



Emergency Warming Center Impact for 2019-2020~Season 5

Dear Community,

Much gratitude for your support of this grass roots community effort! Because of many, filled a much needed void in our community, providing life saving and life giving care at the Emergency Warming Center (EWC). When Covid-19 hit in March, the community jumped in to provide additional support for our neighbors, with no place, to shelter in place. We've now expanded to provide bridge services as the Emergency Warming Center, Day Center & Homeless Support Center.

We started the season as expected and opened on 33 of the most severe weather nights this winter. We had 52 individual guests, 5 dogs and 4 cats for overnight stays and averaged 10-12 guests every night. In total we provided 314 nights of shelter, a 10% increase over the previous year.

By creating an annex to the EWC space this year, we were able to provide housing to one of our vital staff, who was in previous seasons, a guest at the center. She filled our "guest liaison" position and was committed to being at the center each night and morning we opened. This provided consistency and strong relationships for many of our guests and volunteers. Additionally we used one room as transitional housing for a female guest and her 3 cats. With this extra support she was able to rebuild her life and 3 ½ months later move out of state into permanent housing. We also created a clothing closet, to offer basic clothing necessities for our guests and were able to jump into action as a day center using these facilities when COVID-19 hit in March.

On March 3rd we started offering day services which included: vital health checks; warm meals; access to laundry; basic necessities, connection to other services. On April 7th we relocated the program to the Veteran's Hall in downtown Truckee and opened 5 days a week through the end of our season, June 30th. We quickly learned that with the consistency of services, 5 days a week, providing a space to be heard, encouragement to take extra care of their health and general community care, we could develop relationships and more easily connect guests with longer term help.

Quick Statistics:

- Day Center open 75 days
- Welcomed 89 individual guests, with total guest visits of 915
- Provided warm breakfast and lunch 877 times, in total, more than 1600 total meals
- Provided 554 showers
- Access to laundry 234 times

Here are just a few tangible examples of the life saving and giving that happens because of continued support for these programs!

- We had a local resident of 20 years who had been living homeless here the past 5 years. Previous seasons he had not wanted to come in but after a few years of encouragement he finally did and this is the story he shares today: "When I came to the program I was completely destitute. I went seeking help and was able to receive the guidance and support I needed to improve my life. You helped me with the things I needed to get my social security going, the mental and spiritual support approach got me. I now have stable living, got to see my son. Things are better. I am back on my feet."

- We helped a young male guest in his 30's who found himself homeless this winter after an accident on his job, led to short term disability and no affordable housing options available. He stayed with us when we were open, kept healing and connecting with other services until he was able to secure a new job. We then raised \$800 to support his first month's rent for a room in a house.
- We had 2 previous guests who are now both sober and housed come visit on a few nights. It was heartwarming to hear about their success, how our help supported their changes, and to watch them interact with guests as "peer supporters", letting them know anything is possible with hard work and support.
- With the day center open 5 days a week, the staff has been able to help guests gather documentation needed to apply for the low income units coming available in October, downtown in the Artist Lofts. 3 guests have submitted complete application packages and 7 more are in process!

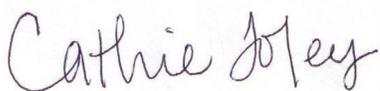
None of this would be possible without the hundreds of supporters who provided meals, donated supplies and finances to help make this project a true success! We've had support from our local social services and homeless outreach manager along with Sierra Senior Services who stepped in to provide healthy lunches for our Day Center guests.

In addition we had generous financial gifts between \$10,000- \$30,000 from: The Martis Fund "a collaborative project of the developers of the Martis Camp community and its members, Mountain Area Preservation (MAP), and Sierra Watch"; Martis Camp Community Foundation; Grants through Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation; Placer County; Nevada County, and a gift from Jesse Smith, Annice Kenan Smith & Jeff Hamilton.

Currently, we are technically still in our 6th regular season since we are now also running the Day Center and Homeless Services from Veterans Hall, a minimum of 3 days a week through the end of September, likely longer. With the increase of guests each week as folks learn of the service and can count on its consistency, we are working with Placer and Nevada County, the Town of Truckee and the Community Collaborative to determine an appropriate location for a "Pilot Season" with year round day services and the weather-triggered warming center.

With the increased need for these services and belief that COVID-19 will still be a factor in this upcoming winter season, we are working on a budget and plan to make this possible. In addition to a new location for the program, we need to expand our paid staff positions to accommodate the increased services and large reduction of volunteers, due to age & health restrictions during this health crisis. We hope you will continue to partner with us in these life saving and life giving efforts that make our community stronger as we care for those in need.

With Gratitude & Warmth,



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