

Interfaith Community Social Services

18500 Striker Ct (P.O. Box 5070) Sonora, CA 95370 209-532-0905

Director's Report

Greetings to one and all. Here we are again with yet another fun-filled, informative, and awesome newsletter for our Volunteers.

Things continue to perk around here. We continue with the curbside pick ups and the deliveries. It's hot as heck, especially during the "fire" days.

Interestingly, we are seeing a huge decrease in the number of children served. And a large increase in the number of seniors served.

Overall, we have figured things out as needed. Everyone who has come in to volunteered has been flexible in shifting jobs, adapting to the physical changes, and done a wonderful job, under such stressors.

What's new and different???

1. **Fencing around garbage dumpsters:** we continue to have chains cut, and the dumpsters ravaged. So very disgusting and unhealthy/safe! Alderson Fencing will be building a covered, fenced area for the dumpsters. They will be moved across the asphalt, in camera view. Parking for Handicapped will be moved just one space. So we'll see if that helps.

2. **Test Site progress:** Still are in process for a possible Co-Vid 19 test site at Interfaith once weekly. Health Dept is checking things out, logistics, staffing, and target populations. More later.

3. **US Census Site:** while Interfaith does not allow surveyors to come into the

building, the US Census takers may set up a pop-up in the parking lot, east corner, under the one shade tree. We will not assist, aid or recommend, except by flyer, of their presence. A date in late Sept will be determined.

4. **SPI land next door:** you will be amazed. All the trees are GONE. Now they are clearing the stumps. No shady places to talk or walk. Huge pieces of equipment are housed there occasionally. But progress is being made. So it will look very different when you return.

4. **School supplies:** thanks to Mt Calvary Lutheran Church for purchasing, preparing, and delivering to us 100 school supply packets. Not little dinky bags, but fully stuffed, and completely useful. The parents of the children are very surprised, and grateful for this!!

5. **Shower repair progress:** the bid has been approved to begin the process of shower venting repairs. However, showers will still not be offered for awhile.

6. **Speed bumps in client parking lot:** a bid from Slayton Pavers, etc., has been approved to provide several speed bumps in the parking lot. Traffic flow can be rough some days, and folks seem to drive thru there a little faster than what's safe. So the project will begin soon.

BIG CHANGES!

1 Beginning Wednesday, Sept 2, we will be offering clothing, Household,

and toiletry items once again. No showers. This will be a little exciting the first day, to accommodate the flow. At this time the plan is to offer Household and Toiletries by clients completing the order form. Volunteers will fill and take outside to waiting client. Clothing will be a little different. Clients will fill out the form (5-7 items only.) A volunteer will take a client inside, to the department. The volunteer will assist the client in selecting by taking a pointed out item, holding it up, and the client deciding. Clients MUST wear face coverings; and the volunteer will be wearing face covering AND gloves. Only 1-3 clients will be allowed in the back at any time. Children will be discouraged. The parent shall be asked to plan for the care of the child while the parent is inside.

2. Legal Services: funding has been granted by the State of CA Dept of Aging (Area 12) to begin Sept 1- June 30, 2021. We will be invoicing for \$650 per month for all related expenses. If anyone would like to volunteer, please check with Legal Services on any Friday.

3. And finally. We are asking for definite decisions about returning (if you can), so we can schedule for Sept ... long time and new volunteers. I know it's still difficult for some, but if you think you'd restart anytime in Sept, please let me know. At the same time (no matter what your answer is) could you please send me, call in or otherwise let me know if you have an email address. (Mainly to save \$\$ in sending the newsletter, etc. We'd appreciate it.

Looking forward to some new resources coming to Interfaith:

A. A bountiful food truck from the valley, provided by AH-S. might park in

our lot once and awhile. They will be providing huge food boxes filled with cheese, dairy, fresh produce, fresh meats, and many miscellaneous items. 100-200 boxes per month. for Interfaith. B. A church in the valley working with the "gleaners" continue to provide fresh produce boxes to us. About 35 boxes every other week.

These will greatly reduce our costs for food, and still have a good product to give our clients.

C. Looking at purchasing a large walk-in refrigerator maybe funded by Project HOPE (AH-S) and Sonora Area Foundation. Fingers crossed!

BIG, BIG REMINDER:

If you use HICAP (Medicare Part D) comparisons for meds), in talking with Area 12, appointments will be made by phone only this year.

Appointment times are already filled. They are not sending out the Reminders. Appointments by waiting list. They say try to go on line....Medicare Part D register, compare, and select via that. If you find out anything, let us know so we can pass it along to everyone.

CO-VID 19 tests are free. If you are interested in the testing, your not symptomatic, nor has your MD asked you to do this for specific health-related reasons, you may call the Health Dept 533-7434 for a direct number and info of how to self-register, and get a test. I did and it was easy.

We miss you!!! Take care of yourselves.....