



Fund for Homeless Women

“Dedicated to shelter, safety and community”



COVID-19 WILL CAUSE TWICE AS MUCH HOMELESSNESS AS THE GREAT RECESSION*

Dear Friend of the Fund for Homeless Women,

Over a year ago our nation received a mandate to shelter-in-place. This has been a time of struggle for all of us, as we lived with the fear of illness and experienced the loss of connections with family and friends. But we have not all lived with the same risks and challenges. What does shelter in place mean for vulnerable homeless women? Where is their shelter? How are they able to mitigate risk?

For the unsheltered, challenges have grown more extreme. Housing programs have had to reduce capacity. Common places to find shelter and a bathroom—libraries, gyms and fast food restaurants closed. Meeting for meals in person at most nutrition sites has been reduced or eliminated and art and education programs suspended. Options for showers grew more limited and maintaining personal hygiene more difficult.

As we engaged in conversations with the leaders and staff of the programs we fund, we were encouraged by their resourcefulness and resilience as they continue to provide services to unsheltered women living with high risk of infection. Our grantees have made the changes necessary to continue providing emergency shelter, safe parking, meals, clothing and showers. Their staff offers support to individual women through case management meetings, assisting each client, as needed, to navigate benefit programs, find counseling, and apply for the scarce housing available.

Knowing the challenges that homeless women face daily, we hope we can all reflect on how fortunate each of us is and recognize the difficulties and risks homeless women face each and every day. Just think how one act of kindness or a small cash donation could impact the life of a homeless woman.

* Report from the nonprofit Economic Roundtable.

OUR WORK MATTERS

Throughout shelter-in-place we have met regularly on Zoom to share information from the field and stay in touch with the programs we fund. Kathy Whilden has represented the Fund at numerous public meetings and reports regularly on current developments so we can keep focused on our primary mission: to serve unsheltered women on the Peninsula by identifying and addressing unmet needs.

To assess the current challenges and opportunities we interviewed experts in the field and directors of our 5 current grantee programs. Your support has allowed us to fund the continuation of services during this difficult year. Fund for Homeless Women programs, have, at the time of this writing, provided:

- Safe sleeping for over 30 women, each night, through the One Starfish parking lot programs and IHelp's church partnerships
- Housing First shelter beds and case management assistance for approximately 8 women each night through Casa de Noche Buena's shelter
- Transitional housing and supportive services to an estimated 10 women throughout the year in Community Homeless Solutions' Women In Transition program
- Over 15,000 meals and 2000 showers, over 12 months, to 305 guests at Gathering for Women

And over 300 community volunteers support our programs in providing meals and other services within the constraints of social distancing. The Fund has offered essential support for ongoing services throughout the pandemic. Your help is needed now more than ever. Please mail in the included envelope or visit our website at: www.fundforhomelesswomen.org/donate.

Stay safe and healthy,

Donna Ferraro, Marian Penn, and Kathy Whilden
Co-organizers of Fund for Homeless Women

NEW RESOURCES AND NEW PARTNERS

Shelter space for women is available on the Peninsula!!

The Fund for Homeless Women supported Gathering for Women and Community Human Services as they joined together to plan, develop, and operate Casa de Noche Buena in Seaside. This desperately needed shelter received substantial funding from the State of California's Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) to operate as a small demonstration community project. It has been designed with 10 bedrooms, a kitchen, and a congregate eating area. At present there are 5 unaccompanied women housed and 2 families. When at full capacity, post-pandemic, there will be approximately 12 single women in the shelter and 3 women with families.

Fortunately, the pandemic has also created an "epidemic of generosity" on the Monterey Peninsula. Many businesses and individuals have stepped up to support unsheltered women through these unprecedented times. For example,

- Carmel Gives funds restaurants to produce meals for those in need and has partnered with Gathering for Women to augment their food service at their Center and at the Shelter
- Stationary Restaurant in Carmel and Bigoli and Gusto contribute cooked meals to programs serving homeless women
- Numerous Del Monte Center Farmers Market vendors donate fresh products, fruits and vegetables at day's end each week for use in meals for women
- The Seaside and Monterey Fire Departments conducted vaccination clinics for the homeless

Through these challenging times, we celebrate resilience, generosity, and growth. We recognize and value the community support that assists unsheltered women to remain safe and nourished. We hope you can join us by supporting the Fund in any amount possible.



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2354 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940

www.fundforhomelesswomen.org

MISSION

To inspire the community through education, innovation and the development of resources to end homelessness for women on the Monterey Peninsula.

VISION

We envision a future in which every woman has access to safe affordable housing.

The Fund for Homeless Women is a field of interest fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) established to support programs and services for women who are homeless in Monterey County. The Fund raises money that is distributed to local service providers through a grant process administered by the CFMC.

OUR PHONE HAS BEEN RINGING OFF THE HOOK!

Since the beginning of the pandemic and the fires ravaging our community, women in need of help have been calling us at a 200% rate increase compared to previous years. We need your help now more than ever to support our organizations. Please mail your donation in the included envelope or visit our website at: www.fundforhomelesswomen.org/donate.

Community Education Programs to Re-start this September!

Mark your calendar for September 22, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to hear "An Update on California Initiatives to Address Homelessness" by Kate Daniels, Policy Advisor on Homelessness for Senator John Laird

We hope to be able to return to an in-person format for this meeting. Please stay tuned for a notice on location for the talk.

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