

**Hello!** and welcome to our June 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*

## Notes to take from the 2018 Homeless count

'The results of the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count are out, showing a 12% rise in homelessness—even as an expanded homeless services system is making unprecedented strides in providing housing and help.'



- ❑ In the San Gabriel Valley (Service Planning Area 3) there was an increase in homelessness of 19.5% in 2018 compared to 2017
- ❑ The total number of homeless in SPA 3 has been recorded at 4,479 people
- ❑ The number of 18 and under, alone and without a home in SPA 3 has increased from 276 to 358
- ❑ There are 606 family units in SPA 3 without stable housing
- ❑ The total number of homeless people in the Greater Los Angeles county is now 58,936
- ❑ Unsheltered homeless are considered as those living on the streets, in vehicles and in tents.
- ❑ Sheltered homeless are considered as those living in temporary housing and shelters

If you'd like to find out more information on the homeless counts in LA county visit [LAHSA.org](http://LAHSA.org) and watch the [video](#) they released about the homeless and housing crisis happening in and around Los Angeles.

## EAC May Achievements

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

Our Guests achieved

- 4 Guests attending Mental Health appointments
- 6 Guests attending Medical services
- 9 Families in temporary housing
- 2 Guests acquired new jobs

Emergency Assistance Center achieved

- 107 New guests received services
- 554 Meals were given at our center
- 231 guests showered
- 477 Hygiene kits were handed out
- 413 guests received clean clothing
- 120 guests received bus vouchers to get to their appointments



LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn with our May Newsletter  
ESGVCH President Richard Hopkins  
Board Member Donna Mckennon

# *A Day in the Life of a Homeless Service*



A lady knocked on the door and entered sheepishly.

'How can we help?'

'I left my house in the middle of the night, I couldn't take it anymore. But I don't want to bother you, all I could use help with is a bus fare. Someone told me you could help with that?'

'We can, but can you tell us any more details? Where are you staying now? Do you have a job?'

'Yes, sorry, I just can't think straight. I spent the last two nights sitting in front of the police station, hoping he wouldn't come and find me.'

'Do you need somewhere to stay the night? What is it you've had to get away from?'

'My husbands abused me for years, he takes drugs. I work all day long and come back to abuse. My kids moved out a while ago and I guess I just kept it together for them, but now I've had enough, I need to get away.'

She was holding it together, hand on her head,

'I'm trying to get to Arizona as soon as I can, my boss is letting me transfer to another branch but I have to work to get the money. I left the house with just this bag and none of my work gear.'

She looked down at herself mumbling, frustrated and exhausted, 'It was stupid of me really, I should've thought it through better. I just don't really know how I'm going to get through this, it's going to be hard on the street again tonight, I could barely focus on work today but I have to work to get away.'

We all sat there in awe.

'Take a seat outside, if you can fill out your paperwork for now, we'll grab you a coffee and some hot food but just relax for now we'll see what we can do for you.'

We wrapped her in a hand knitted donated afghan. She enjoyed a coffee, a hot bowl of soup and a sandwich.

30 minutes passed. As she came inside to hand in her paperwork, she was ever so grateful.

'Ok, we've all discussed and this is what we can do for you. If you are needing to work in two days' time, we've got you a few nights in a motel.'

She broke down crying, in shock, thanking us profusely and wiping her tears.

'Our volunteer has packed you a box of food for the next few days to get you by, there's some fresh underwear, toiletries and a blanket. We've been able to find you a bus ticket for \$25 that leaves in 3 days and for this we were given a donation to help you get the fare. Would that be helpful?'

'You are joking?!' She can't believe what she's hearing.

'We've also been in touch with a women's shelter in Arizona and they're waiting to hear from you.'

Tears of joy flooded her eyes.

Since then we have been in contact and she is doing well and thriving, with visits from her family!

Written by Laura Yarber - Volunteer at ESGVCH

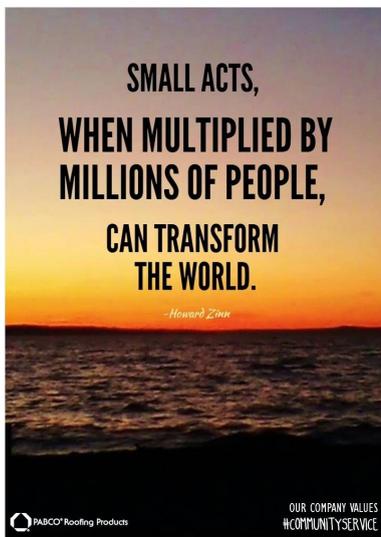
## ***What happened for Homelessness this month?***

- ❖ A huge cause of homelessness, comes from the rising rental costs, pushing long term residents out into the streets with nowhere to go. CBS News covered the story - [Watch the video](#)
- ❖ ABC7 covered a story on the newly unveiled mural that pushes for more supportive housing around Los Angeles - [Watch the video](#)
- ❖ Find out how the LA Homeless Outreach team are taking to the streets to help the homeless [here](#)

## ***Useful resources for those suffering with homelessness***

1. Call 211 - For information on referral services and shelters
2. For Families - Contact your schools homeless liaison
3. Mental Health Referrals - 800-854-7771
4. Suicide/Crisis Line - 1 800-235-1191
5. Drug & Alcohol treatment - 800-564-6600
6. For help with DMV/Identification - 800-777-0133





## *'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 donations this month, Thank you!*

 @ESGVCH

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