Thank you to everyone that supported and participated in our annual “Let Them Eat Cake!” event on July 13, 2017. We had an amazing turnout this year with a wide selection of delicious homemade cakes, beautiful art, delectable wine and suds, as well as the company of many compassionate supporters and sponsors. We are grateful for your support in our organization’s mission!

If you were unable to make it to our event, make sure to read Jeff’s story below and check out page 2 for more pictures!

**Successful “Let Them Eat Cake”!**

At Let Them Eat Cake, Jeff Krause took to the stage and shared his story…

“Hi, my name is Jeff Krause and I am currently a house monitor for Sacramento Self-Help housing at a house in Sacramento and live with 5 others. I cant say how much the program has helped me. I was in a shelter for 2 months before I got into the program and at the time I was staying sober after 30 years of alcohol abuse. When I got into the program, it was a huge incentive for me to stay sober. In a year an a half after completing D.U.I. school, I got my drivers license back and later got an income for myself and finally got my dream back of playing drums in a band doing gigs. All of this would not have been possible without this program. I currently go to a lot of AA meetings. I have a sponsor and I sponsor others. This coming October, I will have 9 years of sobriety. I think this program deserves a lot of credit because there are a lot of homeless people out there with drug and alcohol issues as well as mental health issues. This program can house them with resources to get the right help they need.

So I just want to thank John Foley and his staff for making it possible for me to have a place to live and all of the positive changes I’ve made in my life.”
More Highlights at Let Them Eat Cake

We had almost two dozen home-made cakes!

Many attendees were able to bring home an original art piece from the silent auction.

Board Member Karen Edwards and her husband Reverend Paul Edwards

Our sponsor from US Bank, Pamela Maxwell, spoke about our agency and its mission

ABC10’s award-winning TV personality, Mark S. Allen, was this year’s LTEC MC. Here, he is speaking with Supervisor Patrick Kennedy (on the left)

We had a grand selection of wine and suds from several supporters such as Bogle Vineyards Winery
Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART) organizations assisted by SSHH are currently in the middle of planning for this coming season’s winter sanctuary. This year, all five HART organizations will be having their own winter sanctuary! This includes the newest addition, HART of Folsom! It will be Carmichael HART and HART of Folsom’s first winter sanctuary. It is amazing that so many community members are coming together, harnessing their resources, and helping the less fortunate in their neighborhood.

HART’s winter sanctuaries require time, commitment, and effective collaboration to come together. Most of all, it takes a group of people who care about those in their community that do not have a warm place to stay, food to eat, and friendly company during the cold winter months. Thank you to all the HART members, volunteers, and churches who are making it possible to provide a shelter to these individuals in need.

A typical night at a HART winter shelter begins at the intake site where guests register for the night and first-timers are briefly interviewed. They are then transported to the host site where guests are provided dinner, a warm place to sleep, activities, and breakfast in the morning.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Ken Bennett (kbennett@sacselfhelp.org), our Community Outreach Coordinator, to find out how to get involved with your local HART! You are also welcome at any of the upcoming HART meetings (see below).

HART is a collaboration between community members, religious organizations, and local non-profits who are striving to end homelessness in their local community. SSHH supports the HART groups in obtaining their individual goals.

Currently, we have HARTs in Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, Carmichael and Folsom.

**Upcoming HART Meetings**

**Elk Grove HART**  
Thursday, October 12, 2017 4PM  
Elk Grove City Council Chamber

**Citrus Heights HART**  
Thursday, August 24, 2017 12PM  
Holy Family Church, Citrus Heights

**Rancho Cordova HART**  
Thursday, August 17, 2017 12PM  
Sun River Church, Rancho Cordova

**Carmichael HART**  
Thursday, August 17, 2017 6PM  
Christ Community Church, Carmichael Room M2

**HART of Folsom**  
Saturday, August 19, 2017 10AM  
Lakeside Church, Folsom
“Tremendous outreach is needed for us to fulfill our mission.”
—Patti Upplinger

A note from Patti Upplinger, SSHH’s Housing Locator:

SSHH is starting a new permanent supportive housing program, Building Community, August 1, 2017. SSHH has witnessed the success of this type of housing. In preparation for implementing this program I have been reaching out to people and organizations to locate the houses we need. We need about 14 five to six bedroom homes located within a half mile of public transportation within Sacramento County. SSHH will master lease these homes, provide a house leader, have house rules for participants to sign, hold monthly house meetings and weekly case management. In addition, SSHH completes any maintenance issues that may arise.

Cornelius Harris and I did a presentation to St John’s Lutheran Church. Presentations are scheduled for several rotary clubs and other faith based groups. I have been meeting with city leaders, school board trustees, Property Business Improvement Districts (PBIDS), SMUD Board trustees, several property management companies and people seeking to buy houses for cash.

We plan to have “Meet and Greets” for investors and property owners to attend to hear about Building Community. When they attend they will also hear from current investors and owners and their satisfaction with SSHH.

Tremendous outreach and more landlords are needed for us to fulfill our mission. We need your help! If you know of people SSHH should be talking to about Building Communities, please contact us.

The mission statement for Sacramento Self Help Housing is that we assist “persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to find and retain stable and affordable housing”. I’ve emphasized a couple parts of that mission statement because we don’t often give our staff and volunteers adequate credit for that part of our operation: helping people stay in housing that they’ve found and lived in.

An important part of addressing the homelessness crisis in Sacramento is helping people to avoid becoming homeless.

(continued on the following page)
Our Executive Director, John Foley, and various members of our Board of Directors participate in organizations such as the Sacramento Housing Alliance and Sacramento Steps Forward to advocate for the development and preservation of affordable rental housing in Sacramento. We also advocate for improved homelessness assistance programs for the thousands of individuals who are homeless and the 13,000 school children who report annually that they don’t have a permanent address. In addition, of course, our shared housing programs provide decent, safe, accessible and affordable housing to help people avoid becoming homeless again.

Equally important, and effecting many more people, is the SSHH “Renters Helpline” (916-389-7877). Funded by the City and County of Sacramento, and the Cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, and Rancho Cordova, over 4,200 calls were received last year about tenant rights and problems in rental housing, renters requesting information, education, or even intervention in disputes. Of those, we could document over 2,811 families retaining their housing, and over 675 families receiving assistance to relocate to other appropriate housing.

And there’s more! In 2014, after the City/County Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission closed its doors, SSHH partnered with Legal Services of Northern California, Project Sentinel, and the Rental Housing Association to provide fair housing advice and enforcement in the County. With funding from the same localities, our staff fields questions about racial and ethnic discrimination, discrimination based on children being in a household, and discrimination on the basis of disabilities (such as refusing a “reasonable accommodation” for a person’s disability). Over 40 cases were fully investigated last year, including intervention and education for property owners and managers in order to resolve the asserted discrimination.

Sometimes, the property owner refuses to correct illegal behavior. Project Sentinel, on behalf of SSHH and the discriminated against party, can legally prosecute them. Last year, a property manager who discriminated against families with children and refused to stop, ultimately was sued and eventually settled for $440,000 for damages and attorneys fees and a commitment that all employees involved in property management attend fair housing training.

These types of activities—the education of both tenants and property owners and the enforcement of fair housing rights—will prevent thousands of families, and their friends, from becoming homeless this year or in the future. This is part of our mission, and we are pursuing it every day.

Ron Javor
SSHH Board Member
2017 Point-In-Time Count

On July 10, 2017, Sacramento Steps Forward released a report illustrating that the number of homeless in our county has increased significantly over the past two years.

“The total number of people experiencing homelessness has increased by 30 percent to 3,665 since 2015. Approximately 31% of people who are unsheltered are chronically homeless, meaning they have experienced prolonged bouts of homelessness and are disabled.” The full report can be read here.

Both Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Ryan Loofbourrow, CEO of Sacramento Steps Forward, came out with articles addressing the issue at hand. The two articles highlight that our communities can’t end homelessness unless we work together.

The articles can be found here and here.

An additional article about the likelihood of undercounts can be found here.

Thank You from Our Staff!

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