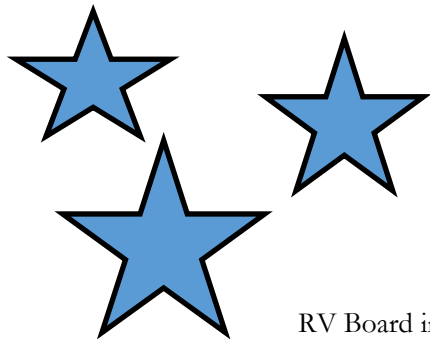




September 2019

Resiliency Village’s mission is to improve the quality of life for our unsheltered and otherwise traumatized citizens. We provide fundamental on-site services, creative art therapies, skill-building, and the model of a healthy lifestyle, supporting the opportunity for a self-sustaining future through housing, healing, and hope.

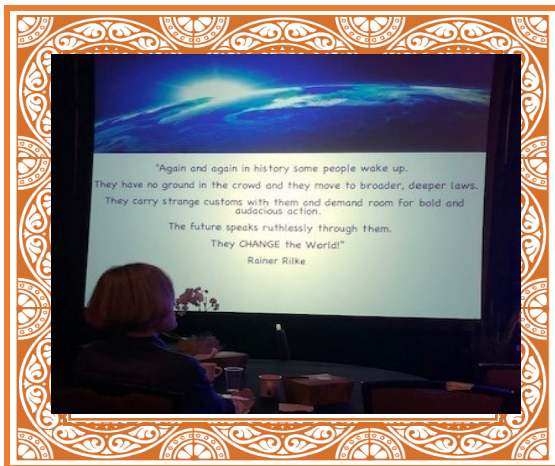


### What have we been up to?

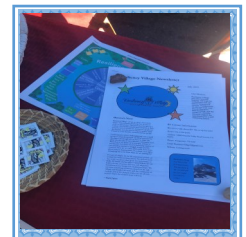
RV Board in action



Visionaries Summit, Sacramento, CA.



Attending workshops and talking up Resiliency Village!



Resiliency Village Board of Directors is busy planning two events. The first will be a Resiliency Village Community Social in December. This event will include a potluck dinner, presentation, and tour of our first tiny house.

Next up, our first annual “Raise the Roof for Resiliency Village” fundraiser. We had originally planned this fundraiser for October, but due to date conflicts, have moved it to spring of 2020. We will keep you posted as to a new date, time, and activities planned for this special night. Watch for details in our upcoming newsletters, follow us on Facebook, or check our website [www.resiliencyvillage.org](http://www.resiliencyvillage.org).



A Note from Brenda:

As I talk to people about Resiliency Village and listen closely to their fears about building a Village in our community, I am transported to Portland, Oregon and reminded of my encounter with a man who I will call Larry. Larry met my sister and I at Dignity Village, a 60 unit Village on 1 1/2 acres that was built by and is run by homeless people. Larry has lived there for nine years and was our tour guide.

As we walked and talked, Larry told us about himself, how he can be addicted to alcohol and drugs and how he was living in a camp when he had the opportunity to be part of Dignity Village. He told us that once he came to Dignity Village, he had to agree to no alcohol or drugs on the premises. At first it was hard, but over time, with security for himself and his “stuff” and being part of a community, he slowly learned that he had no need to drink or use drugs, and though it took time, he became involved in the governance of the community and the cottage industries that the Village residents developed, which over time restored his dignity. He was living in a 140 foot tiny house with his wife, with no electricity or running water and he was GRATEFUL for the abundance he had! He said he and his wife were downsizing because they had too much stuff. I was dumbfounded by his humility. He told us everyone in Dignity Village felt like he did: They were grateful to be in a safe place; grateful to be part of a community that looked after each other; and grateful to have work. He said, “There is no one here who wants to be homeless. Everyone here has their story, but we are all grateful for what we have.”

Larry and his wife had gotten the “lift up” that they needed to heal and were leaving Dignity Village to move into a park model in a trailer park that they had saved enough to buy.

This is what Resiliency Village is all about; giving people time to heal and renew so that they can re-enter and be a part of their community.



A Note from Mark:

### What Is Low Barrier Housing and Why Are We Proposing It?

You can look it up on the internet and find a lot of definitions and variations on what low-barrier housing means but I think they all come down to meeting people where they are. For a long time, shelter operators have insisted a person be clean and sober, and be able to pass a background check before being eligible for a bed.

High barrier shelters have been the norm with the thought it made everyone in the shelter safer and it would spur people to improve their lives. The thinking goes something like this - *If you really want to be out of the cold you'll straighten up and get it together, then we'll house you. People who can't or won't do that want to be homeless, there's no way to help them if they won't help themselves. They are choosing to be homeless and live that way.* I've heard all these sentiments and much worse about people who choose not to stay in a high barrier shelter.

I've come to understand that not wanting to or being able to abide by a long list of rules is not the same as wanting to live without shelter. I've also come to believe if we give people the safety of shelter they are much more likely to get well – physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and financially. I firmly believe if people are given shelter first and the services they need are available in close proximity to that shelter, they will avail themselves of those services and start to feel the sense of belonging we all crave. That will make our community safer and healthier.

This is not just a theory. Bergen County in New Jersey is the first county in the U.S. to eliminate chronic homelessness. They did it with a low-barrier approach. New Orleans and Salt Lake City have reduced homelessness by over 90% using a low-barrier model. Communities all across America are using this model with great success.

It's important to remember low-barrier doesn't mean there are no rules. It simply means individuals will be met with compassion for the conditions and challenges they face. Safety will always be paramount.

The Resiliency Village motto is Housing, Healing, Hope. We'll make the housing available to promote healing and restore hope. There are reasons people come to be without shelter and trauma is at the center of those reasons for a large majority of folks in that situation. The path to healing from trauma is a difficult one to walk. By removing barriers to shelter we are making the path to wellness easier to travel. We are restoring hope for a better future.

### A Note from Shelley:

In 1991, my healthy, vibrant first-born child was diagnosed with leukemia. Following his diagnosis, Micah endured hospital stay after hospital stay, chemotherapy, and radiation—the debilitating reality of childhood cancer. My family struggled, both emotionally, and financially, and in the end, my insurance refused to pay for the bone marrow transplant my son desperately needed.

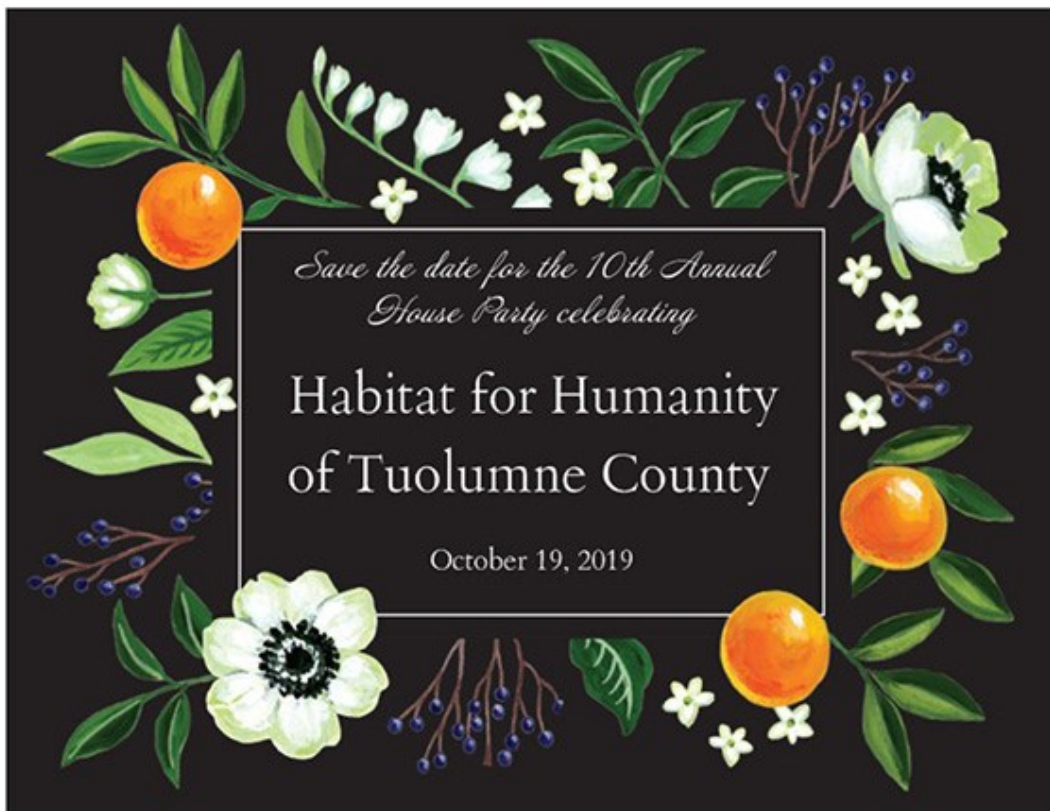
During this challenging time, Tuolumne County came to our aid. Friends organized fundraisers. Donations poured in. People registered on the National Bone Marrow Registry to become bone marrow donors, in hope of becoming a match for Micah. I'd never needed or accepted support like this before and knowing that so many people cared, was overwhelming. In fact, I would say that this outpouring of love helped us get through my son's death and beyond.

The point of sharing this story is that things can happen. Even a healthy, stable family can experience trauma, some life-changing event that shatters the world around you. Experiences vary, from child abuse to spousal abuse, PTSD, bankruptcy, illness, both emotional and physical—whatever the reason, without support, it can be difficult to pull yourself up “by the bootstraps” as they say, and thrive. We see this daily and hear stories of nightmarish instances of hardship resulting in injury to mind and body. These insights and experiences shared are why we, your Resiliency Village Board, are working so tirelessly to bring this project to fruition.

It is never easy to ask our community for donations, but this, in fact, is what will help Resiliency Village open our doors. Whether it's a financial donation, a handmade item, a piece of art, a gift basket, services, or whatever saleable item you provide and that we can auction off at our upcoming fundraiser, we are grateful. I've lived in the foothills for nearly fifty years—since there were rural routes rather than street addresses and a stop sign on Washington Street—no stoplights, anywhere! And I can honestly say that I've never been underwhelmed when fundraising for an event. Tuolumne County folks are generous and caring, whether it be for a terminally ill child, an adult in crisis, or a service organization providing help to so many in need, as is the case now with Resiliency Village. Without you, our community, we are a handful of friends with big dreams and grand aspirations. Together, we are Resiliency Village.

### Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser

On Saturday, October 19 at 5:00 pm, Habitat will hold their annual House Party celebrating 20 years in Tuolumne County. Please consider attending this worthwhile event. Location: Black Oak Casino Resort Hotel Four Winds Conference Room 19400 Tuolumne Road North





From the Resiliency Village Board of Directors:

The process of obtaining our 501 (c) 3 has been trying, to say the least, and to combat the “ills” of this process, we laid our skills on the line with an evening session of “poetry in the round.”

Serious poets, you have our permission to bypass this section of the newsletter. ;) Here we go:

### 501(c) 3 Blues

by Brenda Chapman, Mark Dyken, Shelley Muniz, Erin O’Hare, Robert Gelman, and Perry Trumball

A year has passed since we first met  
To create a community, we went into debt.  
We thought we could do it in a very short time  
But found that our thinking was way out of line.

Missions, and visions, and business plans galore  
We felt like a vessel washing ashore  
Or up the creek without an oar.

But low and behold when resiliency was needed  
We dug even deeper and remembered, persistence must be heeded!  
The garden was planted, the seedlings were sturdy,  
but that darn 501 (c) 3 was still a worry.

Fear not my friends for it won’t be long  
And when you look back your heart shall let loose in song  
For what seemed like forever was only a moment  
A cause this noble shall have no opponent.

A mistake was made and we had to own it.  
Change the course and make it right  
If a candle goes out we have to relight  
Yoda said "Do. Or do not. There is no try."  
No time to lay down, pout or cry.

So onward we go, and we will score  
Our 501 (c) 3 with a mighty roar.  
The force is with us, no need for woes  
RV will triumph and press for the encore!

**NO APPLAUSE NECESSARY!**

Thank you for your patience

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Email: [Info@ResiliencyVillage.org](mailto:Info@ResiliencyVillage.org)

Website: [www.ResiliencyVillage.org](http://www.ResiliencyVillage.org)