, six partner churches donate space for our Winter Shelter.

This year the program ran for 93 days and our dedicated volunteers had a record breaking time. Here are just some of the results.

17,205 BEDS MADE

327

CLIENTS RECEIVED
MEDICAL ATTENTION

1,493

TOTAL CLIENTS

51,615
MEALS GIVEN

185 CLIENTS
PER NIGHT AVG.

★ If you'd like to find out more about our Winter Shelter Program and how you can help next year [click here](#)

A Day in the Life of a Homeless Service

Today we were greeted by Mario*, he's a current cancer patient, living on the streets. He comes in, always with a warm 'Good morning' and a smile.

Mario* patiently sits and observes what's going on, he sits at the table outside and is served a hot bowl of soup and a small meatball sub. It's 8.30am and he's 8th on the shower list today, that could take nearly two hours with our single shower cubicle constantly in use.



He sits.

He smiles as others tell jokes.

He sits, looking longingly onto the patch of grass by our office.

He sits, playing with the zipper on his jacket.

He asks kindly for another bowl of soup, if that's possible.

He sits, after clearing away his mess and tidies up the table for the next person

It's now 10am. I go outside to call Marios* name, he's waiting patiently, towel in hand. 'Mario it's your turn' We give him a little longer than the usual 10 minutes allowance so that he can take his time.

He walks out of the shower room and gently places his used towel in the laundry basket.

'Thank you very much' he smiles as he grabs a few candies from the bucket at our office door.

An hour passes and Mario* comes to the office door again.

'Goodbye now, thank you for all you do. I'll see you tomorrow.'

Written by Laura Yarber - Volunteer at ESGVCH

*Name withheld for privacy reasons

ESGVCH April Achievements

Our clients achieved this month:

- 3 Clients attending Mental Health appointments
- 6 Clients attending Medical services
- 1 Woman sheltered at the Asian Pacific Domestic Violence shelter
- 2 Clients rehoused
- 1 Client got a new job

Our Emergency Assistance centre achieved:

- 658 Meals were given at our centre
- 280 clients showered
- 622 Hygiene kits were handed out
- 544 clients received clean clothing
- 190 Clients received bus vouchers to get to their appointments
- 120 New clients received services

What happened for Homelessness this month?

- ❖ ESGVCH took part in a Taste of the Town with the City of Industry and they helped us fundraise \$2000 by selling tickets - you can read about it [here](#)
- ❖ ESGVCH received a grant from L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis. This grant will help our bridge programme for homeless families transitioning into permanent housing
- ❖ Last year alone, 918 homeless people died in LA county. The Los Angeles times wrote an in depth article called [L.A. County's homeless population is growing — but not as fast as they're dying](#)
- ❖ 'L.A. county released its new \$32.5 Billion Budget and homelessness remains a central fiscal focus' [Read more](#)

