



Executive Summary

Community members from Orangevale and Fair Oaks gathered first in February 2021 to pose the idea of a Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART) - over 50 people were in attendance remotely via Zoom. A second monthly meeting was held via Zoom, and a third meeting was held at Divine Savior Church in April. Our May 25 meeting will be held at Chris the King Lutheran Church. A solid core team of resident volunteers has developed in order to be a resource to our at-risk neighbors and those experiencing homelessness in Orangevale and Fair Oaks.

There are nine other HART groups in Sacramento County including Elk Grove, Citrus Heights, Folsom, Carmichael, and many other areas. HART groups provide a means by which the community can organize to address the challenges in its community. They provide a unified platform for County officials, Social Services, Sheriff, Places of Worship, and other groups to coordinate with. HARTs have proven to demonstrate measured progress and results in assisting those experiencing homelessness with resources and opportunities to move toward self-sufficiency and greater independence.

They resource the community in a variety of ways including organizing a winter shelter, direct outreach with the homeless, organizing supply drives, educating the broader community about the issues and how they can help, serving all ages and stages affected by homelessness (including students), and much more.

HART is a proven program to organize the community toward making a positive impact in an individual's lives and ultimately the neighborhoods and businesses which serve the community.

Mission Statement

Our mission at HART of Orangevale & Fair Oaks is to assist our **at-risk neighbors** and **those experiencing homelessness** to move toward **self-sufficiency** and greater **independence**.

Our Shared Values

- **Individual Approach.** The causes of homelessness are varied and solutions are very unique to each individual.
- **Compassion & Accountability.** We will apply equal amounts of compassion and accountability when working with our neighbors experiencing homelessness.
- **Relationships Matter.** The best path out of homelessness is through relationships and personal connection.
- **Collaboration.** As much as possible, we will invite our homeless neighbors to join us in developing solutions.

Corporate Structure

HART of Orangevale & Fair Oaks will begin as a Program underneath the Community Foundation of Orangevale and Fair Oaks, an active 501c3 non-profit California corporation. The Foundation currently oversees a variety of programs including the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank, Big Day of Service, the new Food Bank Farm, and a Community Grant program. The mission of the Foundation is to meet practical needs in Orangevale and Fair Oaks by creating opportunities for generosity and selflessness. We believe our community will be best when it is giving and serving together.

The HART program could develop into its own organization, and so the initial proposal is to incubate HART under the Foundation and revisit that status after 12 months.

Leadership Team Roles

These are roles that will ultimately be fully functioning and integral to this program. In the first year, however, we will have fewer roles that will take on combined responsibilities.

1. President/Chair

Responsible for recruiting and retaining leadership team, working with each committee chair to set goals and objectives. Reports to Foundation Board of Directors monthly with key updates, needs, and opportunities.

2. Vice-President/Vice-Chair

Co-lead monthly HART meetings with the HART Chair. Responsible for civic engagement and outreach to community leaders (churches, businesses, County, etc). Supports each committee chair with resources and guidance.

3. Treasurer

Responsible for setting and managing a budget for the HART program. Works with the Foundation Treasurer to coordinate money in and money out.

4. Secretary

Responsible for the process of the Leadership Team and Volunteer Group meetings. Keeps formal records of the group's meeting minutes, process and decisions.

5. Media & Public Relations Chair

Responsible for interacting with the public and educating the broader community about the HART organizational impact as well as the issues of homelessness in our community. Also, Responsible for overseeing HART social media, website, email outreach, and photo/video media.

6. Homeless Outreach Chair

Responsible for organizing a group of volunteers with "boots on the ground" to meet our homeless neighbors where they are. Gather information and identify opportunities where HART can be helpful.

7. Programs & Events Chair

Work with the Leadership Team to develop & manage ongoing social assistance programs for homeless neighbors. Create and organize any outreach or impact events.

8. Fundraising Chair

Once the budget is determined, the fundraising committee will be responsible for working with the community to raise support & funds to achieve the goals set by the Leadership Team.

9. Youth Chair

Develop programs to engage all students in HART's mission.

Responsible for developing programs & outreach specifically focused on youth experiencing homelessness. Coordinate with local organizations (school districts, social services, etc) to identify opportunities for HART to address & impact homelessness in youth.

10. Housing Chair

Oversee all temporary and transitional housing options that HART is able to develop, including but not limited to a future Winter Sanctuary program.

Operating Rhythm

Our HART group will hold regular monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday. The HART Committee Chair and Co-Chair will work with each committee chair to develop objectives. Each committee chair will be responsible for building a team and providing updates at each general meeting on their stated goals. There may be additional activities and meetings happening between monthly general meetings as needed.

Key Initiatives & Objectives (May - August 2021)

- Identify leadership core team & roles
- Build a website
- Determine corporate structure
- Seek to better understand scope of homeless population (Total # homeless, # youth, etc.)

- Assess unique needs of homeless population in our community (interview Sac Sheriff HOT, County social services, Food Bank, SJUSD, outreach to homeless neighbors)
- Develop street sheet with local resources for those experiencing homelessness
- Advocate to get Sacramento County and other necessary funding to be able to hire a Navigator who will work with the homeless in our area to provide services they need.
- Rally community to collect/donate supplies based on needs of homeless population
- Determine budget needs for next 12-18 months and coordinate fundraising activities

Key Initiatives & Objectives (September - December 2021)

- Partner with neighboring community HART to work alongside Winter Sanctuary for the 2021-2022 winter season.
- Develop a community education / awareness campaign
- More initiatives and objectives TBD...

Future Goals & Programs

- Transitional housing
- Work toward developing a Winter Shelter program in OV/FO
- Quarterly supply drives - clothes, blankets, bikes, pet food, etc
- Warehouse / store - clothing & home supplies both for sale for fundraising and to provision to neighbors moving out of homelessness
- Homeless Roundtable - bring together those experiencing homelessness to help develop solutions
- Medical, mental health & wellness resources / classes
- Mentorship Program - connect HART leaders with individual homeless neighbors to support & mentor them toward self-sufficiency and greater independence