



## July 2019 Newsletter

### Our Mission:

Resiliency Village provides housing, healing, and hope for unsheltered and otherwise traumatized citizens. Fundamental on-site services, creative art therapies, skill-building, and the model of a healthy lifestyle support the opportunity for a self-sustaining future.

### Director's Note:

#### If not us, who? If not now, when?

I was recently asked why I've chosen to work on this project. The questioner brought up a number of potential setbacks and obstacles to delivering the level of service we envision to people on the margins, not the least of which is public indifference or even hostility toward homeless people.

I understand it will be challenging and even a small group of outspoken people can derail a project by shouting loud enough but we have to make this effort for the sake of our collective community soul. What does it say about us as a people, culture or community if we leave an ever increasing number of our members behind to struggle in pain and discomfort? How do we enjoy all the gifts we've been given without sharing them? If so many of us agree something has to be done what are we waiting for?

For me it's simple. In my life experience, people are at their best when serving others. I've seen so many rise to the occasion when given the opportunity to make the world a better place. I truly believe we can build a model of service that not only addresses homelessness but brings true healing

and hope. We can start something transformational for the individuals and families we serve and the community as a whole, and in the process realize we are all connected. That's the world I want to live in.

*~Mark Dyken*



Resiliency Villagers! This is our first tiny house. The structure is 10 x 20 and will be our model for more to come!





### **A Note From Shelley:**

In 1989, my son's class took a field trip to Sacramento. We toured the State Indian Museum. We walked through the corridors of the State Capitol. And we had lunch in the Capitol Park near the rose garden. A few yards away from where we picnicked, a homeless man slept on a bench. The children were fascinated; parents, leery. As the man awoke, he stood and stretched, watching the children as they watched him. His eyes were rimmed by dark circles; he wore a scruffy beard and tattered clothing.

My son, Nick, had his sandwich in his hand but didn't take a bite. He watched as the man walked to a nearby garbage can and peered inside. Nick looked at me and looked at the man and back at me. I nodded, "Yes." Nick then walked to the homeless man and handed him his sandwich and a bag of chips. He smiled, and the man smiled back. Soon, other children did the same, offering a cookie, an apple, another sandwich, and a carton of milk. Every one of them returned to their parent with a broad grin on their faces, as they settled in for the remainder of their break time.

The homeless man? He thanked each child, and in turn, his voice grew scratchier, his eyes filling with tears. "I won't forget you," he said, shouting across the lawn at this class of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

As a mother, I couldn't have been more proud. Where parents sat hesitantly, children responded. They recognized a need and reacted to what they saw,

with empathy and kindness rather than prejudice and fear. The moment was simplistically beautiful, humbling, and one I've never forgotten. As we visit our unsheltered neighbors in their local encampments, we see the results of unknown traumas. These folks are, as was the man in Sacramento so long ago, hungry, tired, and most often, alone in their pain. As Resiliency Village plans its trauma-healing center, we enter each phase thinking of children we've known, the emotionally healthy, and emotionally battered. Sometimes we need to look back, to move forward. Sometimes there is more to a story than what we initially see. Sometimes through the eyes of a child, we find a renewed sense of purpose and a glimpse of humanity at its best. Peace.



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### **A Note From Brenda:**

As our first tiny house was delivered, we were bubbling with excitement. We were giddy because we knew this is the beginning of the realization of our dream to provide shelter for those in our community who are unsheltered and are already worried about facing another winter outside. We are so grateful to our anonymous donor who shares in our dream. We also know that housing is the first step to bringing dignity back into the lives of those who have had theirs taken away and yet, we are ever mindful that healing has to be at the center of all we do, because it is healing that brings with it, hope. Resiliency Village = *Housing, Healing, Hope.*



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### **Get Involved!**

If you are interested in investing in our Resiliency Village Project, please contact us directly at the number below, or on our website:

[ResiliencyVillage.org](http://ResiliencyVillage.org). You can also send a check direct to Resiliency Village P.O. Box 523 Soulsbyville CA 95372.  
(209) 396-5554

Resiliency Village Board of Directors:

- [Dr. Brenda Chapman](#)
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