

## **HOMELESS ACTION SONOMA, INC**

Annie Falandes, Board Chair

PO Box 482, Sonoma, CA 95476

707-304-0502, [anniefalcst@gmail.com](mailto:anniefalcst@gmail.com)

### Background

After working with many members of our homeless folks in Sonoma for a couple of years, and hosting weekly barbecues open to all comers for the past two summers, Annie Falandes has brought together a small group of people interested in helping the multi-dimensional plight of about 30 unsheltered people who call Sonoma "home". The group began as a "branch" for Homeless Action is a group in Santa Rosa, but we have recently incorporated as Homeless Action Sonoma, Inc. We have recently received the approval of it's 501C3 status as a non-profit. We are not affiliated with any other organization, and hope to supplement existing efforts already serving this population in the City of Sonoma. (Members of the Board of Directors can be found in the footing.)

### Activities Underway

In addition to the weekly barbecues (managed by the homeless folks themselves) employment has been found for a few folks, some unsheltered folks volunteered to help get out the vote, 4 counsellors have agreed to meet via Zoom with 1 person weekly for a year, and another counselor has taken two clients, and more are being sought to perform this vital service, pro bono. A website will be created and a periodic newsletter will soon keep our friends up-to-date.

### Future goals and how you can help

Please reach out to your members and networks to help us with the following:

1. Expanding the counseling network - We hope that you or some of your members would be interested in either counseling or "be-friending" one homeless person one hour/week for a year, pro bono. We already have 5 homeless people being counseled and another 4 being "be-friended". (As you know, Zoom provides one 40-minute video meeting/week free of charge.)
2. We need a number of barbers and hairdressers to help serve monthly.
3. We need volunteers who can drive folks to medical appointments.
4. The homeless folks' most **urgent need**, however, is to find somewhere they can be sheltered during the winter months. We are searching for a winter shelter from December through March to replace the Alliance Memorial church that was recently sold. Hopefully, there is a church that has a space where 10-20 of our homeless folks could spend the night from December through March - or perhaps only for an initial commitment of two months. We believe that we can support someone to clean the bathrooms several times daily and provide an all-night supervisor, and the funds to offset lighting and heating costs. If needed, we'll provide cots. If even a parking lot is available, we will also endeavor to provide 2 heated and lighted tents, with porta-potties, showers and wash stations. (I saw such an arrangement in Reno two years ago, that was being well utilized.)

Please reach out to Annie Falandes, the Board Chair at the phone number above if you can help in any way.

Board members - Annie Falandes, Chair; Maria Abadesco, Constance Bennett, Harry Boon, Victor Chirkin, Lisa Leeb, Barb Lemme, Treasurer and Ted Norquist.