

DECEMBER  
2018



A MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER TO  
INFORM, EDUCATE, AND  
PROVIDE UPDATES ON  
HOMELESSNESS IN  
FULLERTON

# The Helping Hand

## Homeless Services Update

### Armory Update

As mentioned in the last edition of The Helping Hand newsletter, the California National Guard Armory will again be operating as an emergency cold weather shelter beginning on December 17, 2018 through April 2019.

The County agreed to all requests made by the City to ensure public safety. Those requests include enhanced client intake and assessment, funding for enhanced security services for late night and early morning patrol in and around the Armory and nearby City parks and a shuttle service to discourage walk-up traffic.

Mercy House will once again be the operator of the facility responsible for the day to day operations, as well as providing the shuttle service for pick up and drop off of clients from Fullerton and neighboring cities.

The pick up and drop off locations are as follows:

1. Fullerton Transportation Center Santa Fe Ave. (Between Pomona & Lemon) Fullerton, CA 92832
2. The Way Fellowship Church Parking Lot 7142 Thomas St., Buena Park, CA 90621
3. City Hall Park 401 S. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA 92821
4. La Habra Community Resource Care Center 350 S. Hillcrest Ave., La Habra, CA
5. H.I.S. House/Placentia Presbyterian Church Parking Lot 849 Bradford Ave., Placentia, CA 92870
6. S/E Corner of Struck & Batavia (In front of Illumination Foundation) 1901 Batavia, Orange, CA 92865

For more information on volunteering, go to:  
<https://mercyhouse.net/volunteer/>



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### Revision to Emergency Shelter Definition for Homeless Approved

At its December 4, 2018 meeting, Fullerton City Council approved a proposal to amend the definition of Emergency Shelter for Homeless (Religious Institution). This is the first step to begin the process of creating an ability for the City, non-profit, and faith-based organizations to better focus on assisting people to get off the streets, get assessed for proper services, and ultimately get placed into appropriate housing.

The changes proposed by staff sought to ensure that people experiencing homelessness are provided reasonable and decent shelter, within a structure that provides access to restrooms. While we understand that not all religious institutions can support such sheltering, no church in Fullerton is currently offering ongoing overnight sheltering services, other than allowing people to sleep on their property, in the open. The changes did not make homelessness worse or make it harder to help those in need – it simply sets forth the goal to actually provide shelter where none is currently given.

In order to assist a person to get off the streets, a further goal is to get them assessed to determine their specific needs so that the appropriate non-profit, faith-based organization, or County agency can work with them to address physical or mental health needs.

When provided suitable overnight accommodations, that include access to

restrooms, a person can work toward the ultimate goal of moving to a permanent shelter or into proper affordable housing opportunities when openings become available.

Beginning next year, the City will begin to receive dedicated homeless assistance funds through SB 2 Funds in which the City will look to partner with non-profit and faith-based organizations on specific programs or improvements.

With the approval of the ordinance, it is our hope that several sites will be interested in serving as that first step to get people off the street while providing safe and decent facilities, a management plan that gets the individual assessed quickly for higher level housing options, as well as a security plan so that the clients, staff, and neighbors feel safe with the program. Doing nothing now means that homeless individuals will continue to sleep in the open, albeit on church property, but with no goal to provide decent, safe and actual sheltering.

This ordinance, as stated above is simply a change to definitions in the zoning code, that will help to create a foundation in which to build a successful program.

Non-profit or faith based organizations interested in providing a site are interested in collaborating, please contact the Rebecca Leifkes, Homeless Resources Manager at by email to [rleifkes@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:rleifkes@cityoffullerton.com) or call (714) 738-2858.

## Fullerton Website Homeless Updates

The City of Fullerton's website was recently updated to include more information regarding homelessness.

To view the updates go to [www.cityoffullerton.com/homelessness](http://www.cityoffullerton.com/homelessness) or once you are on the website you can type in homelessness into the search bar and find several new pages that contain the most current information, including:

- **Homeless Solutions:**
    - The Challenges
    - Fullerton's Efforts in Creating Solutions
  - **Business and Property Owner Information:**
    - Your Rights
    - Protecting Your Property
    - When to Call Code Enforcement
    - When to Call the Police
  - **Homeless Assistance:**
    - Services
    - Resources
  - **Get Educated About Homelessness:**
    - Fullerton Homeless Plans, Reports, Presentations, Newsletters, Videos, Meetings
    - Regional Reports, Presentations, Homelessness in the Media, Stories of Homelessness
  - **How You Can Help**
    - Donate
    - Join
    - Volunteer
  - **Homeless Liaison Officer (HLO) Unit**
    - North Orange County Public Safety Task Force
- CHECK IT OUT!



**EVERYONE COUNTS**  
2019 Point In Time



## Fullerton Volunteers Needed for 2019 Point in Time Count

We need your help with the 2019 Point in Time Count to ensure everyone in Orange County is counted!

The Point In Time is a biennial count of all people in the County of Orange who are experiencing homelessness during a given point in time during the last ten days in January. During this time period, the those who are unsheltered and those staying in shelters or in motels who are receiving subsidy are counted. The count provides vital information that helps County staff and service providers better understand homelessness in the community and guides the way for the County and its partners to shape the approach to ending homelessness.

Orange County will be conducting the 2019 Point In Time count on the morning of Wednesday, January 23 and the evening of Thursday, January 24, 2019.

The County of Orange, in partnership with street outreach agencies, homeless service providers, local experts, including law enforcement agencies, and previously homeless individuals, has contracted with City Net, to compile geographical data on hotspot locations for the 2019 Point In Time count maps. Maps are being created for each city and Service Planning Area of Orange County. So far, in the North Service Planning Area (SPA) there are 72 maps. So there is a large need for volunteers.

In preparation for the 2019 Point In Time count, volunteers are needed in the following roles to ensure a successful

effort: Team Captains and Field Surveyors are those who, while accompanied by City Net staff and other partnering homelessness services professionals, will engage directly with homeless neighbors to learn their demographics, strengths, and challenges. Deployment Center Support staff will provide support to those out in the field while Photographers, and Videographers will be working in the Deployment Center or out in the field.

Volunteer opportunities are available for the early morning and late evening and training will be provided for each volunteer opportunity. Efforts will be made to allow groups who sign up together to work together, as long as the request is made prior to the day of the count. Go to: <https://www.everyonecountsoc.org/> to apply.

In the North SPA, the Service Provider Specific Training will be held on January 3, 2019 at 9AM at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Saint Andrew's Hall.

There will also be trainings held at EvFree Fullerton at 801 N Brea Blvd. Fullerton, CA 92835 on the following days:

- Saturday, January 12 at 9AM.
- Wednesday, January 16 at 6:30PM
- Thursday, January 17 at 7:30AM
- Thursday, January 17 at 9:30AM

On the actual days of the count, each Orange County geographical region will be

canvassed at least two times by teams comprised of one Team Captain and three to five Field Surveyors. Surveying teams will deploy from one of five geographically appropriate Deployment Centers. The nearest Deployment Center to Fullerton is located at Magnolia Baptist Church located at 720 S. Magnolia Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804.

You can also help ensure that everyone in Orange County is counted during the 2019 Point In Time count by spreading the word about the effort through your social media networks. Join the conversation on social media at: #EveryoneCountsOC2019

Additionally, in order to make the 2019 Point In Time count effective, City Net is striving to have 5,000 one-day OCTA bus passes or \$5 gift cards to food establishments, and 5,000 hygiene kits ready to be distributed to those who are interviewed during the count. Hygiene kits or other donations will be accepted by City Net during business hours of 9AM - 5PM, Monday - Friday from Jan 7 - 11. For more information on what is needed and where to take it, go to: <http://citynet.org/get-involved/donate-items/>.

For more information on the Point in Time Count, to sign up to volunteer to help shape homelessness services in Orange County for the next couple of years, or to learn about other upcoming volunteer opportunities and ways you can help, go to: <https://www.everyonecountsoc.org/>

For more information: [www.cityoffullerton.com/homelessness](http://www.cityoffullerton.com/homelessness)