MISSION: Homeless Services Center partners with individuals and families to create pathways out of homelessness into permanent housing.

VISION: We hold firmly to a vision that homelessness in Santa Cruz County should be rare, brief, and non-recurring.

We are very grateful to our generous donors! Please go to our website for the FY15-16 list.
A Message From Our Executive Director


These six words were voted on by Homeless Services Center staff to represent what we stand for - what we care deeply about - how we connect with individuals and families we work with, and how we treat each other.

These words are now flying on rainbow colored banner flags on our Coral Street Campus, to celebrate diversity and the inclusion of all people.

With our community’s support, this past fiscal year HSC served over 1,095 unique individuals, which include people living in our Rebele Family or Paul Lee Loft emergency shelters, the Page Smith transitional housing program, or those who receive after-housing care and supportive services, plus folks who use the walk-on showers, or the many who receive mail at our address, and the nearly 100 people who seek medical respite care at our Recuperative Care Center.

Everything we do is driven by our mission - a commitment to partner with individuals and families, wherever they are in their experience of homelessness, to help them on their path to permanent housing. By working together as a caring, compassionate community, to implement proven solutions, we can achieve our vision that homelessness in Santa Cruz County will be rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Thank you so much for your generosity this past year.

-Phil Kramer, HSC Executive Director

For Anthony, the most valuable part of being at HSC was getting support and finding housing. Anthony came to HSC when he was “at the end of the rope, possibly a day closer to living on the streets.” Having difficulty getting a Section 8 voucher on his own, he was encouraged to come and use our services. After HSC helped him find housing, Anthony is doing well, adjusting to new schedules, and getting used to living on his own.

During his 4-month stay at the Paul Lee Loft, Anthony was part of the CFT Program (CalFresh Employment and Training) working with the HSC Employment Specialist. With his case manager’s help, he was able to get work as production manager at Creative Cultures and started saving money. Anthony helped out a lot around campus while he was here. He said food was essential and a highlight of his stay. He met people, shared his insights on life, observed the social structures of the community, and learned from the mistakes of others and his own.

Anthony says that living with a group of people, especially the most vulnerable, is a humbling experience. He was able to set an example for others by finding permanent housing and ending his homelessness. Even though it was really hard living with some of the people at HSC, Anthony is grateful and feels lucky to have been able to stay here.

“You get back what you put into life. You can’t always get what you want but you can get what you need: a platform and a foundation to provide stability and grounding to keep building on. That’s what HSC helped me develop.”

HSC helps a broad spectrum of individuals and families experiencing homelessness:

- 1,095 unique individuals served through all HSC programs during FY16 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016)
- 500+ people housed through 180/2020 since July, 2012. 93% still housed.
- 100% live at, or significantly below the Federal poverty level.
- 58% of participants live with either a long-term physical or mental disability.
- 260 households receive supportive services each year, Veteran Families

Generally, we serve around 60 families each year through our veterans program.

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