



June 2020

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.



Chairman Lloyd Mathiesen and the Chicken Ranch Tribal Council present the Board of Directors of Resiliency Village a check for \$150,000.00

June has been a busy month at Resiliency Village at Peaceful Valley. As you can see in the above picture, we are fortunate to have formed sponsorship with the Chicken Ranch Band of the We-Wuk. We are honored by their generosity and thrilled with the prospect of building our village together as family.

The Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California is a federally recognized Indian tribe located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Tuolumne County, California. Although the ancestors of the current Tribal members have occupied lands in the area since long before the arrival of Europeans in North America, the Tribe's original reservations, as established on October 24, 1908, consisted of roughly 40 acres below the town of Jamestown.

In 1958, the U.S. Congress passed the California Rancheria Act which terminated the federally recognized status of 41 rancherias within the state, including that of Chicken Ranch Rancheria. The goal of this act was to eliminate the many small reservations and promote assimilation into the surrounding community. The act was

officially enforced against Chicken Ranch Rancheria in 1961 when their tribal status was terminated. At that time, the trust status of rancheria lands was ended, and the lands were distributed to adult residents.

Prior to termination, most Tribal Members lived in substandard housing with little or no infrastructure. Despite requirements of the Rancheria Act for the Department of the Interior to provide these facilities, they did not do so. As soon as the trust status of the Rancheria land was terminated, Tribal Member homes became subject to county planning, zoning, and building laws. Subsequently, county officials issued citations to Tribal Members whose homes and parcels failed to meet required standards. As a result, many Tribal Members were prohibited from living in their homes, and few had enough money to bring their homes into compliance. Most were forced to sell their property, essentially eliminating Tribal ownership of most of the original Rancheria by the late 1960s.

In 1979, 17 rancherias united to file a class action suit to restore their reservation status, and in 1983, the plaintiffs prevailed. The 17 victorious rancherias include Chicken Ranch Rancheria. In 1985, Chicken Ranch Rancheria formally regained their federally recognized status. Unfortunately, in the 24 years between termination and re-establishment of the Tribe, only one Tribal member, Inez Mathiesen, had her remaining 3-acre parcel—roughly 7% of the original reservation—taken back into trust.

The Rancheria Act is primarily responsible for a tremendous loss of much of the Tribe's culture, religion, ceremonies, language, and lands. Thanks to the leadership of Chairman Lloyd Mathiesen, Vice-Chairman, Raymond Mathiesen, and other members of the Tribal Board, there is renewed hope for restoring these irreplaceable cultural assets. Currently, Tribal members are actively working toward regaining vital attributes of their culture, history, and language.

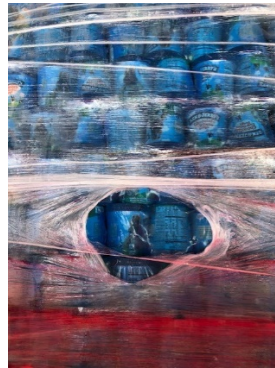
Resiliency Village Executive Director and The Board of Directors of Resiliency Village at Peaceful Valley support and respect these Tribal efforts. We value the Tribe's sponsorship and commitment to community service. Chicken Ranch Band of Me-Wuk recognizes the importance of helping our marginalized citizens, not only through heart commitment but through generational trauma experience. Again, we thank the Chicken Ranch Tribal Council, and the Mathiesen family for all they do to honor their ancestors and ancestral land.



Chicken Ranch Tribal Office, June 17, 2020—photo credit, Damian Riley



Resiliency Village is still working with the Jamestown Family Resource Center to food those who need a little help. We received a huge truck filled with food, including Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream this past month and held a “pop-up” food bank on RV property.



Big things are happening. Over the past months, Resiliency Village at Peaceful Valley has worked with Tuolumne County Homeless Coordinator/Housing Advocate, Kellae Brown, and Old Oak Ranch through Project Room Key and has housed over forty immune-compromised clients during the COVID crisis. It has been a joy seeing their smiling faces, housed, showered, well-fed, and happy.

State funding for Project Room Key ends on July 1, and we do not want these people to return to the camps. Therefore, we are fast-tracking our plans. Though our goal is to purchase the property at 14888 Peaceful Valley Rd, we are now renting two full buildings on this site: the old church (what we call our performing arts center) and another that will be our emergency shelter.

Plans to retrofit the emergency shelter are underway. Most of you expressed interest in donating talent, time, and/or professional skills to Resiliency Village. Please contact us immediately to reaffirm your commitment. Please check our website: resiliencyvillage.org to sign up, email secretary@resiliencyvillage.org, or if you have questions, please call (209) 396-5554.

Here is a list of needed services and supplies:

SERVICES FOR CLIENTS	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Substance Abuse/Recovery Services	Room dividers
Medical/Dental/Vision	Security Cameras
Mental Health	Hot Water Heater (large capacity)
Trauma Healing	Fencing/Fence builder
Fitness/Nutrition/Wellness/Home Economics	Commercial Oven
Mindfulness/Meditation	Refrigerator (large capacity)
Relationship Training	Freezer
Music/Art/Drama/Writing Therapies	Washers and Dryers

Entertainment/Movies/Arts & Crafts	Beds and bedding
Literacy/Education/Tutoring	Kitchen supplies
Financial Literacy/Tenant-Landlord Relations	
Computer Training	
Construction/Auto/Bicycle Repair	
Animal Care	
Gardening	
Nonviolent Communication Skills	
Parenting Classes	

Resiliency Village at Peaceful Valley has two significant changes to announce. First, we congratulate and welcome our new Executive Director, Mark Dyken. Mark is retiring from his years of service at Jamestown Family Resource Center at the end of June and moving into the Directorship at Resiliency Village. The Board also welcomes our newest Board member, Perry Trumbull. Though both men have been involved from the start, we appreciate their new roles within our organization and look forward to great things to come.

A Word from Mark:

The world is changing rapidly, in many ways, all at once. The challenge for many of us is how to find our place in a new world, even as we resist the loss of what's familiar. We know we must adapt or be left behind, but sometimes we can't even keep up with the pace of new information and a rapidly altered reality. I'm convinced none of us will be the same as we emerge from this convergence of circumstances, and neither will the world we live in.

The great Indian writer, Arundhati Roy says throughout human history pandemics have been portals – we emerge on the other side in a new place. This is an opportunity to build the world we really want to live in. Our resolve will be tested, our will to serve a greater good will be challenged by an instinct for individual survival. When we see it clearly, I believe we will understand we must move forward as one.

Around the world, people are crying out for justice and equitable distribution of what we collectively share, the riches of our world. Resiliency Village is part of the big picture of a better way to live. I'm excited to take the role of Executive Director as we move toward housing, healing, and hope for all in our community and beyond. I'll do my best to move our collective vision into a working reality. We will stand for love and justice in our service. We will build an inclusive community in a safe and sustainable environment as we emerge from the challenges of this moment, together.

A Word from Shelley:

Some days it feels like we're spreadeagle on a turntable, spinning round and round and getting nowhere. In the 1960s and 1970s, we protested the War in Vietnam. The Watt's Riot, and People's Park in Berkeley happened (Bloody Thursday). Four Kent State University students were killed, and nine were injured on May 4, 1970, when members of the Ohio National Guard opened fire on a crowd gathered to protest the War. We marched and cried when Martin Luther King was assassinated, cried, and marched when Bobby Kennedy was shot and killed. We fought to keep Redwoods alive and whales from being hunted and harp seals from being killed. We

argued over the death penalty, and gay rights, women's rights, and the use of fossil fuels. There was the Indian occupation of Alcatraz and Wounded Knee: treatment of the original inhabitants of these lands was, and still is, an open wound in this Country's moral and historical register. Same with African Americans. The results of three hundred plus years of slavery and racism burned scars into the DNA of our Black brothers and sisters.

Fast forward fifty years. And now? What now? Same protests, same marches, rallies, signs, and tears. However, here's the good news. People are communicating. Along with the strife, and pain, and confusion that comes with all that has happened, there is hope. Throughout our Country, a new paradigm of commitment to change is building among activists and the oppressed. People are working together. And we are listening to one another.

Proof of this shows in so many things, but most noticeable for the Resiliency Village Board of Directors, cooperative efforts between our County officials, departments, agencies, and community commitment to move this project on to the next level. We are grateful for every person who has listened, volunteered, offered suggestions, and become a part of our team.

Hope looms large.

In love and peace.