

LifeChanger Ministry Request Grant to Support Community
Resource Center with Emphasis on Temporary Shelter for the Homeless

Summary

Life Changer Ministry is established to help the poor who have been affected by poverty and/or negative circumstances of life. They are experiencing a difficult time meeting the basic necessity of food and shelter. They have lost all hope of living an independent, self-sufficient life.

Within three-months we will open up a resource center that provides food, clothing, support in finding resources that provide health care (including mental health), temporary and permanent income (social services, SSI...), employment services, housing programs, drug rehabilitation programs.

Within a year, we hope to open a temporary overnight shelter for men, women and children who are currently living on the streets due to homelessness or temporary displacement due to economic hardships.

Organizational Background

The staff in our organization have 6-years of experience with providing food/clothes closet, feeding hot meals, and 4-years of experience housing homeless men, women and children overnight. We first began housing the people during increment weather conditions. Then we began to recognize the need for temporary housing for the population of people on a daily basis.

Needs Assessment

According to “2022 Point in Time [Homeless] Count” conducted by San Bernardino County reported a 56%increase in families experiencing homelessness from 2020. It is reported San Bernardino has the highest population of homeless in the county at almost 1,000 people. Victorville is second with a total homeless population count of 224.

Phoenix Community Counseling Center on Gilbert shared: “The two major problems the women are facing here is, one, there are not enough women’s shelters for us to place the women at. Second, they have no family support.”

City of San Bernardino staff shared , “Because there are limited funds, the available programs focus on homeless families with children. So men are the most underserved in the homeless population.”

Project Narrative

With the extreme economic hardship many are facing in California eg. inflation and the rent increase, the homeless population is becoming more extremely diverse.

For example, our church took in people in need of shelter during inclement weather, during the winter of 2020. A family of three entered at around 8pm. It was a grandmother, her daughter and her minor granddaughter. They stated, that they received social security income but had spent it on renting a motel room which lasted about a week and a half. Since then, they had been sleeping at a bus stop and that night it was too cold for them to sleep outside. They also shared that the difficulty causing their

homelessness was that their landlord refused to comply with the corrections required in order for them to continue to rent using their section 8. As a result, they were evicted with only a certain amount of time to find another landlord who would be willing to rent to them. Section 8 does not guarantee housing, it only subsidizes the cost and many people have difficulty finding a place. The women continued eating and sleeping in the shelter at night. Six months later, the Step Up Program, was able to help them in securing an apartment.

The increased number of homelessness constituents is increasing, however the amount of programs to aid in this major crisis is not. We have interviewed many of the homeless who come in for shelter and found that many of them can overcome their hardships given support of one type or another. For example, how can someone work at getting their life on track if they have to worry about where they are going to sleep tonight or whether they will be able to eat today. We found that many people were unable to function mentally and properly under that type of stress.

The following is a list of ways that we plan to provide these supports:

1. Salvation and hope through Jesus Christ.
2. Food, overnight shelter, clothing,
3. Referrals to Housing, drug/alcohol rehabilitation, health care, mental health care (counseling)
4. Help with: Job services, Social services (welfare) and SSI needs, etc.

Personnel

1. Partnerships:

- San Bernardino County Programs such as: Behavioral Health, Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation, Employment services, and Housing.
- Local Churches
- Health Clinics

2. Volunteers

3. Board of Directors, Executive Committee

4. Paid Staff, director, bookkeeper, secretary

Goals Objectives

Specific – To ensure that homeless (no specific demographic, all are welcome) people in the community have somewhere to lay their head at night. When people in the community are in need, they have a strong support system available to encourage them and help them get on their feet. To transform lives through faith in Jesus Christ. To help them become self-sufficient so that they can live and maintain independent, happy lives.

Measurable – Collect data, surveys from staff and constituents and partnership of the effectiveness of the program.

Assessment – Of the number of people entering the shelter, what were their needs? Pooling the number of people facing the same difficulties, how many of them were helped? What is the reason everyone could not be helped in one way or another?

R

Timely – Assess data weekly.

Evaluation

Based upon data assessments and surveys, what are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, etc.

Budget Narrative

Attached is the proposed budget for the year.