

Grace at Work October 2023

Crossroads Senior Housing Opens in Vacaville

LSS is pleased to announce that we recently opened our newest residential housing program – Crossroads in Vacaville, Solano County. Crossroads is part of the newly constructed Pony Express Senior Apartments, which provides 59 affordable one-bedroom apartments for low-income seniors and veterans, 15 of which have been designated for seniors exiting homelessness.

The building is owned and managed by PEP Housing, a nonprofit organization "dedicated to providing seniors with limited income access to affordable quality housing with supportive services and advocacy."

The GreenPoint certified residence includes a photovoltaic system (solar panels), fully accessible community room with full kitchen, computer room, exercise room, raised community garden beds and a large dog run.





According to the most recent point-in-time count in Solano County, 22% of the 1,179 people experiencing homelessness in the county were age 55 or older. Studies show that most individuals experiencing homelessness still live in the communities where they lived before they lost their housing. For mostly financial reasons, they could no longer afford to live where they were living. More devastatingly, a person ages 5-7 years each year of homelessness. Health issues are compounded, because individuals cannot manage their healthcare, access their benefits or acquire necessary medicine.

"Housing is the beginning of care and stability," says LSS Deputy Director Kate Hutchinson. "Crossroads is the beginning for these seniors."

"We are thrilled to expand our services in Solano County with Connections," adds LSS CEO Carol Roberts, PhD.

LSS activity in Solano County dates to 2019, when LSS began managing STOP Plus, a housing program for adults with mental illness. In 2022, we expanded our programming with the new CalAIM initiative for individuals in distress and/or in need of housing with the still developing CalAIM program, a partnership between LSS, MediCAL and Partnership HealthPlan.



"We are also excited about our new partnership with PEP Housing," says Roberts, "and look forward to developing new housing with them for the most vulnerable in our region."



At the groundbreaking of Pony Express Senior Apartments, State Treasurer Fiona Ma stated, "I understand that as we age, we transition, and steps aren't that easy sometimes. Building housing that accommodates older Americans as they are in place is important."

We especially thank Ronda Wolf Loehr and the staff of Starbucks at Nut Tree for conducting their own move-in supplies drive for the residents.

Crossroads is one of several new residential

programs LSS is developing to provide homes for those who are unhoused. Please attend one of our upcoming Zoom lunchtime meetings to learn more.

Holiday Gift Drive has Arrived!



Holiday Gift Drive

Make A Difference for a family's holiday season





Please join us in providing gifts this holiday season to children, youth and adults in our residential programs. We are looking for toys for children, gifts for teenagers, and household items for adults (\$25 value). You can purchase these gifts from our <u>Amazon</u> and <u>Target</u> Wish Lists or your own source and send them to LSS directly. Don't have time to shop? Donate cash or gift cards, and we'll do the shopping for you! Additionally, we can always use knitted scarves and hats and handmade quilts.

Want a fun group project for your parish, philanthropic organization or Employee Resource Group? We're also looking for holiday event hosts for our residential programs.

Questions? Email us at <u>development@lssnorcal.org</u>.

Coming Soon: Lunchtime Zoom with CEO Carol Roberts!



Our Mission

To promote stability and honor the dignity of those we serve by providing supportive housing services that lead to self-sufficiency.

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