**CITY OF FAIRFIELD HOMELESS SERVICES DIVISION**

*INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS SUCCESS STORIES*

*SHARED VIA “THE FAIRFIELD WEEKLY”*

March 23, 2023

**2022 Homeward Bound Program Successes**

In 2022, 22 people were connected to their families through the Fairfield Police Homeward Bound Program!

The program is for individuals or families who are currently experiencing homelessness or housing instability within the City of Fairfield and would like to reconnect/reunite with family or friends anywhere in the United States. The Fairfield Police Homeless Intervention Team will research and purchase accommodations via train, bus or plane for the individual and provide them additional support while they are on their journey to relocation.



April 6, 2023

**Homeless to Work Program Success Story**

The City of Fairfield Homeless Services Division is excited to share a recent success story from the Homeless to Work program in partnership with Mission Samoa.

Mr. H is a young man who joined the Homeless to Work program off the streets. He did not have any documentation, benefits, or work experience. Also, he needed to gain social skills that would allow him to engage with others professionally. Through the Homeless to Work program, he received safe housing, connections to local and county resources, and access to phone and internet. Through county resources, he enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Throughout his program, he sent out multiple resumes to employers. Eventually, Mr. H secured full-time employment at the Fairfield Walmart, earning $16.50 an hour. He is working on a savings plan to help him establish independent living. He is grateful for the opportunity through the Homeless to Work program.

The Homeless to Work program is a partnership with Mission Samoa and provides program participants temporary shelter and assists individuals in developing skills to obtain living wage employment. For more information visit [www.Fairfield.ca.gov/Homeless](http://www.Fairfield.ca.gov/Homeless).

June 1, 2023

**Shelter Solano Success Story**

In September 2022, Jessica Vinatieri, Fairfield Police Homeless Intervention Team’s Community Service Officer, referred a single mother and her children to Shelter Solano. The participant accepted comprehensive, one-on-one case management through Shelter Solano to assist in her transition into a life of self-sufficiency. The participant remained motivated and determined throughout her stay securing a stable income and continuing to work with shelter staff to find housing.

We are excited to share that in March 2023, the participant and her children successfully moved into affordable housing! The City values the partnership between Fairfield PD, Homeless Services, and Shelter Solano to serve community members experiencing homelessness. We commend all parties involved for their dedicated efforts and teamwork to change the life of this individual and her family.



July 13, 2023

**Hotel Voucher Program Outcomes (Solano Public Health COVID Funding)**

The City of Fairfield was awarded funding through a Solano County Public Health COVID grant which they dedicated to a hotel voucher program in partnership with Motel 6 on Holiday Lane in Fairfield. Through referrals made by the Fairfield Homeless Intervention Team (HIT) and The City of Fairfield Homeless Services Division, 16 individuals were served. 80% of the individuals served were connected with mental health services with frequent follow up from mental health professionals. Other activities carried out include apartment placement, reintegration into participants’ former programs and services, emergency shelter placement, restabilization, income assistance between pay periods, fleeing domestic violence situations, placement for COVID quarantine period, and reconnection with family.



August 3, 2023

**Shelter Solano Success Story**

In June 2023, a mother and her three-year-old son visited the Fairfield Police Department lobby requesting shelter assistance. The Police Community Action Team (CAT) were able to link her and her son to services and transported the mother and her child to Shelter Solano for emergency sheltering. During the individual’s short stay at Shelter Solano, she began taking online classes to obtain her high school diploma and work towards self-sufficiency. CAT officers continued to work with the individual and through the Police Department’s Homeward Bound Program, officers and coordinators located the participant’s family in Ohio. The individual agreed to return home with her son and CAT officers arranged for transportation to reunite the individual and her son with their family.

The Homeward Bound Program reunites individuals and families experiencing homelessness or housing instability within the city of Fairfield with family or friends who can provide stable housing. The individual’s family may be located anywhere in the United States and the team works diligently to facilitate the reconnection.

As a part of the program, the team will research and purchase transportation for the individual via train, bus, or plane and provide additional support while they are on their journey to relocation. After the individual departs, the team follows up with the family to ensure the individual arrives safely and has successfully reunited. In 2022, Fairfield Police reunited 22 people with family through the program.

The Homeward Bound program is an example of one of the many tools the City of Fairfield uses to serve and support those experiencing homelessness in securing permanent housing.

August 17, 2023

**Shelter Solano/CANB Success Story**

The Homeless Services Division is excited to share another successful transition from shelter to housing from one of our local providers. Ray Pallari has attended several Homeless Outreach Partnership Events (H.O.P.E.) hosted by the Fairfield Police Department eager to receive homeless services and support. Ray was a participant at Shelter Solano, Inc., and later a participant at Change And New Beginnings (CANB).

Ray, with the support of local service providers and his unwavering determination, recently moved into permanent supportive housing at Fair Haven Commons. Fair Haven Commons is Fairfield’s newest affordable housing development which opened earlier this year. The development provides 72 affordable homes for families, including 44 units with a preference for households who are at risk or experiencing homelessness.

Ray’s journey didn’t stop there. Motivated by his own experiences, he decided to pay it forward by regularly volunteering at CANB and the Father’s House in Vacaville. When the City’s Homeless Services Division spoke with Ray recently, he expressed his love and gratitude for Solano County and stated he would do anything to help the community. Thank you, Ray, for your dedicated efforts!

August 24, 2023

**Hotel Voucher Program Outcomes (United Way Bay Area Funding)**

The City’s Homeless Services Division and Police Department recently partnered with Motel 6 on Holiday Lane in Fairfield to provide interim stays for low-resourced individuals and families. The City was awarded $10,000 through United Way Bay Area’s Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). United Way Bay Area brings together partners from the nonprofit, business, and government sectors to identify the most pressing community needs, inspiring and connecting people to break the cycle of poverty.

The Homeless Services Division and Fairfield Police Department worked collaboratively to refer, and case manage 23 individuals, yielding a 91% success rate, further defined as 91% of people in the program did not return to the street. Activities carried out included permanent supportive housing (PSH) placement, emergency shelter placement, Solano County Mental Health referral and connection, Veteran’s Housing placement and connection to Veteran’s Affairs, interview preparation, surgery preparation and recovery with transition into a skilled nursing facility, COVID quarantine placement, post-eviction assistance for family with connection to shelter/housing, post-eviction waiting period before meetings with Section 8 housing units, and assistance for individuals fleeing domestic violence pending placement into emergency shelter.

The City values its partnership with Motel 6 and United Way Bay Area and is eager to seek additional funding sources that it can dedicate to a program of this kind in the future.

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August 31, 2023

**Two SHELTER Solano Participants Accepted Into Affordable Housing**

Two individuals referred to SHELTER Solano by the Fairfield Police Community Action Team (CAT) have been accepted into Pony Express Apartments in Vacaville. Pony Express Senior Apartments are a sixty-unit affordable housing complex available to low and very low-income seniors and veterans, including fifteen units set aside for seniors experiencing homelessness.

These participants received services from SHELTER Solano case managers, eligibility specialists, employment specialists, and housing locators throughout their stay who assisted them in navigating the affordable housing application process.

The City’s Homeless Services Division commends these individuals on their success and thanks all parties involved.



September 7, 2023

**FY 2022-2023 Jail Taxi Program Overview**

In 2017, the City of Fairfield joined in partnership with the Solano County Sheriff’s Department to establish a Jail Taxi Program to provide taxi transportation services for homeless and county residents that are released from the Solano County Jail with no alternative transportation option. This service allows for individuals to return to their place of origin or home, preventing the possibility of becoming homeless in our community. In fiscal year 2022-2023, the program provided 729 trips total, and 628 of those trips were outside of Fairfield.

October 11, 2023

**Impacts of Coordinated and Consistent Outreach**

After previous declinations, a local elderly woman experiencing homelessness recently expressed interest in seeking emergency shelter. The Fairfield Police Community Action Team (CAT) in partnership with Solano County Behavioral Health Homeless Outreach Team conducts outreach on a monthly basis to initiate conversations with the homeless community about emergency shelter placement, housing, and various mental health services available. Building rapport is at the forefront of these interactions, and outreach is most successful when there is frequent and consistent follow-up with the individual, fostering a positive relationship. One’s willingness to take the next step and transition from the streets is not always immediate.

After the outreach team’s frequent and consistent follow-up with this local woman experiencing homelessness, she eventually accepted emergency shelter placement at Change And New Beginnings (CANB). The City’s Homeless Services Division commends the outreach team involved in this success, and we commend this woman for her desire to transition off of the streets.

November 30, 2023

**Overcoming barriers from homeless to housed**

In July of 2022, a Fairfield Police Community Action Team (CAT) officer referred a woman to Beck Avenue Navigation Center (BANC), formerly known as Shelter Solano. The participant immediately began their housing search but was quickly faced with the multiple barriers that are often present. She utilized a translator, as English is not her first language. She further initiated a meeting with the on-site eligibility specialist to obtain the documents required for housing. While experiencing health issues, the participant persisted in working with her case manager to secure stable housing. In November of 2023, the participant moved into supportive housing. This story reveals that transitioning into a life outside of homelessness is not always linear. We commend this participant for overcoming the barriers she faced throughout the process.