

August 2020 Newsletter

Hello! And welcome to our August Newsletter.

Here you'll find 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 2020 Homeless count



'The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority released the results of the 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, which showed 66,436 people in Los Angeles County experiencing homelessness. This represents a 12.7% rise from last year's point-in-time count.'

- ❑ In the San Gabriel Valley (Service Planning Area 3) there was an increase in homelessness of 1% in 2020 compared to 2019
- ❑ The total number of homeless in SPA 3 has been recorded at 4,555 people
- ❑ The number of families without a home in SPA 3 has increased from 186 to 283 families.
- ❑ 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](https://www.lahsa.org) and watch the [video](#) they released about Project Roomkey which is a collaborative effort by the State, County and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to secure hotel and motel rooms for people that are experiencing homelessness who, due to age and physical condition, are most vulnerable to the Coronavirus.

EAC 2019-2020 Achievements

At our Emergency Assistance Center in Hacienda Heights we pride ourselves in the successes of our guests and the Center. Though in very challenging times, we are grateful we have been able to extend our services to members of our community experiencing homelessness and other economic hardships by providing hot meals, lunches to go, hygiene supplies, face-masks, motel vouchers for families with children, and referrals to much needed services.

- Emergency Assistance Center achieved
- 1322 New guests received services
 - 12,943 Meals were given at our center
 - 4345 Hygiene kits were handed out
 - 307 Families were served



Sanitization in Action

Program Manager Megan Ryan & our Amazing Volunteer Sal

A Day in the Life of a Homeless Guest



The morning had come, and gone. Clients came as they normally would for their early breakfast, showers, and a lunch to go. We were starting to wrap things up in the office for the day when we noticed a returning client of ours walking up to the office.

“Hi Stephanie*, how are you doing? How can we help you today?”

“I was wondering if my daughter and I could still get something to eat. My mother is at the church asking them if there’s any way they can help us with a little bit of money for a motel.”

Stephanie came to our office about a week before for motel voucher assistance. When we provided this service, we learned that her family has been experiencing homelessness for 3 generations - going from motel to motel, and couch surfing when possible.

“Of course! We will warm something up for you guys. Do you like corn dogs sweetie?”

The little girl, about 7 years old, nods a timid and shy “yes.”

I cannot put into words the happiness I witnessed in this child’s eyes when I returned with a chocolate milk, and two corn dogs.

“We get these at school! I love these! Thank you.”

Needless to say, my heart cracked wide open.

I can only imagine some of the hardships elementary students experiencing homelessness encounter on a regular basis. And this was just one more reminder of how we, as a society, are so detached from these harsh realities. Fortunately, this isn’t the same reality for thousands of others. To so many, a carton of chocolate milk and corn dogs would mean very little, but to this child these items were symbolic of what she knew to be consistent in her life.

Oftentimes we don’t know what’s going on at home. We don’t always know what someone is walking back to after their encounter with us. What we do know is our presence counts.

May your compassion be everlasting.

Written by Jasmine A. Camarena

What happened in Homelessness this past month?

- ❖ LAHSA releases COVID-19 recovery plan to end homelessness for 1,500. Read their plan [here](#).
- ❖ Los Angeles city, county in talks over plan to relocate homeless people living near freeways. See video clip, and article [here](#).

Useful resources for those suffering with homelessness

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



No act of
KINDNESS
no matter
how small
is ever
wasted.
-Aesop

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

You can help by providing the things we need most

- ❖ Monetary Donations are most needed, especially in these unprecedented times.
 - ❖ Packaged food donations for the EAC
 - ❖ Food store vouchers for our clients, including families
 - ❖ Gas vouchers for clients to get to work and appointments`
- ❖ Hygiene items; Hand Sanitizer, and any face mask donations
 - ❖ 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 Programs:

- **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.
- **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. (status undetermined at this time due to virus)

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

If someone you know is experiencing homelessness please do not hesitate to get in touch using the contact details below. A warm plate of food, lunch to go and someone to discuss options that may be available to them. @ESGVCH (showers temporarily unavailable due to virus)

Our food donations this month, Thank you!



@ESGVCH



East San Gabriel Valley
Coalition of the Homeless



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