

St. Peter's Helping Hands

June 30, 2021

Subject: End of Grant Report from St. Peter's Helping Hands

Dear Del Mar Foundation,

We have come to the end of the life-saving grant that you assigned to St. Peter's Helping Hands Ministry in April, 2020. This grant allowed us to continue our four-day per week service to the unsheltered without ever having to close. Our on-campus meal program with social work services kept pace with the needs of our persistent homeless individuals and the many newly unemployed in our area.

During the past fifteen months we served 3,180 meals that your grant funded in partnership with Stratford Court Cafe and Beeside Balcony. We supplemented the prepared meals with homemade soup, hot drinks, two sack lunches with high protein drinks, fruit, fresh underwear and socks, and we distributed 2,500 face masks. Our core volunteer crew numbered seven with eight alternates - of which four were teens.

The restaurant meals and the service we received from the restaurant owners, Greg and Josh at Stratford and Chef Christophe at Beeside and their staff were exemplary. All segments of interacting with them were smooth and predictable.

Our social work team, Julie Kawasaki and her Master's level student, continued its intervention for our guests with Covid-19 education and health care referrals. Many of our guests needed referrals for emergency dental work (extractions and treatment for infections), wound care, diabetes management, major surgeries and substance abuse admissions. Several of our older individuals were able to be housed with Project Room Key. Julie and her student helped 15 guests complete the paperwork for bank accounts and legal identification to receive funds from the Cares Act.

We scheduled vaccination appointments off-site and hosted an on-campus vaccination clinic with a team of County Mobile Nurses. We hammered away at the messages about the necessity of the vaccination. This is one area that our success shocked us. Building on trust and our rapport with our guests, we prevailed and achieved a 90% vaccination rate.

Once the County of San Diego established its new Department of Homeless Outreach Services in January 2021, we made great strides with securing housing for six long-time unsheltered. County Social Workers came to St. Peter's weekly. We prepared our guests for working with the County team, and our own social work team laid out most of the groundwork. Our volunteers found furnishings, kitchen tools, towels, linens and hygiene supplies for our newly housed friends. For our senior housed individuals, we arranged for them to receive wearable emergency alert devices with GPS trackers.

If we did not have your grant during this most difficult time, we would have been overwhelmed, and we would have closed our service. But we stayed buoyant and were much less overworked. And our guests benefitted from our reliable presence. They were stable and accepted their public responsibility during Covid. Our appreciation is very deep. Thank you ever so much.

Ann Austin and Shirley King
St. Peter's Helping Hands