

# Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

## Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homelessness

February 19, 2014

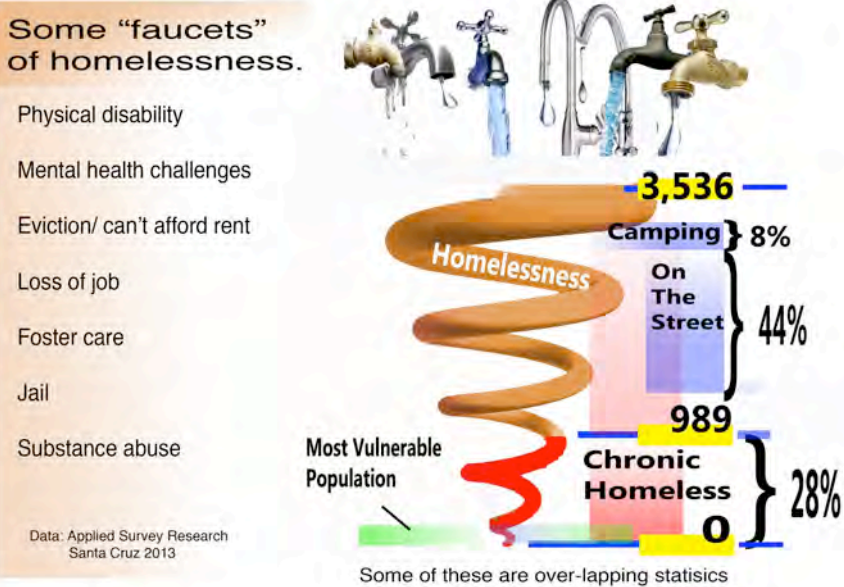
Brent Adams & Stacey Falls

### Table of Contents

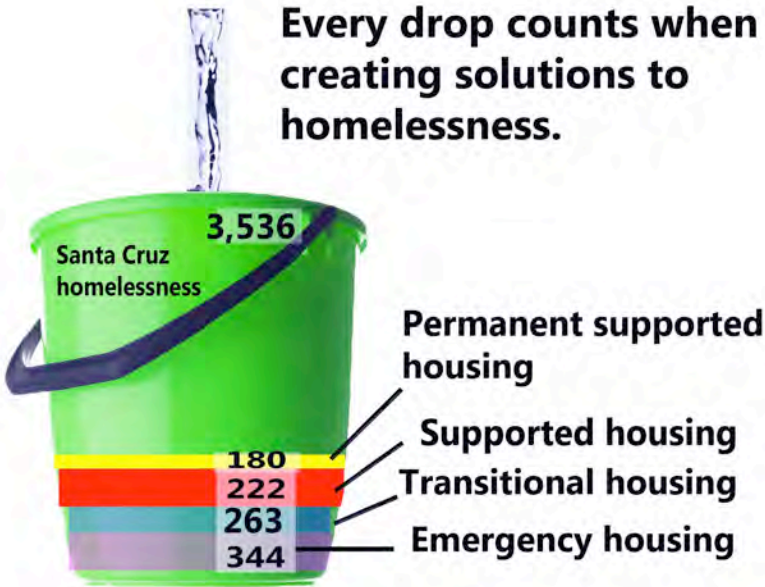
|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Graphics used in presentation</b> .....                | 2  |
| <b>What is a Sanctuary Camp?</b> .....                    | 4  |
| Material aspects .....                                    | 4  |
| Phases .....  | 5  |
| Proposed layout .....                                     | 8  |
| Rules .....   | 9  |
| Responsible duties .....                                  | 11 |
| Decision making process and political structure .....     | 12 |
| Programs within the camp .....                            | 13 |
| <b>Evidence-Based</b> .....                               | 13 |
| Seattle’s Tent Cities 3 & 4 .....                         | 14 |
| Camp Quixote, Olympia WA .....                            | 16 |
| Quixote Village, Olympia, WA .....                        | 18 |
| Opportunity Village, Eugene, OR .....                     | 19 |
| Dignity Village, Portland, OR .....                       | 21 |
| <b>Cost Effectiveness</b> .....                           | 24 |
| Dignity Village, Portland, OR .....                       | 24 |
| Seattle’s Tent City 3 .....                               | 24 |
| How much does a sanctuary camp cost? .....                | 26 |
| Funding a sanctuary camp .....                            | 27 |
| <b>Produce Measurable Results</b> .....                   | 29 |
| Dignity Village data .....                                | 28 |
| Opportunity Village data .....                            | 31 |
| <b>Good for the Individual and the Community</b> .....    | 32 |
| Harsh results .....                                       | 32 |
| Effects of homelessness on the Santa Cruz Community ..... | 33 |
| Impacts on the environment .....                          | 35 |
| <b>Puts People on the Pathway to Housing</b> .....        | 37 |
| Legal aspects of a sanctuary camp .....                   | 38 |

Graphics used in Stacey Falls' PowerPoint presentation:

### The Downward Spiral of Homelessness



### Every drop counts when creating solutions to homelessness.





This piece of the puzzle helps other programs work even better

It helps . . . .

- Mental health issues stabilize.
- Those with disabilities find rest.
- Drug and alcohol programs and sobriety.
- Physical healing and reduces sickness and injuries.
- Finding and keeping employment.
- Reduce police calls, court visits and jail stays.
- Homeless Day Services have more of a lasting effect.
- Chronically homeless folks more safe as they wait for housing.



# What is a Sanctuary Camp?

## **It is as much conceptual as it is material.**

It is a citizen organized, community supported, highly regulated, low cost living environment for homeless people. Its a place where folks can sleep, keep some personal belongings and enjoy community as they address the situations that were responsible for creating their homelessness. Its a space of healing, self-discovery and for many its a foundation from which to move up and out of homelessness.

This is a new paradigm of safe haven that is proving successful in cities all over the country, including sanctuary type camps and villages.

Its important to distinguish that a sanctuary camp is not an unregulated tent community or tent city.

## **Material Aspects of Sanctuary Camp.**

### **An intention of visual aesthetics.**

A key function of the design is a uniformly attractive exterior that has easily replicable modular elements. The façade has an attractive Entrance Portal, and it is completely surrounded by a 6' fence interspersed with Art Wall areas. A row of teepees may be the first line of camp structures that serve as a blockage for the dissimilar tents within. When one thinks of a “tent city” one imagines a hodge-podge of mismatched tents, tarps and personal belongings mixed with debris. A Sanctuary Camp must not have an unpleasant view from the exterior and preferably it has an attractive appearance over all.

### **Infrastructure.**

Most Sanctuary Camps are designed to be somewhat mobile because the spaces and properties they occupy can change from time to time. There are some basic aspects that will be either constructed or assembled.



## **Sanctuary Camp Phases**

There is a range of elements that a camp or village can have. The above graphic is an example of a Phase 1 Sanctuary Camp.

### **Sanctuary Camp Phase 1**

Basic sanctuary camp infrastructure.

Includes perimeter fence, entrance portal, administrative area, dumpster, porta potties, bike racks, storage lockers, meeting circle, donation intake/storage, modular structures (tents, teepees, carports, domes etc.)

### **Camp Phase 2**

Includes Camp Phase 1 with the following additions:

Basic kitchen set-up (propane stove, toaster oven, microwave, food storage area, food preparation area).  
Computer and Internet area. Electronic device charging area. Some lighting.

### **Camp Phase 3**

Includes Camp Phase 2 with the following additions:

Large covered community area. Propane heated warming areas.  
Beginning to plan village featuring small constructed bungalows.

## **Sanctuary Village Phases**

### **Village Phase 1**

Zoned or permitted small constructed bungalows.  
Includes Sanctuary Camp Phase 3 elements.

### **Village Phase 2**

Includes Village Phase 1 with the following additions:  
Plumbed bathrooms and showers.

### **Village Phase 3**

Includes Village Phase 2 with the following additions:  
Community Building with indoor common areas.

## **Material elements:**

The following list is for a Phase 1 Sanctuary Camp

### **Art Wall.**

It's a well defined space with a 6' fence with sections of art wall. To ensure that people and items can't pass easily in and out of the boundary it will be closed except for the entrance portal. The art wall sections are places for creative expression. Individuals and groups may paint murals on these panels.

### **Entrance Portal.**

This is a crafts-person designed arch. Passing through will communicate a change in atmosphere; it will immediately feel different inside of the Portal. There will be a gate, but it will remain open 24 hours a day so residents may come and go freely whenever they like. The gate will be used as needed to assist in the enforcement of rules.



Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp  
Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014



**Porta Potties.**

1 per 20 persons emptied twice weekly.

**Dumpster.**

City or county garbage contract. Ideally, charges waived to support the camp.

**Donation intake, storage and dispersal area:**

This is a Carport or shed containing shelving and plastic containers to collect and to store items such as: tents, blankets, tarps, clothes, coats etc.



**Personal storage lockers:**

A row of medium sized lockers to provide an extra level of security for valuable possessions. Lockers may

## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

require a roof covering or rain shelter.

### **Bike locker area:**

This area can be either unsheltered, or (more beneficially) sheltered. It can be a series of bike racks

### **Solar lights on poles:**

It is important that walkways be clearly marked and well lit at night. Solar lights at ground level and on bamboo poles are low cost and easy to construct.

### **Entrance desk and administrative office:**

Just inside the entrance portal there is a covered shelter that houses the entrance desk, the administrative, and jobs program offices.

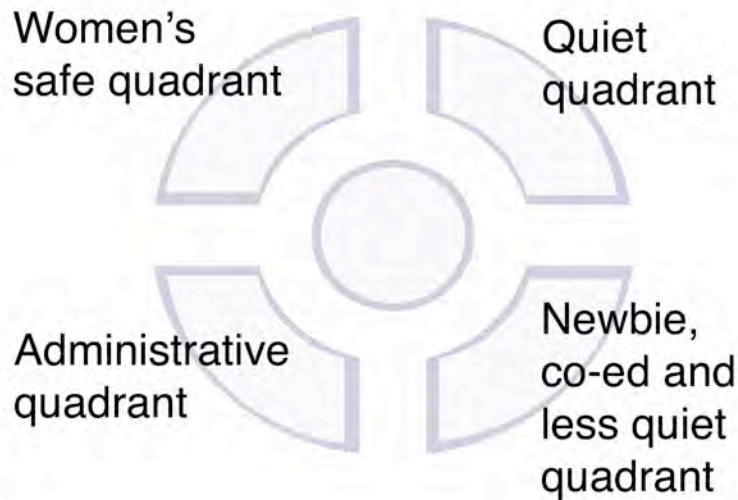
### **Front row of Teepees:**

One teepee is very easy to assemble and is highly portable. It can shelter a small family or a small group of friends. 4 teepees can shelter 16 people comfortably. A row of teepees can visually block a larger group of dissimilar tents with the intention of creating an esthetically acceptable appearance from the outside.

### **Basic Material Needs.**

Some of these materials will be donated and some will be purchased. What follows is a basic list of material items that could support a camp of 50 residents in 8 bamboo teepees and 25 donated tents on ¼ acre, completely surrounded with a visual barrier. This estimation is based on a camp that is on bare ground with a sidewalk or pavement frontage.

- +25x 2 person tents
- +2 large portable carports
- 2x 20 slot bike racks
- 3 desks 6 chairs
- 4x 6' plastic folding utility tables
- 16 folding chairs
- +4 Easy-Up portable shelter
- +40 heavy-duty fence stakes 6' at ground
- +40 7'x10' white plastic tarps
- +30 10'x10' white plastic tarps
- +8 30'x20' white plastic tarps
- >1,000' of light steel cable
- 250x 25' bamboo polls
- 50 solar led lights
- Artistic well designed entrance portal
- Front gate
- 8 metal shelves
- 32 plastic Rubbermaid bins
- A section of steel lockers
- 10 foot lockers



**Proposed layout: Four quadrants and a meeting circle at the center.**

The camp is divided in sections to assist in separating different aspects of the community for its own safety and peace of mind.

**1. Administrative Quadrant.**

This area includes the front desk, the administrative office, the donations department, materials storage, dumpster, Porta Potties, bike locker, personal lockers and kitchen.

**2. Female's Quadrant.**

In the community of people who live outside, women are especially vulnerable to abuse. This is why a Sanctuary Camp creates an additional layer of safety for females. A "female only" area establishes a safe zone where women can feel free from male contact if they choose.

**3. Quiet Quadrant.**

Those folks who may have a tendency to be disturbed easily or who just want a quieter experience in general have the option of a quieter area in which to place their tent. Sanctuary Camp will encourage those who file complaint forms at a higher rate than others to place their tents in this Quiet Quadrant.

**4. Co-ed, newbie, and slightly louder quadrant.**

Noise during quiet hours is unacceptable but those who have a tendency to be louder in general will be encouraged to place their tents in this quadrant. Those folks who have had numerous complaints filed against them will be encouraged to place their tents to the front of this quadrant and as far from the Quiet Quadrant as can be. An attempt will be made to accommodate all persons and personality types.

**Center. Meeting Circle.**

At the center of the camp there will be a physically and metaphorically centering space where meetings are held. Elders circle, veterans, Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings as well as general camp residents meetings will all take place here.



### The Rules.

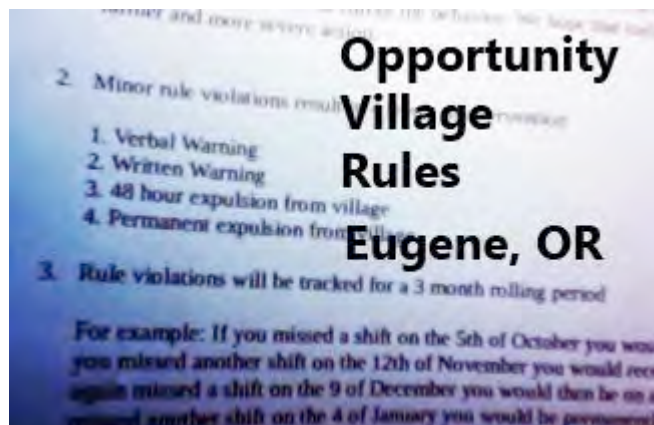
Any community must have some code of agreement, and a Sanctuary Camp is no different. In fact, it is this set of rules that helps create the aspect of safety and sanctuary that is important for such a community.

### No Drugs or Alcohol within 100 yards of the Sanctuary Camp.

This will most likely be the most discussed rule and a very important component in both creating a safe space, as well as having the most benefit to people who reside within the camp. We understand that many people have drug and/or alcohol addictions that homelessness may have been a factor in creating and/or exacerbating. We know that in order to create a safe and sober space for others it will be critical to maintain consistent enforcement of this rule. **A Sanctuary Camp is a clean and sober environment.**

### There is a three stage warning process for this rule.

1. **First warning:** Removal from or refusal of admittance into the camp for 24 hours. There will be an external shelter for this use.
2. **Second warning:** Removal from or refusal of admittance into the camp for 24 hours. A person must commit to attendance of at least three Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings within or outside of the camp and show written proof of this.
3. **Third & Final Warning:** Removal from or refusal of admittance into the camp for 72 hours. Resident must show proof of regular attendance of AA or NA meetings and must have a joint meeting with a member of the Advisory Committee and a member of the Responsible Persons Committee.
4. **Eviction from Sanctuary Camp:** Removal from or refusal of admittance into the camp. Either immediately or the following day, the person will be escorted into the camp to dismantle their tent and to remove their personal belongings to a place more than 100 yards from the Sanctuary Camp.
5. **Re-admittance back into Sanctuary Camp:** Following one full calendar month a person may petition to be readmitted into Sanctuary Camp following a removal because of failure to comply with the No Drugs/Alcohol rule. The person must show regular attendance of AA or NA meetings. The person will only be readmitted following a vote of Sanctuary Camp's residential community. The percentage of the re-admittance vote has yet to be decided.



**No violence within the camp.**

From Webster's Dictionary: "Includes pushing, shoving, pulling, shaking, slapping, biting, hitting, punching, kicking, strangling, throwing objects at another person, restraining, throwing a person, use of weapons at hand like a frying pan or broom, or use of conventional weapons such as a gun or knife." To create an environment of safety it is important enforce this rule consistently.

- **This is a No Tolerance rule.** Automatic eviction of the resident from the camp is required. This may require immediate expulsion from the camp and, possibly, a police report if the victim requests it or if the severity of the action necessitates it.

- **Re-admittance into the camp:** Following a complete calendar month a person may petition to be readmitted into the camp. No court charges or penalties from the original assault may be pending. The person will only be readmitted following a vote of Sanctuary Camp's residential community. The percentage of the re-admittance vote has yet to be decided.

**No theft within the camp or police charges of theft outside of the camp.**

From Webster's Dictionary "...taking and removing of personal property with intent to deprive the rightful owner of it." To create an environment of safety it is important enforce this rule consistently.

- **This is a No Tolerance rule.** Automatic eviction of the resident from the camp is required. The victim of the theft may file a police report. An effort to recover and return stolen property should be made.

- **Re-admittance into the camp:** Following a complete calendar month a person may petition to be readmitted into the camp. No court charges or penalties from the original theft may be pending. The person will only be readmitted following a vote of Sanctuary Camp's residential community. The percentage of the re-admittance vote has yet to be decided.

**Quiet Hours will be enforced to a reasonable extent.**

One of the most important aspects of a healthy emotional and physical state is the ability to get good sleep. This has been generally denied people who've been sleeping outside. To create a respectful, restful sanctuary space it is necessary to enforce quiet hours within the camp. The residents of the camp may vote to determine what the specific duration of this quiet time will be. It must be understood that some folks with mental health challenges may have some difficulty remaining silent

**There is a three stage warning process for this rule.**

- A resident can receive no more than three warnings for noise within a calendar month.

- A noise complaint must be filed with a Responsible Person on duty at or near the time it has occurred.

- There will be an effort to group residents who're most sensitive to noise at distance from those most likely to make noise.

- A resident must be made aware that they have broken a rule, and they must receive the warning in writing.

- On the fourth occasion of rule breakage within a calendar month, automatic eviction of the resident from the camp is required.

- Following a complete calendar month a person may petition to be readmitted into the camp. The person will only be readmitted following a vote of Sanctuary Camp's residential community. The percentage of the re-admittance vote has yet to be decided.

**No repeated disruptions.**

To create a respectful and peaceful environment, it is important to limit excessive emotional outbursts and loud argumentation. It is understood that communication often can be loud and sometimes emotionally

## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

upsetting, but a pattern of this can reduce a peaceful environment for others nearby.

### **There is a three stage warning process for this rule.**

- A resident can receive no more than three warnings in a calendar month.
- A disruption complaint must be filed with a Responsible Person on duty at or near the time it has occurred.
- A resident must be made aware that they have broken a rule, and they must receive the warning in writing.
- There will be an effort to group residents who are most sensitive to noise at distance from those most likely to cause such disturbances.
- On the fourth occasion of rule breakage within a calendar month, automatic eviction of the resident from the camp is required.
- Following a complete calendar month a person may petition to be readmitted into the camp. The person will only be readmitted following a vote of Sanctuary Camp's residential community. The percentage of the re-admittance vote has yet to be decided.

### **Responsible Duties in the camp** (sliding scale of hours).

For the proper functioning of a Sanctuary Camp it is necessary for several roles to be maintained. An important function of a Sanctuary Camp is to provide an opportunity to contribute service, instilling a sense of ownership within the community. It is also an important camp function to provide residents with what may be the first opportunity to be responsible for a task in a long time. Being responsible for a specific task can help foster a sense of pride and self-respect that can help a person improve their self-perception. For this reason, residents must be scheduled for a calendar shift based on their time and ability. Missing a shift will result in a warning.

### **There is a three stage warning process for this rule.**

- A Responsible Person checks when a resident's calendar shift has begun and ended. This serves a similar function to a time card.
- A resident can receive no more than three warnings in a calendar month.
- A Failure to Complete Responsible Duty complaint must be filed by or with a Responsible Person on duty at or near the time the failure to complete the task has occurred.
- On the fourth occasion of rule breakage within a calendar month, automatic eviction of the resident from the camp is required.
- Following a complete calendar month a person may petition to be readmitted into the camp. The person will only be readmitted following a vote of Sanctuary Camp's residential community. The percentage of the re-admittance vote has yet to be decided.
- A resident must be made aware that they have broken a rule and that they must receive the warning in writing.

### **Responsible Duties.**

Responsible Person On Duty (RPOD)

Assistant Responsible Person On Duty

Neighborhood Watch (fluorescent vest patrol)

Clean Patrol

Administrative Desk

Jobs Program Manager

Job Skills Trainer

Media Liaison and Host (media are welcome in the camp but are encouraged to schedule a time with a host).

## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

Police Liaison and Host (police or sheriffs deputies are welcome in the camp anytime but are encouraged to schedule time with a host).

### **The Agreement Form listing the Rules.**

This is a sheet of paper held on file at the Entrance Portal Entry Desk where the Responsible Person On Duty sits. One of these forms must remain on file for each resident of the camp. A resident must have had this list read aloud to them before they sign the agreement form.

### **Responsible Person.**

An individual who is tasked with sitting for a shift at the Entrance Portal Entry Desk. There is an RPOD on duty 24 hours a day with the back-up of an Assistant RPOD who may sleep.

- An Assistant Responsible Person On Duty assists the RPOD
- They are responsible for greeting residents and visitors as they come and go through the entrance of the Sanctuary Camp. They ensure that those who enter are residents who've signed an Agreement Form listing the Rules.
- Have visitors to the camp sign in and ensure that a visitor has permission by a resident to be in the camp. The resident must accompany and "vouch" for the visitor.
- Are responsible for filling out Complaint Forms and Warning Forms when a resident has broken a rule or complained about another resident. They are also responsible for logging complaints onto a Monthly Calendar.
- Are responsible for checking that a resident's Responsible Duty calendar shift begin and end.

### **Decision making process and political structure.**

There are various types of processes through which decisions can be made in a community. These range from one extreme where a single authority makes all decisions to the opposite extreme in which every individual has a say in a unanimous decision. In groups where there isn't easy unanimity, a basic democratic process can be more effective. It is important that residents of a Sanctuary Camp share decision making to instill a sense of responsibility and equality. It is also important that the community outside of a Sanctuary Camp is represented and that an external group of community members have some say in decisions regarding Non-Social aspects of the camp.

### **Advisory Committee (501c3 Board of Directors)**

This board will be made up of community members and former residents of the camp. It will help shepherd the camp through responsible financial accounting and providing material needs. This committee will assist the camp in meeting its regulatory agreements with local governments including fire, zoning, building codes and other legal concerns. This committee will share a Bicameral Democracy with camp residents when voting on non-social aspects of the camp.

### **Residents of Sanctuary Camp.**

This is the entire community of people who live within the camp. They have all signed an Agreement Form listing the rules of the camp and are in compliance with those rules. The residents themselves will vote democratically (without the participation of the Advisory Committee) on Social Aspects of the camp.

### **Bicameral Democracy.**

This is the dual decision making body that includes both the Advisory Committee and the Residents of the Camp.

## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

- This Bicameral Democracy only shares votes on Non-Social aspects of the camp.
- If the numerical ratio of Residents to Committee members is unbalanced then measure of a vote must be decided. That measure of a vote will be determined at a later date.
- Votes on Social Aspects of the camp include votes to reinstate former residents who have petitioned for re-admittance to the camp.

### **Programs within the camp.**

#### **Three Tiered Jobs Program**

A strong component of a Sanctuary Camp is the focus on encouraging self-respect and self-reliance. The jobs program includes responsible duties within the camp as well as day worker and contract worker programs, and job skills training.

- Responsible Duties within the camp. These are unpaid positions that are required of every camp resident to maintain the proper functioning, cleanliness, and safety of the camp. There is a sliding scale of time commitment based on the availability and ability of each resident.
- Day Worker and Contract Jobs. It is important to support the ability of each resident to gain paid employment as much as possible.
  - There will be either a discrete program with the Jobs Program or a partnership with the Day Worker Center.
  - Contract jobs will be arranged through the Jobs Program office or in partnership with an external program.
- Job Skills Training. There will be a constant emphasis on providing skill sharing, encouragement, mentorship and training so that residents may gain the skills to acquire work outside of the camp.
  - Resume writing
  - Appearance and grooming
  - Job Skills

#### **Drug and Alcohol cessation support programs.**

A strong component of a Sanctuary Camp is the focus on sobriety and support for people who are fighting the battle of addiction. The camp is a safe space where this battle can be fought in a clean and supportive environment. All efforts will be made to connect supportive services that exist in the community with the residents of the camp.

- Alcoholics Anonymous meetings within the camp.
- Narcotics Anonymous meetings within the camp. [Already committed]
- Contact with other neighborhood meetings.

## **Evidence Based**

After touring several camps and villages 2 years ago, I (Brent Adams) began exploring the sanctuary camp concept. In early December 2013, I revisited these camps and interviewed those who created them, those who live in them and those who are their neighbors. I visited 7 successful homeless communities in Eugene, Portland, Olympia and Seattle.

**Here is a list of Sanctuary Camps and Villages.**

**Seattle’s Tent City 3, Tent City 4, and Nicklesville.**

These Sanctuary Camps are shepherded by various non-profits.

They’ve existed for more than 10 years.

As itinerant camps, they move every 3 months and are usually hosted by churches or colleges and universities in the Seattle area.

They have been responsible for helping to transition hundreds of people out of homelessness in the years they’ve existed.



Tent City 3



Tent City #3, Seattle, Washington  
Itinerant moving camp. 3 months per location.  
50-75 residents, community supported.

Tent City 3



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Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014



Tent City 3



Tent City 3



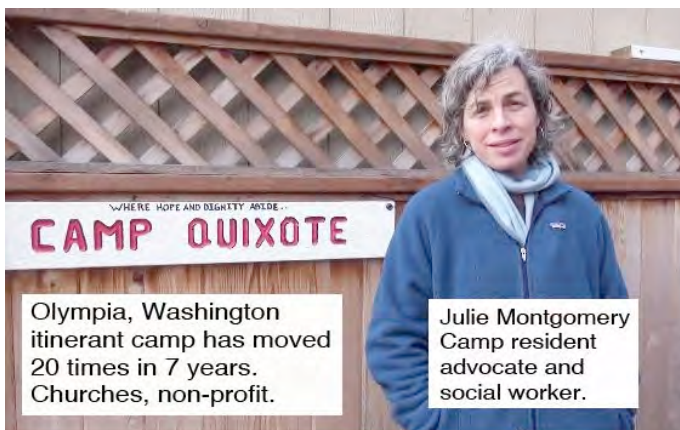
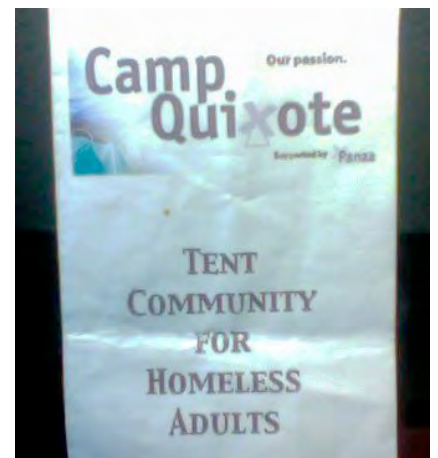
Nicklesville



Tent City 4 over-looking Seattle

### **Camp Quixote, Olympia, Wa.**

- On private church property.
- Began as a Protest Camp in 2007 then moved to a church that gave it safe sanctuary.
- Spent years 7 as an Itinerant Camp, moving 20 times
- Its now a moving towards a Village with wooden sheds and a community center.
- The City of Olympia passed ordinances to allow the camp to exist. It gave the camp 6 months at any given location.
- From protest camp to city sanctioned camp that eventually moved 20 times (90 days per location).
- Shepherded by PANZA. Panza is a 501C3 non-profit organization that mobilized community support for Camp Quixote, helped build Quixote Village and now supports the ongoing operation of the Village.

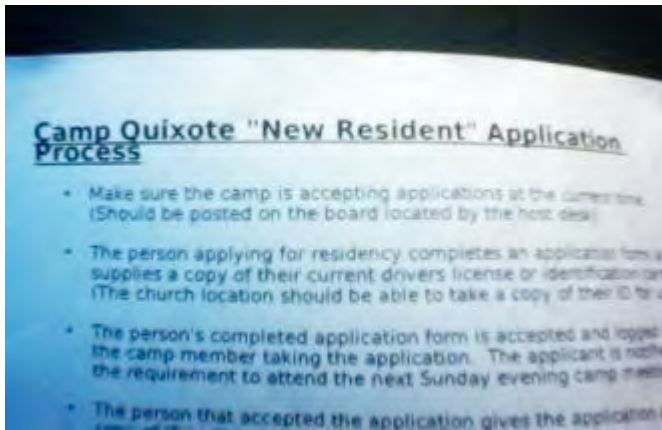


Olympia, Washington itinerant camp has moved 20 times in 7 years. Churches, non-profit.

Julie Montgomery  
Camp resident  
advocate and  
social worker.



Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp  
Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014



Camp Quixote



Camp Quixote

Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp  
Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014



**Quixote Village, Olympia, WA**

Newly constructed.

30 bungalows (okay for double residence)

City property (1\$/year lease)

In house bathroom and sink.

Community center with showers, community kitchen, common space.

Non-profit 501c3: PANZA



Quixote Village, Olympia, WA  
30 new micro homes, city property,  
funded with federal grant money.  
Drug testing for residency.





Quixote Village

### **Opportunity Village, Eugene, OR,**

- On donated private land
- Began as Occupy Eugene. A compromise with the city to create a Homelessness Task Force resulted in the creation of Opportunity Village.
- Conditional use permit with State law supporting Transitional Housing (Similar to California's SB2)
- Permanent wooden shed construction
- Starting as a small village of 60 people (30 micro bungalows)
- 501c3 and external Board of Directors
- Self-governing
- Shower house
- Community common space (yurt)
- Communal kitchen



Opportunity Village art

Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp  
Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014



Opportunity Village



Opportunity Village, Eugene, Oregon  
30 micro bungalows, city approved,  
community supported, citizen organized.

5. Migration to the Village. Where are people coming from that live at the Village?

|   | 07/01/13 - 08/01/13 | 08/01/13 - 09/01/13 | 09/01/13 - 10/01/13 | 10/01/13 - 11/01/13 | 11/01/13 - 12/01/13 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total # of new Villagers  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| Eugene-Springfield Area   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| Within Lane County  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| Within Oregon   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| Within the US West Region not including Oregon (WA, CA, NV, ID, MT, WY, UT, CO) |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| Other   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |

**Opportunity Village Intake Data Form**

Please be sure to attach a qualitative narrative that includes the Villagers' stories and an update on the Villages' outreach to community partners, and any other relevant information.



Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp  
Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014



Opportunity Village

**Dignity Village, Portland, OR,**

- On city land (\$1/year lease)
- Permanent shed construction
- Portland created an ordinance to allow the creation of the village.
- >66 Residents
- 501c3
- Began as a protest camp
- Self-governing with the support of the community.
- Community common area
- Shower house



Dignity Village, Portland, Oregon  
Raised bed gardens, small micro bungalows,  
City property, community supported, citizen organized.  
Successful at transitioning homeless into housing.

**Report by Kristina Smock Consulting on behalf of the Portland Housing Bureau. Dignity Village.**

**From 2007-09, the annual rate of 911 calls resulting in the dispatch of Portland Police to Dignity Village was lower on a per capita basis than the citywide average.**

## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

Most of the Village's residents and supporters agree that it offers a better alternative to emergency shelters or the streets for many homeless individuals and couples. In contrast to both the streets and traditional emergency shelters, the Village provides:

- A supportive community,
- A place where couples can stay together,
- A place for people with pets,
- Privacy and personal space,
- A place to keep belongings,
- Relief from constantly having to wait in lines,
- The reassurance of having a bed each night and not being moved along, and
- Independence from caseworkers and the demands of formal programs.

### **Overall assessment of Dignity Village's performance.**

**...The absence of major problems over the past two and a half years: There haven't been any major media stories about the Village, it has ceased to be a political lightning rod, and it appears to have become a stable part of the city's response to homelessness.**

### **Cost effectiveness.**

The Village provides emergency shelter for 60 people each night at an extremely low cost.

### **Self management.**

The Village has developed its own governance structure and has managed to create a relatively stable, safe community. Rules have been developed and enforced. Residents who have caused major problems have been evicted. And the Village has demonstrated that homeless people can do a lot to solve their own challenges.

### **Impact on the neighborhood.**

Feedback from the Village's two neighboring businesses and one residential neighbor suggests that the Village has had little impact on the surrounding neighborhood during the contract period. The residential neighbor said that the Village has been a great neighbor. The villagers have been responsive neighbors, even sending a representative one night to let the neighbors know that they had left the lights on in their car. The neighbor wholeheartedly supports the Village's continued presence at Sunderland Yard into the indefinite future.

### **Police Statistics about Dignity Village.**

A total of 43 calls to 911 have resulted in dispatch of Portland Police to Dignity Village over the past three years. On a per capita basis, the number of calls is lower than comparable data for the city as a whole:

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Over the three year period, the most common calls were for disturbance (7 calls), medical assist (4 calls), and unwanted person (5 calls).

**The two Portland Crime Prevention Coordinators who were assigned to Dignity Village from July-Dec 2009 and June-Dec 2009 respectively each said that they had no direct complaints about Dignity Village and almost no contact with the Village during the period of time that they were assigned to Sunderland.**



### **Dignity Village Tent City Tool Kit**

[www.tentciestoolkit.org/page9/files/InfoForNeighbors\\_wksht.pdf](http://www.tentciestoolkit.org/page9/files/InfoForNeighbors_wksht.pdf)

- Maximum of 60 people live at Dignity Village at one time (limit imposed by the city)
- 700+ people transitioning through the Village since its inception
- 25% stay a few days or weeks
- 55% stay several months
- 20% stay on a more permanent basis and become part of the Core

### **Operations Team**

**140 former residents have gotten full time jobs and have moved away from the village into conventional housing.**

Support services such as AA or NA are offered at the Village. Protocols in place with all police precincts, signed by all commanders of each precinct. Copies of protocols are available from the Village or from police precinct offices.

**Crime statistics show decreased crime (indicated by fewer police calls) in the Sunderland Yard area since Dignity Village moved in.**



## Cost Effectiveness

One of the most important elements of a sanctuary camp is its relative costs. It is designed to be the next logical step upwards from homelessness into a structured community.

Sanctuary camps and villages are often totally self-supported. A mixture of non-profit fundraising, resident payment and, in some cases, grant writing are the way these communities are funded. Another added benefit that keeps costs low is that these communities are often on private church property or city property that is leased for \$1/year.

### **Dignity Village, Portland, OR**

#### **Phase 1 sanctuary village**

- Permanent on city property lease \$1/year
- Funded through a mixture of fundraising and resident payment.
- \$2,000 entire camp monthly budget.
- 60 people
- \$33.33/month per person
- \$1.11/day per person

“The Village provides emergency shelter for 60 people each night at an extremely low cost.”

— From a report by Kristina Smock Consulting on behalf of the Portland Housing Bureau.

### **Tent City 3, Seattle, WA**

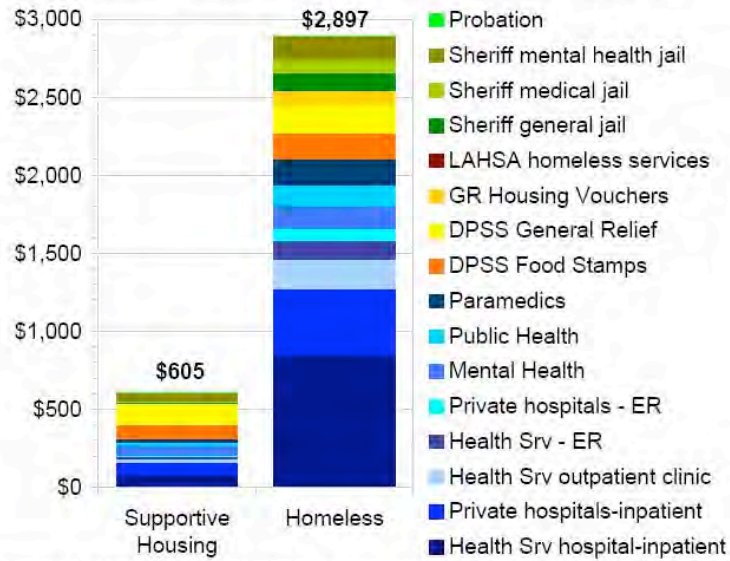
#### **Phase 2 sanctuary village**

- Itinerant camp usually on church property at no cost
- Funded through non-profit fundraising
- \$3,800 entire camp monthly budget
- 100 people
- \$38/month per person
- \$1.27/day per person



Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp  
 Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

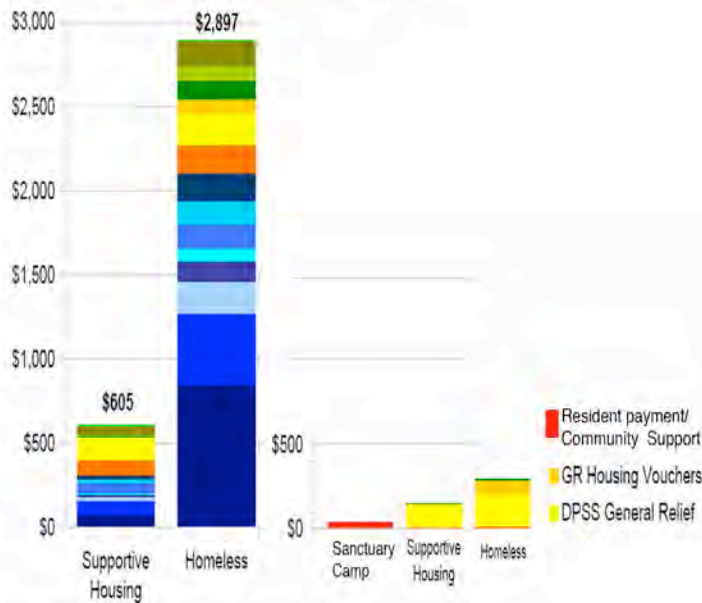
Average Monthly Public Costs for Persons in Supportive Housing and Comparable Homeless Persons



Source: 279 Matched pairs of supportive housing residents and homeless General Relief recipients. Costs shown in 2008 dollars.

This is a chart from a study we've seen to show the affordability of Supported Housing.

Average Monthly Public Costs for Persons in Supportive Housing and Comparable Homeless Persons



Source: 279 Matched pairs of supportive housing residents and homeless General Relief recipients. Costs shown in 2008 dollars.

Here we've separated out the actual housing cost layer.



Not commenting on the costs of the other elements in the chart, or the actual costs of present day housing rental markets, we've isolated the specific housing payment methods. The Sanctuary Camp data has been taken from 5 separate phase 1 & 2 sanctuary camps we've investigated in the northwest.

### How much does a Sanctuary Camp cost?

These camps are intended to be very effective yet low cost. We'll stay with our example of 50 residents as we've used above in the Material Elements section.

#### Estimated costs of a camp:

##### - Porta Potties \$360/month \$4320/year

- 1 Porta Potty per 20 people emptied weekly is \$120/month
- Lets be generous and place 3 Porta Potties for 50 people
- D&G Sanitation in Watsonville

##### - Liability Insurance approx. < \$2000 yearly

Nonprofit Insurance Alliance of California has many comprehensive policies. If we partner with church property then our costs may be lower than this.

- **Camp Quixote, Olympia, WA.**  
A camp of 50 people that has moved 20 times spends an average of \$1500/year on insurance.
- **Hangtown Haven, Placerville, CA.**  
A tent camp of < 50 people states they've always paid less than \$1,000/year.

##### - Yearly lease of land.

Nearly every Sanctuary Camp in the country uses land for either no money or an arrangement that offers them a lease of \$1/year. Sanctuary Camp is seeking a relationship such as this with one of several types of property owners in the area. River Street Shelter pays \$1/year rent. This lease expires on January 31, 2060.

##### - Materials (not donated) \$5,000/year

This is a rough estimation given that it is unclear what type of property Sanctuary Camp will be established on. Because of the rainy season, there will be a constant need for tarps and cordage. Varying pieces of stud wood, plywood and other building materials and tools may be purchased to establish one-time construction of certain infrastructure elements.



Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp  
Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

**- Legal representation (not donated) \$2000/year**

This is a rough estimation given that it is unclear what legal issues might arise.

**- Administrative Costs. \$15,000**

This is a yearly wage paid to one Administrator who oversees/shepherds all functions of the camp, works with the Advisory Committee and all local government agencies. This person has a single vote on all issues.

**TOTAL: \$28,320/yearly estimated cost for a sanctuary camp of 50 residents.**

This equates to \$2,360/monthly and approximately \$1.50/day per individual; or approx. \$47/month per resident.

### **Funding a Sanctuary Camp**

Data shows that these camps reduce money spent directly or indirectly on homelessness by creating a safe space for some people to be. This camp will start small and strong to demonstrate its effectiveness and value to the community at large and to the residents of the camp itself.

### **How is Sanctuary Camp funded?**

The pilot camp is intended to be low cost yet highly effective. This happens through a balance of offered land and services; donations and fundraising benefits; as well as an investigation of various grants, and eventually, some government funding.

**- Land.** One expectation of a Sanctuary Camp is to be offered land for use from one of the following categories of landowners: city, county, state, university, church or private.

**- Trash service.** Another expectation of the camp is to be offered free trash service. A camp such as this reduces trash that may be the result of illegal camping.

**- 501c3 Non-profit status and fiscal sponsorship.** Until Sanctuary Camp gains its own 501c3 status, non-profit fiscal sponsorship has been offered from:

- Paul Lee and Homeless Garden Project
- Santa Cruz Home and Land Trust

Once the camp is established it will soon gain its own 501c3 non-profit status.

**- Support from the community.** Recognizing that the Sanctuary Camp provides a benefit to everyone, there will be an easy point of contact for community members and businesses to give directly to help people with donations.

- Money
- Tents and camping materials
- Clothing
- Bedding
- Building materials etc.

**- Residents may contribute some money towards the functioning of the camp.** At Dignity Village in Portland, OR, residents pay \$20 per month to stay at the camp. Those who can pay a bit more defray the cost for those who are unable to pay.

**- There will be a regular schedule of fundraising events.** Sanctuary Camp will welcome the community to cultural and social affairs benefiting the camp. This will offer the community an opportunity to come

## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

together in celebration of a solution to some of the problems of homelessness.

- **Grant funding.** Sanctuary Camp is researching and may be applying for various grant opportunities. These may include:

- Community development block grants
- Emergency solutions grants
- Grants for the benefit homeless individuals
- Projects for the assistance in transition from homelessness.

- **Local government funding.** After a period of time when it becomes clear that the Sanctuary Camp is saving the City and County of Santa Cruz money and helping the problems of homelessness, then it may be appropriate to seek funds from those governments.

- **Hangtown Haven, Placerville, CA . 50 resident tent camp.**

Here is what their website ([hangtownhaven.org](http://hangtownhaven.org)) says about financing: “HTHI is financed by gifts and grants from individuals, churches and other non-profits only. It receives no financial help from any government agency, city, county, state or federal. The generosity of people in our community has allowed us to provide a safe and healthy place to live. It is an environment that allows men and women who have lost their jobs to get back on their feet and return to society. Some of the gifts that have been given to us are from graduates of HTHI who have gone on to full-time and good paying jobs. None of the HTHI volunteers receive any pay for the time spent helping the homeless guests.”

**Money saved.**

It should also be noted that it is clear that homelessness is quite expensive on the overall community. Please see the **Benefit to the community** section to see the costs that Santa Cruz Police Department allocates to dealing with homelessness.

## Produce Measurable Results

Given their focus on providing services rather than sets of data, it must be stated that data collection in homeless shelters and especially sanctuary camps has been thin in the past. Recently, as a consequence of federal money being spent on homelessness, various metrics have been established to ensure that money is being spent on specific aspects of homelessness and increasingly on very specific aspects, thus, data collection has become an increasingly important factor in homelessness.

**Various available data on sanctuary type camps and villages.**

Here is a data set from Dignity Village conducted by college graduate researchers volunteering at the camp ([www.tentciestoolkit.org/page9/files/InfoForNeighbors\\_wksht.pdf](http://www.tentciestoolkit.org/page9/files/InfoForNeighbors_wksht.pdf)):

- Maximum of 60 people live at Dignity Village at one time (limit imposed by the city)
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## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

- 140 former residents have gotten full time jobs and have moved away from the village into conventional housing.
- Support services such as AA or NA are offered at the Village Protocols in place with all police precincts, signed by all commanders of each precinct.

Copies of protocols are available from the Village or from police precinct offices. Crime statistics show decreased crime (indicated by fewer police calls) in the Sunderland Yard area since Dignity Village moved in.

**The following is a data set that details the success of the operation of Dignity Village. (This was also included in the above “Evidence-based” section.) Report by Kristina Smock Consulting on behalf of the Portland Housing Bureau.**

Most of the Village’s residents and supporters agree that it offers a better alternative to emergency shelters or the streets for many homeless individuals and couples. In contrast to both the streets and traditional emergency shelters, the Village provides:

- A supportive community,
- A place where couples can stay together,
- A place for people with pets,
- Privacy and personal space,
- A place to keep belongings,
- Relief from constantly having to wait in lines,
- The reassurance of having a bed each night and not being moved along, and
- Independence from caseworkers and the demands of formal programs.

### **Overall assessment of Dignity Village’s performance.**

**... The absence of major problems over the past two and a half years:**

There haven’t been any major media stories about the Village, it has ceased to be a political lightning rod, and it appears to have become a stable part of the city’s response to homelessness.

### **Cost effectiveness.**

The Village provides emergency shelter for 60 people each night at an extremely low cost.

### **Self management.**

The Village has developed its own governance structure and has managed to create a relatively stable, safe community. Rules have been developed and enforced. Residents who have caused major problems have been evicted. And the Village has demonstrated that homeless people can do a lot to solve their own challenges.

### **Impact on the neighborhood.**

Feedback from the Village’s two neighboring businesses and one residential neighbor suggests that the Village has had little impact on the surrounding neighborhood during the contract period. The residential neighbor said that the Village has been a great neighbor. The villagers have been responsive neighbors, even sending a representative one night to let the neighbors know that they had left the lights on in their car. The neighbor wholeheartedly supports the Village’s continued presence at Sunderland Yard into the indefinite future.

Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp  
Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

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The two Portland Crime Prevention Coordinators who were assigned to Dignity Village from July-Dec 2009 and June-Dec 2009 respectively each said that they had no direct complaints about Dignity Village and almost no contact with the Village during the period of time that they were assigned to Sunderland.

Brent Adams visited several sanctuary camps and villages in the northwest that are charting various elements of the camp's residents.

**Opportunity Village**, a new Phase 2 sanctuary village is collecting detailed intake and exit data of their residents in conjunction with a research program at the local university. Opportunity Village is also collecting data to comply with a Village Quarterly Report/Operational Agreement with the City of Eugene, OR.

This data set includes elements such as, where they came from when arriving in the camp, the behavior of residents in the camp, and where they moved to and why. As a transitional housing village, one of the main functions of Opportunity Village is to transition folks into permanent housing.

9. Migration to the Village. Where are people coming from that live in US

|   | 07/01/13 - 08/31/13 | 09/01/13 - 10/31/13 | 11/01/13 - 12/31/13 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total # of new Villagers  |                     |                     |                     |
| Eugene/Springfield Area   |                     |                     |                     |
| Within Lane County  |                     |                     |                     |
| Within Oregon   |                     |                     |                     |
| Within the US West Region not including Oregon (WA, CA, NV, ID, MT, WY, UT, CO) |                     |                     |                     |
| Other   |                     |                     |                     |

**Opportunity Village Intake Data Form**

Please be sure to attach a qualitative narrative that includes the Village's actions and an update on the Village's outreach to community partners and other

Opportunity Village has a very detailed and lengthy Intake Data Form.

Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp  
Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

| Destination                                   | 07/01/13-09/30/13 | 10/01/13-12/31/13 | 01/01/14-03/31/14 | 04/01/14-06/30/14 | 07/01/14-09/30/14 | YTD |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Rental House or Apt.                          |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Public Housing                                |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Section 8                                     |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Homeownership                                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Moved in with family or friends (permanently) |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Moved in with family or friends (temporarily) |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Transitional housing for homeless persons     |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Psychiatric hospital                          |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Jail/prison (drug treatment facility)         |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Jail/prison                                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Supportive housing                            |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Shelter (e.g., car, street)                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |
| Other (please specify & code)                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |     |

Opportunity Village has a very detailed and lengthy Exit/Destination Form that charts where a resident is moving to and why.

**Camp Quixote**, long-lasting Phase 2 sanctuary type camp has begun a very detailed exit data collection project.

Camp Quixote  
Exit Data Form

5. Destination (To be filled out by resident)

Rental House or Apt.

Public Housing

Section 8

Homeownership

Moved in with family or friends

Moved in with family or friends

**Quixote Village**, a brand new Phase 3 sanctuary village in Olympia, WA is funded primarily with federal grant money and is now producing a very detailed data set as a requirement of that funding.

**Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp** is an initiative to establish a phase 1-3 sanctuary camp and eventually leading to the creation of a sanctuary village community.

To this end, Sanctuary Camp is working with UCSC's Jess Buckner (Community Psychology Research) to develop research metrics to chart the success of its residents. Ms. Buckner intends to use Sanctuary Camp as her main data set for her personal research project.

## Good for the Individual and the Community

It is a simple argument to assert that a person sleeping in a protected area bound by a fence and a set of guidelines is much more safe, healthy and generally better off than a person sleeping behind a dumpster or in a bush. It is also an easy case to make that the community in general is more clean, more safe and generally more enjoyable without people sleeping in doorways and in the natural areas. It is clear that a sanctuary type community reduces the basic elements of homeless vagrancy and camping.

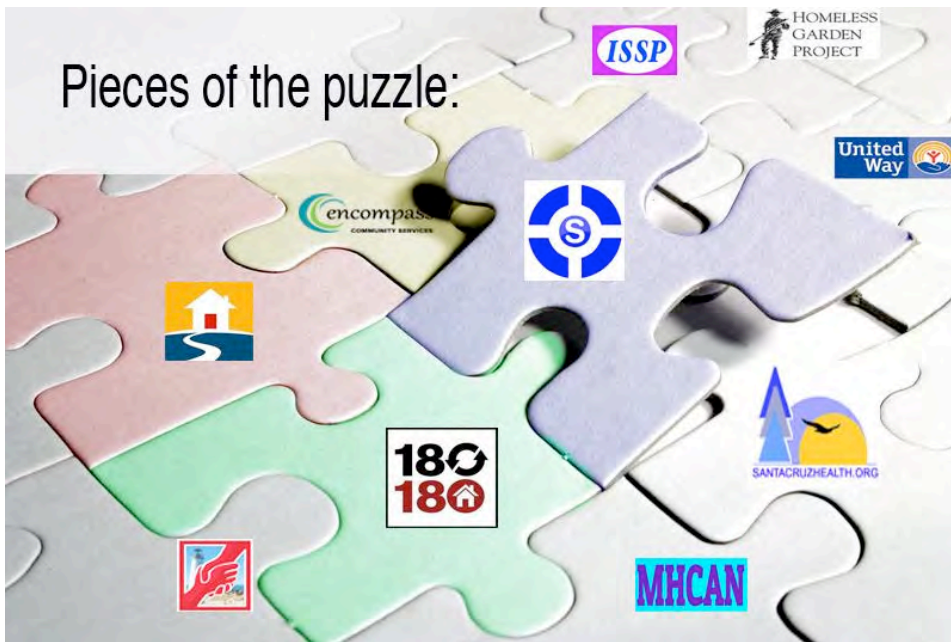
**Harsh realities.**

It has been shown that people who live the homeless lifestyle are more prone to injury, sickness and early death. They are vulnerable to crime and exposure from the elements. Because it is illegal to sleep outside, homeless people are contacted by law enforcement at a much higher rate than housed individuals. They may have their medications and personal belongings stolen. People who sleep around town get very little rest. They often don't have ample warm bedding and changes of clothing.

A sanctuary camp is a vast improvement when compared to the circumstances that many homeless people experience. When individuals access services and programs at Homeless Services Center, Homeless Persons Health Project etc. they often return to living conditions that reduce the effectiveness of those services and programs intended to help them. A sanctuary camp would be a very helpful partner in these situations.

Imagine a partnership between Sanctuary Camp and....

- Homeless Person's Health Project
- Homeless Services Center
- Mental Health Client Action Network
- Homeless Garden Project
- Narcotic Anonymous
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Every food program in the county, etc.





This piece of the puzzle helps other programs work even better

### It helps . . . .

- Mental health issues stabilize.
- Those with disabilities find rest.
- Drug and alcohol programs and sobriety.
- Physical healing and reduces sickness and injuries.
- Finding and keeping employment.
- Reduce police calls, court visits and jail stays.
- Homeless Day Services have more of a lasting effect.
- Chronically homeless folks more safe as they wait for housing.



## Effects of homelessness on the community

### **Santa Cruz City Council Homelessness Study Session – April 25, 2013 City Council Agenda Report – City Manager – Police Calls, Impacts on the Environment, the Business District Etc.**

#### **- Santa Cruz Police Department and Homelessness.**

It is readily apparent that the department devotes a substantial amount of resources to individuals that supply their address as 115 Coral Street at the time of arrest. Over 40% of all arrests made by SCPD in 2012 and 2013 (to date) are of these persons. Of total citations in 2012 and 2013, about 30% are issued to persons who list 115 Coral Street as their address.

SCPD's data show that multiple arrests are common and that 325 unique individuals who supplied 115 Coral Street as their address were arrested 1,259 times in 2012. That equates to 3.9 arrests annually for each of these 325 people or about 3.5 of the 325 people being arrested every day.

Stated yet another way, 325 people accounted for 62% of all arrestees who listed 115 Coral as their address that year. Accordingly, a smaller pool of individuals are incurring a staggering number of arrests and consuming an inordinate amount of public safety resources.

The real costs of enforcement was another question posed. While difficult to estimate, a rough calculation can proceed through correlation to SCPD's budget. As 82% of the department's \$22 million annual budget is composed of personnel costs, and there are over 100,000 call for service annually (104,946 in 2012), a general cost of \$180 per call for service is reached. In 2012, there were 5,660 arrests or citations for persons listing 115 Coral Street as an address, which yields a cost estimate of \$1,018,800 to service those public safety needs. Note that this estimate is rife with assumptions and there is no clear methodology with existing data to measure the true cost. However, as with the Fire Department, there is a clear opportunity cost to the

## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

investment of police personnel in dealing with public safety issues. Time invested here is time not invested in other public safety efforts.

A direct cost that SCPD is bearing is the extensive First Alarm security operation across the City. Since last year, the City has deployed security guards downtown, in the Harvey West Area, at City Hall (includes the Downtown Library Branch), on the San Lorenzo River Levee, at Cowell Beach and West Cliff, in Downtown City parks and, most recently, in Grant Park, San Lorenzo Park, Oceanview Park and Laurel Park. These guards have produced an improvement in safety and quality of life in these areas and the community has responded very positively to their presence. The program, however, comes with a cost of about \$350,000 annually. Last year, with 21 the short staffing in SCPD, salary savings were used to pay for the security services. For the upcoming fiscal year, given the renewed effort to fill vacant Police Officer and Community Service Officer positions, the City cannot count on salary savings to cover these costs. Accordingly, this funding will be requested in a separate budget line item for FY 2014.

Another question frequently asked is the alleged crime which an arrest was made or a citation issued. The most common crime types are:

California Penal Code (PC) PC § 484A – Theft

PC § 647(f) – Public Intoxication

PC § 1203.2 – Probation Violation

SCMC § 6.36 – Camping in City Limits Prohibited

SCMC § 9.10 – Panhandling (Prohibited Locations, Manner, Time)

SCMC § 9.12 – Consumption of Alcohol in Public

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SCMC § 9.10 – Panhandling (Prohibited Locations, Manner, Time)

SCMC § 9.12 – Consumption of Alcohol in Public

Customers and employees feel very uncomfortable when transients enter their store. Employees have to be very careful with how they handle people with mental health issues as these individuals can be verbally abusive to their customers and employees. Although they call 9-1-1, employees must deal with the issue of trying to move the individuals out of the store before they receive a response from the police. This is a huge burden, especially during busy times.

Business and property owners can feel burdened both emotionally and physically. Dealing with the social issues takes time and focus away from running a business and there is an emotional toll from dealing with the social issues and also trying to reassure employees and customers that downtown is safe. One business owner indicated that she tries to emphasize the good that downtown has to offer, but it tends to be met with a “things will never change” attitude.

Business owners have had to respond to these problems in the following ways:

- Remove human feces, urine, vomit, liquor bottles, cardboard and even mattresses from business

## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

exterior.

- Clean up and monitor restroom use. Restrooms have been used for bathing, drug use and vandalism. Some businesses control the use of restrooms through keys, while others have had to install token devices for their patrons.
- Install gates or fencing in the back of their businesses at significant expense. Recently a property owner had to install gates across the back of the building entrance because people were sneaking through during the day and hiding in the upstairs until the business closed.
- Install devices or remove objects on the building in order to prevent people from accessing their roofs, which are sometimes used for camping.
- Seal all entrances to trash enclosures which are used for camping and rummaging through recycling.
- Investment of funds for security guards or cameras. Some businesses are currently considering hiring their own security guards to patrol right outside their store. Their employees and customers, especially women, get verbally harassed or intimidated.
- Many business owners and their employees have had their vehicles broken into and items stolen.

### **- Impacts on the Environment**

The City has thousands of acres of regional parks, neighborhood parks and open space/greenbelt land, a rich resource that has been misused by illegal campers for many years. Virtually all Parks and Recreation field staff are impacted in some way by transient individuals. Whether staff is cleaning encampments, removing discarded personal items, handling discarded biological hazards, or, in some cases, being directly inhibited from doing their jobs through the actions of some transient individuals, Parks staff deal with the impacts daily.

The City has devoted significant resources to encampment clean-ups for many years, with focused efforts taking place since the summer of 2012, led by the Police/Parks Unit and the Ranger Program. Parks staff may spend upwards of \$5,000 per month on contract labor, personnel costs, materials and disposal fees to clear encampments.

Rangers use a variety of ordinances to address the many and myriad issues associated with illegal camping. Initially, rangers will employ Santa Cruz Municipal Code (SCMC) Section 6.36.010, which prohibits camping within the City limits during the hours of 11 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. This prohibition includes constructing and maintaining a campsite, and also having bedding immediately available for sleeping at any time. Rangers will also use SCMC 13.04.010, which describes limitations on access on park lands. This can include entering a closed area, having a bike in a prohibited area, or having a dog in a wildlife area. Additionally, Rangers may write citations if the illegal camp or activity has resulted in resource destruction (SCMC 9.50.030).

Also, urinating or defecation in public is prohibited by SCMC 9.50.016. Lighting a fire in a park (SCMC 13.08.050) and being in a park after hours (SCMC 13.04.011(c)) are employed.

In 2011, Police made contacts or responded to 1,567 calls for service involving illegal camping, issuing 615 citations (SCMC Section 6.36.010). That same year, Park Rangers made 728 contacts and issued 4 citations. On the aggregate, this equates to a monthly average of 191 contacts and 52 citations issued for illegal camping. In 2012, there was a 24% increase in contacts/calls for service for illegal camping (1,948) and an increase of over 100% in citations issued (1,234). In 2012, Park Rangers saw a 34% increase in contacts/calls for service (973) with a 2,525% increase in citations issued (105). The increase in 2012 can be partially

## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

attributed to stepped-up enforcement efforts beginning in the summer in response to significant community concern about illegal encampments. This equates to a monthly average of 243 contacts with 112 citations issued for illegal camping.

For the first three months of 2013, together police and the Park Rangers have 629 contacts/calls for service and have issued 193 citations. Routinely, Rangers point transient individuals toward the HSC to secure services. For mentally ill individuals, Rangers will work with County Mental Health staff to find resources for those individuals.

### **- Fire Department**

49 grass, rubbish, and forest fires—or 15% of the total fires of these types—have been identified as being likely caused by homeless persons between 2008 and 2012.

### **- Impacts to Urbanized Areas of the City**

The urbanized areas and public spaces of the City are heavily impacted by homelessness. On a daily basis, Public Works staff clean up feces, urine, drug paraphilia, and trash left by homeless individuals. Staff report public nuisances including odor complaints, garbage strewn in neighborhoods, and a proliferation of syringes along levees and neighborhoods across the City.

On a daily basis, staff dislodge homeless individuals sleeping in the parking garages and lots, and clean up the lots, garages, restrooms, sidewalks, landscaping, and bike lockers. Staff frequently make repairs to landscaping and bike lockers that can be directly attributed to vandalism by homeless individuals. Currently, the alleys are a significant problem before sunrise as well as the lots along Front Street at or just after sunrise. Further, although the problem fluctuates, the public restrooms are heavily impacted most of the time, and the City is finding that fewer non-homeless individuals are using the public restrooms.

### **- Another impact is the theft of recyclable material.**

At least half of the individuals that the City has caught in this illegal act are homeless. Refuse workers also interact with homeless individuals when servicing refuse containers. Staff wake individuals sleeping in the enclosures (mostly on private property) at least a couple times (on different routes) each day. Often the individuals leave when staff start to service the container, but sometimes it requires police interaction to get them to move (maybe 3-4 times each month). The City has experienced these problems for a long time, but it appears to be getting more common within the last year. Addressing these problems has been a considerable drain on City resources. Large encampments are handled through labor ready services. To clean and repair vandalism in the City garages and lots, the City estimates that eight Facilities Maintenance Assistants spend two to six hours daily on those activities. In direct costs this fiscal year (FY 2013), Public Works have spent \$10,464 in chain link fence, levy wall repairs, vegetation removal and clean-up efforts directly attributed to vandalism with some, but not all, attributed to impacts from actions of homeless individuals.

During the City's annual vegetation management activities, staff and the contractors will encounter camp sites, which require a clearing before the vegetation removal can proceed. Approximately 10-15% of time is spent on camp clean-ups while performing vegetation management, at an estimated cost of \$10,000-16,000. The City has one Resource Recovery Collections employee working almost full time cleaning up illegal disposals, but the City estimates 1/10 of the materials coming directly from homeless individuals.

### **- Impacts on Water Quality.**

## Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp

Presentation to Smart Solutions to Homeless Leadership Council—February 19, 2014

There is a direct impact of homelessness on water quality in our streams and bay, seen most prominently in the San Lorenzo River, Branciforte Creek Channel and Neary Lagoon. Staff report that there are sustained high levels of fecal bacteria indicators in the San Lorenzo River, its estuary, Antonelli's Pond and throughout the City. The recent Cowell Beach Study Session addressed this to some degree. Preliminary data from the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility show especially for Enterococcus bacteria, that the regulatory limits are most often exceeded at Cowell's Beach in the summer months, when the homeless seems to camp there, and perhaps use the area for personal hygiene when the public restrooms are closed.

Environmental Compliance Inspectors spend up to 5% of field time on the direct impacts of homeless encampments, especially on the West Side through interactions with property managers/owners, and necessary documentation, as well as direct work with other City units including Parks Rangers and Wastewater Maintenance crews.

As for impacts on the City's drinking water, the City has legitimate water quality concerns, mainly at the San Lorenzo River intake off of River Street, but no documented quality problems.

The intake is just outside City limits, in the County of Santa Cruz's jurisdiction. If the City encounters individuals bathing or cleaning their possessions in the water, the City will explain that it is a drinking water source and direct the individual to leave. From time to time, a law enforcement response (County Sheriff) is needed. The Water Department's Chief Ranger coordinates with the Park Rangers to conduct camp abatements. The City recently began to negotiate conservation easements with the property owners adjacent to the river above the intake to serve as a barrier for water protection.

### **- Impacts on Public Safety Fire & Medical Response**

Without an easy way to pull these records, these calls for service were identified by first determining whether calls were to locations in or adjacent to open spaces or the levee. If a call met one of these criteria, the narrative associated with the record was researched to confirm if the fire was related to a homeless encampment or drug use. Using this method, 49 grass, rubbish, and forest fires—or 15% of the total fires of these types—have been identified as being likely caused by the homeless between 2008 and 2012. The true number of fires stemming from homeless activity is likely higher, but the Fire Department lacks the information to confirm this supposition. The monetary costs of these calls for service is difficult to measure, given that the costs of keeping fire fighters on duty remain the same regardless of whether there is a call or not. However, these calls for service do represent opportunity costs: responding to a call takes time that could have been spent on other activities, such as fire prevention and training. In other words, the Fire Department is being paid the same whether or not it receives calls for service; the true cost is to its productivity.

## **Puts people on the pathway to housing.**

By definition, a Sanctuary Camp is a place where a person may begin to address the problems and issues that may have been responsible for their homelessness in the first place. When a person has shelter from the storm of homelessness than they can begin to heal themselves inner-personally and get some traction on their lives. Within a sanctuary camp, a person may begin to acquire job skills, look for and land a job and begin saving money for a rental deposit.

Many people spend a short amount of time living the homeless lifestyle. A sanctuary camp environment can drastically reduce the amount of time that a person is homeless and just as importantly, it can protect an

individual from the various vortexes that create longer term or chronic homelessness.

We are very excited to see the Dignity Village has transitioned > 140 people into jobs and housing. Report by Kristina Smock Consulting on behalf of the Portland Housing Bureau.

### **Legal aspects of a Sanctuary Camp**

There will be no Sanctuary Camp without understanding the legal landscape and working within it. Yet, we've seen in other cities and states that these camps have been able to acquire Conditional Use Permits and even a suspension of various laws that enable a safe sleep camp such as a Sanctuary Camp to be established. When a city or county realizes the huge benefit to its community it may act to facilitate such an establishment.

#### **It is illegal to sleep.**

In both the City of Santa Cruz and the County it is illegal to lie underneath a blanket after 11pm.

- Santa Cruz City uses this: MC 6.36.010

- The County of Santa Cruz uses a State law: 647e

#### **Senate Bill 2 (SB2)**

SB2 amended State Planning and Zoning Law so as to require every city and county to provide for the establishment of emergency shelters, in an inventory of land suitable for residential development, and in a planning program with a 5-year schedule of actions that the local government is undertaking to implement the goal and objective of meeting the local need for emergency shelter, among other purposes of the Housing Element of the City or County General Plan. This planning program is also required to identify sites with zoning that permits emergency shelters by right, without a conditional use permit, or other discretionary permit. "Emergency shelter" means housing with minimal supportive services for homeless persons that is limited to occupancy of six months or less by a homeless person. No individual or household may be denied emergency shelter because of an inability to pay.

As a result, cities and counties are required to:

- Identify at least one zoning district (a category) that will permit emergency shelters without a conditional use permit, or other discretionary permit.
- Identify sites that will provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the need for emergency shelters, and at least one year-round emergency shelter.
- Ensure that permit procedures, development and management standards required for approval of emergency shelters be objective, so as to encourage and facilitate the development of emergency shelters. Written and objective standards may be applied as specified in statute, including maximum number of beds, provision for onsite management, length of stay, and security.
- Ensure that approval of emergency shelters shall only be subject to development and management standards that apply to any other residential or commercial use within the same zone.
- Never deny approval of a proposed emergency shelter unless certain required specific findings are made.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development, Division of Housing Policy Development, wrote in a 2013 briefing memo that, California's homelessness crisis demands the effective involvement of both the public and private sectors. A housing element [of a General Plan] can be an effective and powerful tool in combating homelessness. Passage of SB2 strengthened the law to increase its effectiveness in addressing the needs of California's homeless population. The... housing element update



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presents an important opportunity to make ending homelessness a critical priority.

### **Conditional Use Permits**

Camping Permits and Suspension of Laws:

- The County of Santa Cruz has a mechanism for obtaining a Conditional Use Permit
- The City of Santa Cruz has a mechanism for issuing permits for camping in parks that have been zoned for such uses. 6.36.030 Permit for camping in city parks. In 2011 the City issued Occupy Santa Cruz a permit for a camp in San Lorenzo Park. The following parks are available within the city to be used for camping with a City permit.
  - Harvey West Park
  - De Laveaga Park
  - San Lorenzo Park bench lands
- The City and County also have mechanisms for Suspending Laws and Ordinances for specific times and locations as it sees fit. It should be noted that California SB2 states that cities and counties are “required to identify sites with zoning that permits emergency shelters by right, without a conditional use permit, or other discretionary permit.”

### **Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp is currently writing proposals to specific property owners who might host the establishment of a pilot camp.**

To show that this concept can be successful at helping homeless folks and the community as a whole, it is important that we begin.

This presentation was compiled and written by Brent Adams for Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp.

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