

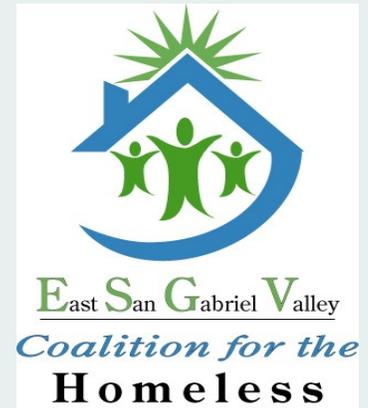
December 2015
Volume 1, Issue 3



Report on ESGVCH Kick-off Event for Winter Shelter: On behalf of ESGVCH Board of Directors, a big thank you to everyone who helped make our Kick-Off Event held (Nov. 20) a resounding success. Approximately 80 people attended and over \$3,000 was generated through donations and the Silent Auction. Since all costs of the Event were donated, 100% of proceeds will go directly to ESGVCH Programs that aid the homeless with emergency shelter, food, showers, emergency shelter, bus passes, healthcare and community referrals. Many thanks to all who attended our first Kick-off Event. Thanks also for the donations, received at the Event, or by mail, or through our website: www.esgvch.org. Recognition and thanks goes to Rev. William Easterling and Sacred Heart Church Community for providing a lovely room for our Event. Thanks also to Azusa Pacific University nursing students who helped with set up and provided live entertainment (praise music!). Sr. Nancy Uhl was our invited speaker. Sr. Uhl shared movingly about the importance of each of us doing what we can to help the homeless in our midst. She shared a story: After being part of a foot washing event for the homeless (many of whom suffer foot problems) she reflected afterward that while she could not change the circumstances of those who came, she felt better just to know for at least one night their feet would be clean, warm and might hurt a little bit less. Thank you, Sr. Nancy, for sharing a humbling experience!

ESGVCH Winter Shelter Program Opens: On the night of Dec. 1st ESGVCH Winter Shelter Program opens. We expect to shelter an average of 174 guests per night and to serve over 1200 unduplicated individuals over the 3 months of shelter operations (nightly thru Feb 29). All guests who come to our Winter Shelter find a warm meal, a cot, a blanket, warmth and safety for the night, giving them a chance to rest. Such basic human needs! Through the Winter Shelter Program many find enough stability to re-establish themselves in jobs and permanent housing. The Winter Shelter operates on generous grants and donations from ESGVCH supporters. We express a big thank you for making it possible.

Donate thru ESGVCH secure website: www.esgvch.org Or mail check to: ESGVCH, P.O. Box 92356, City of Industry, CA 91715. Cash or check may be delivered to ESGVCH at St. Martin De Porres Center located to the rear of St. John Vianney Church at 1345 Turnbull Canyon Rd., Hacienda Heights 91745.



What do you feel when you encounter a homeless person at an intersection or freeway off ramp? Fear? Pity? Guilt? Indifference? Or, do you simply look the other way? You can't miss them when walking around a city. They are pressed up against buildings or into corners holding make shift signs, asking for money, perhaps pushing a grocery cart with all their possessions. We must remember that each homeless person is an individual created by God experiencing unique circumstances that led to homelessness.

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.

Mother Teresa



**EAST
SAN
GABRIEL
VALLEY
COALITION FOR
THE HOMELESS**

**WINTER
SHELTER
PROGRAM
2015-16**

BUS SCHEDULE

BUS A

-El Monte --- 5:00 - 5:10 N/E corner of Valley Blvd and Gilman Road.
(This intersection is unmarked) next to 12351 Valley Blvd.

-El Monte --- 5:20 - 5:30 El Monte Metro Station Bay 6
at the rear of Lower Level

-Baldwin Park --- 5:50-6:00 Home Depot parking lot N side of
10 fwy at Puente Ave. Meet at S/E corner of the lot.

BUS B

-Glendora --- 5:00-5:10 N/E corner of Barranca Ave & Arrow Hwy

-West Covina --- 5:40-5:50 444 S. Glendora (sidewalk)
at the former Big O Tires

-La Puente --- 6:05-6:15 Meet in the parking lot near the S/W
corner of Glendora Ave & Temple Ave.

DEC 1 - DEC 16

**ST. CHRISTOPHER
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

629 S GLENDORA AVE
WEST COVINA, CA 91790
CROSS STREET: CAMERON

OPEN NIGHTLY

DEC 17 - JAN 1

**ST. DOROTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

241 S VALLEY CTR AVE
GLENDORA, CA 91741
CROSS STREET: FOOTHILL

OPEN NIGHTLY

JAN 2 - JAN 15

**GLENKIRK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1700 E PALOPINTO
GLENDORA, CA 91740
CROSS STREET: LONEHILL

OPEN NIGHTLY

JAN 16 - JAN 31

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1345 TURNBULL CANYON
HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA 91745
CROSS STREET: GALE AVE

OPEN NIGHTLY

FEB 1 - FEB 15

**HOLY NAME
OF MARY**

629 S GLENDORA AVE
WEST COVINA, CA 91790
CROSS STREET: CAMERON

OPEN NIGHTLY

FEB 16 - FEB 29

**ST. ELIZABETH ANN
SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1834 E LARKVANE RD
ROWLAND HEIGHTS CA 91740
CROSS STREET: COLIMA RD

OPEN NIGHTLY

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT ESGVCH OFFICE: (626) 333-7204, OR ESGVCH SHELTER: (626) 252-9060
1345 TURNBULL CANYON ROAD, HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA 91745 // ESGVCH.ORG

True story of a formerly homeless guest of the ESGVCH Winter Shelter Program

After some very difficult months of living unsheltered and homeless, an acquaintance referred me to the Winter Shelter Program of the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless (ESGVCH). It was mid-December of 2010 and it was the first step in regaining control of my life. My history includes years of illegal drug use. For many of those years, I was what is known as a “functional addict” meaning I was able to hold a job and support my wife and family and manage my drug habit. But a drug habit does not stay “controlled.” Sooner or later it gets out of control and leads to poor choices, disrupted family life, and as in my case I ended up serving 2 years in prison. Once in prison my adult children came to visit me and begged me to give up drugs. It was then that I promised them I would. On being released from prison, I discovered how very difficult it is to become re-established. My home, my wife and my family were gone. I could not go back to the old friends as I knew I had to avoid drugs no matter what it took. I did not even have identification on me. I applied for General Relief (welfare) at \$221/month + food stamps that allowed me to survive, but not enough to pay for housing. I could not look for a job as I did not have any I.D., no permanent address, and I had a record...all are barriers to work. So, I lived homeless for several months, getting around on a bicycle and sleeping outside. One evening, some kids tried to steal my bike and I chased them down and got the bike back, but in the process I got pretty scraped up. A bystander who saw the altercation told me about the ESGVCH Winter Shelter Program. So I headed to Glendora to St. Dorothy’s Church on my bike. There I found lights on, warm delicious soup with a meal, a bed for the night, but most of all there were helpful people who rendered human kindness and even nurses who gave first aid for my cuts and scrapes. During that winter (2010-11) I came to the Shelter every night and also began to volunteer helping out around the Shelter (earning a small stipend). I was also able to save my monthly General Relief money and when the shelter program closed in March I was able to move into permanent housing. Since that time I have kept my housing, found work, and re-established relationships with my children. I’m also pleased to report that I have remained clean and sober since that day in 2009 when I promised my kids I would. Staying at the Winter Shelter Program was the first step in finding my way back to a normal and drug-free life after some very rough years. I have much gratitude for the help I received through the ESGVCH, and now I now give back by doing what I can to assist others who find themselves drug addicted and homeless.

The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.

”

– Elizabeth Kubler Ros

“

You fall, you rise, you make mistakes, you live, you learn. You're human, not perfect. You've been hurt, but you're alive. Think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive – to breathe, to think, to enjoy, and to chase the things you love.

Sometimes there is sadness in our journey, but there is also lots of beauty. We must keep putting one foot in front of the other even when we hurt, for we will never know what is waiting for us just around the bend.

unknown



Quotes from Pope Francis

“May we never get used to the poverty and decay around us. A Christian must act.” (4/3/14)

“The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love.” (6/2/13)

“Inequality is the root of social evil.” (4/28/14)

“A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being.” (6/20/13)

“How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion.” (11/23/13)

“Human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded. We have created a ‘throw away’ culture which is now spreading.” (11/23/13)

“Do we realize that something is wrong in a world where there are so many farm workers without land, so many families without a home, so many laborers without rights, so many persons whose dignity is not respected? ...So let’s not be afraid to say it: we need change; we want change.” (7/9/15)

WINTER SHELTER COAT GIVEAWAY CONTEST

My Goal is to collect 250+ coats for our local winter shelters this season! All you need to do is bring me your old, new or borrowed coats and for each one Your Name will be entered to WIN a \$250.00 gift card from Home Depot.

Where do I drop off the coats?? Keller Williams Realty 1920 E. Route 66 Glendora (between the hours of 9-5 Mon-Fri). All entries must be made before Jan. 10th to be eligible to win. The winner will be announced on January 15th. Thank in advance for your Generosity!

Oh and by the way...Call, email or text me if you know anyone who wants to buy, sell or invest in real estate.

Toddy L. Chapman *SRES BRE#0106 Email: 2123 Direct line 626.255.3086

Email: toddychapman@gmail.com Website: <http://www.sgvhomesforsale.info>



ESGVCH.ORG

Silicon Valley Discovers the Cheapest Way to Help the Homeless: Give Them Homes

A NEW STUDY CONFIRMS A SURPRISINGLY EFFECTIVE WAY TO GET PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS.

—Wed May 27, 2015 5:00



By [Gabrielle Canon](#)

Curtis Randle, who had been chronically homeless for about eight years, holds the keys to his apartment

Santa Clara County is perhaps best known as the home of Silicon Valley. It also has one of the country's [highest rates of homelessness](#) and its third largest chronically homeless population.

An extensive new study of the county's homelessness crisis, [published yesterday](#), finds that the most cost-effective way to address the problem is to provide people with homes. Those findings echo a similar approach that's been successfully adopted in Utah, the subject of *Mother Jones'* [April/May cover story](#).

The study was conducted by county officials who teamed up with [Economic Roundtable](#), a nonprofit public policy research organization, and [Destination: Home](#), an agency that works to house the homeless. Researchers dug into 25 million records to create a detailed picture of the demographics and needs of the more than 104,000 people who were homeless in the county between 2007 and 2012.

They found that much of the public costs of homelessness stemmed from a small segment of this population who were persistently homeless, around 2,800 people. Close to half of all county expenditures were spent on just five percent of the homeless population, who came into frequent contact with police, hospitals, and other service agencies, racking up an average of \$100,000 in costs per person annually. Those costs quickly add up—overall, Santa Clara communities spend \$520 million in homeless services every year.

The study also highlights solutions. The researchers examined Destination: Home's program, which has housed more than 800 people in the past five years. The study looked at more than 400 of these housing recipients, a fifth of whom were part of the most expensive cohort. Before receiving housing, they each averaged nearly \$62,500 in public costs annually. Housing them cost less than \$20,000 per person—an annual savings of more than \$42,000.

The analysis is intended to provide key insights as Santa Clara moves forward with a [five-year plan](#) to eradicate chronic homelessness by using a "Housing First" model that provides permanent housing and services to people with the greatest needs. "A lot of the folks in the higher cost group have chronic health problems and mental health problems and they are self medicating," says Daniel Flaming, head researcher and president of Economic Roundtable. "When someone is housed, those crises are much less likely to happen and people are getting preventative care. Having stability and managing problems more effectively reduces costs a great deal."

Santa Clara County is already moving to expand Destination: Home. With the findings from this report and the help of Economic Roundtable, it is also creating a "triage tool" that will screen hospitals and jails to identify high-need, high-cost individuals.

Looking ahead, Flaming says, the most cost-effective solution to homelessness is still prevention. He hopes the research, which also includes detailed demographic information, will provide insights into how to help vulnerable people before they end up on the streets. "At the end of the day, the solution that really makes sense is to prevent homelessness. It creates a lot of wreckage for individuals and for communities," he says. "For every community to get better at preventing people from falling through the cracks and to reduce the flow of people into homelessness—that is ultimately the best solution."

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Personal Care Items

- Nail Clippers
- Lip Balm
- Deodorant/antiperspirant
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Mouthwash
- Razors
- Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Hair gel/grease
- Hair Brushes
- Diapers size 3, 4, 5, 6
- Formula

Clothing Items

- New Tube Socks
- New Underwear (Boxers)
- New Women’s Undergarments (Sports Bras and Plus Sizes)
- Men’s Pants (especially sizes 34 – 44)
- XL, XXL, XXXL Men’s Shirts
- Men’s Tennis Shoes Size 8 and Higher
- Shower Shoes
- Pajamas, Tops and Bottoms
- Teen Clothing

School Supplies

- Back Packs
- School Supplies

- Pens
- Pencils
- Notebook Paper
- Calculators
- Dictionaries
- Crayons

Emergency Services Needs

- Sponsor Meals
- Sponsor Showers
- Sponsor Bus tokens
- Sponsor Hygiene kits

Money and Asset Donations

- One time donation
- Monthly / Annual donation
- Matching Gifts
- Bequests & Estates
- Appreciated Assets

The Compassion That Cures



“The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is **being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for.** We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but **the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love.** There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are **many more dying for a little love.** The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. **There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.**”

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta



EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless (ESGVCH) is a non-profit, 501c3 charitable organization with a mission to bring hope and restore dignity to individuals and families who are homeless in the San Gabriel Valley region. Our goal is always to assist people to find permanent housing and assist them to become self-supporting. Toward this end ESGVCH:

- Provides emergency and transitional shelter programs
- Alleviates hunger by providing food
- Assists with basic daily needs: clothing, hygiene, and transportation
- Stabilizes individuals and families by making referrals for housing, jobs, education & healthcare
- Raises community awareness about issues related to homelessness
- Works collaboratively with others to end hunger and homelessness.

ESGVCH has four programs: **(1) Emergency Assistance Center** located in Hacienda Heights is where clients come to receive direct aid (up to 500 client visits per month); **(2) Transitional Housing Program** which consists of two apartments rented by ESGVCH for families who are transitioning back to permanent housing; **(3) Winter Shelter Program** that operates within six participating churches located throughout East San Gabriel Valley. Partner churches donate space for the shelter (2 weeks at a time) during winter months. Last winter over 1100 unduplicated persons spent one or more nights at ESGVCH Winter Shelter Program; The Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) released its 2015 count in San Gabriel Valley, revealing a 21% increase in unsheltered homeless since 2013. Most alarming is the increasing numbers of families without shelter. The need for shelter is urgent! **(4) Our newest program, the Encore Program**, provides support for outpatient therapy for the homeless who are addicted to substances and seek recovery.

ESGVCH operates under the authority of an all volunteer Board of Directors with a small paid staff to insure that over 95% of resources are available to directly aid the homeless. Support comes from generous local donors and churches, local foundation grants, as well as government grants (federal & city grants).

Physical Address:

St. Martin de Porres Center at St. John Vianney Church • 1345 Turnbull Canyon Road • Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 **Mailing Address:** P. O. Box 93256 • City of Industry, California 91715-3256 **Phone:** 626-333-7204 • **Fax:** 626-333-7260 • **E-mail:** esgvch@aol.com

I guess because I had such a horrible life growing up, going from place to place not knowing what I was gonna do and ending up being homeless, there was a lot of pain and a lot of anger that was coming out through my guitar playing.

Dave Mustaine

There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we cannot prevent all conflict, but when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help.

Jan Schakowsky

If housing were inexpensive, or people could earn enough to afford housing, very few individuals would face homelessness. But housing costs have risen steadily across the country, and they have skyrocketed in many areas. Further, the inability to afford housing is concentrated among households with incomes below the poverty level, whose members account for the vast majority of people entering homelessness. At the same time, people with little education or job training find it increasingly difficult to earn enough money to raise their incomes above the poverty level, even if they are employed full-time and work overtime.

5 Things the Homeless Have Taught Me

When you live in a big city, it can become easy to ignore the homeless. Like any big city we have our homeless, and we see them on the way to get our morning cup of coffee or at the gas station or in front of our favorite store. It becomes a normal part of the scenery. Most don't give it a second thought.

For me, every time I see them my mind immediately goes to wondering what their story is. Did they once have a job, a home or a family? Did illness or addiction bring them to this? How sad, I always think to myself, that they may have once had everything I have right now and they lost it for whatever reason. It makes me count my blessings and realize how much I have. I give them a dollar and hope that somehow it can make a difference in their lives, but deep down I know the reality is that it really won't make a difference in the long run, just temporarily. They are so thankful and their eyes light up with appreciation. One man thanked me for not ignoring him, another said that he will make it through the day because of me. One that impacted me in particular cried after I gave him money, and said he just became homeless recently. As he cried he said "Bless You."

The homeless have impacted me in ways they will never know. This is what I have learned from them over the years:

Resilience

The fact that they are still standing and alive with very little or no support shows me how resilient the human spirit is. Through the illnesses, the lack of food, the brutal weather and the abuse they undoubtedly endure, they still manage to be.

Anyone Can Become Homeless

Nobody is immune from tragedy, job loss, illness and lack of support from family and friends. Truth be told, it doesn't take a whole lot to be in their shoes. Be thankful for everyday that you are not.

Illness Can Take Your Life Away

Many homeless have debilitating physical and mental health conditions, and without support when you have these conditions it is very easy to end up on the street. I don't think most of us realize how easy it is to lose everything from a serious illness; it literally can be a heart beat away.

Acknowledgement Helps

You have no idea how far a simple hello can go in making someone feel good. It is lonely to be homeless, and just taking a few seconds to ask how someone's day is going, or to smile can make their day. Giving them the change from your coffee purchase means so much. Society has forgotten these people; you can do many things on an individual level to make them feel human again.

There Is So Much More We Can Do to Help Them -- We Are All in This Together

There are very few public facilities where someone with mental illness can get treatment and therapy. Public mental health care is severely lacking in this country. If we want to be serious about solving this problem, we need to address this issue because many of these homeless can have a life and be independent if only they could get treatment and medication for their illness. The uncared for mentally ill may either end up homeless or in jail, and that is not right; they need help and treatment.

And finally, more active and in-depth job training and other programs for those who have been in jail or those who haven't worked in a long time from illness are needed and there should be incentives for businesses that hire them. We have to help them fit back into society.



St. Joseph had to face some difficult situations in his life. One of them was the time when Mary was about to give birth, to have Jesus. The Bible tells us that, “while they were [in Bethlehem], the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Lk 2:6-7).

The Bible is very clear about this: there was no room for them. I can imagine Joseph, with his wife about to have a child, with no shelter, no home, no place to stay. The Son of God came into this world as a homeless person. The Son of God knew what it was to start life without a roof over his head. We can imagine what Joseph must have been thinking. How is it that the Son of God has no home? Why are we homeless, why don't we have housing? These are questions which many of you may ask daily. Like Saint Joseph, you may ask: Why are we homeless, without a place to live? These are questions which all of us might well ask. Why do these, our brothers and sisters, have no place to live? Why are these brothers and sisters of ours homeless?

“We can find no social or moral justification, no justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing,”

Pope Francis

**East San Gabriel Valley
Coalition for the Home-
less
www.esgvch.org**

**Email:
esgvch@aol.com.**

**1345 Turnbull Canyon
Rd., Hacienda Heights,
CA 91745**



East **S**an **G**abriel **V**alley
Coalition for the
Homeless

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

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