



COMMUNITY IMPACT 2024

PREVENTION IS THE KEY TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS

We Care's comprehensive safety net of services helped rent-burdened, low-income families overcome crises that would otherwise cause them to lose their homes. This included vulnerable individuals, families, children, senior citizens, active military personnel and veterans throughout Orange County.

- Provided **CASE MANAGEMENT** for 60 families to ensure they had access to the supportive services needed to keep their homes while in a financial crisis and preparing to return to self-sufficiency.
- Provided \$126,990 of one-time **RENT ASSISTANCE** to prevent 56 vulnerable families from losing their homes.
- Provided \$1000 of **UTILITY ASSISTANCE** to keep utilities on for four struggling families.
- Sourced, stored, and distributed \$60,000 of **NUTRITIOUS FOOD** at our Community Pantry to provide 37,440 meals to 780 hungry families. Increased the fresh protein, fruits and vegetables provided to each client.
- Provided 75 local families with **HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS and GIFTS**.
- **REDUCED FOOD WASTE** by partnering with local stores and organizations to accept and distribute "expiring-soon" food as well as fresh-picked fruit from local residents.
- Provided gifts and food for 300 families attending events for **MILITARY FAMILIES**.
- Collaborated with local agencies to provide hot meals, holiday gifts, and monthly groceries and parenting education for 200 at-risk families with **YOUNG CHILDREN**.
- Established **JOB TRAINING PROGRAM** for 12 young adults with special needs to develop skills needed to become more financially independent.
- Established **YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM** for youth to volunteer, develop awareness of community needs, and work together to make a positive difference for We Care clients.
- Established in-house **COUNSELING SERVICES** to help clients navigate their crises. This is implemented in partnership with **LOCAL UNIVERSITIES** with internship programs.

Preventive measures not only foster community stability and individual well-being, they also lead to significant public savings. Research from the University of Notre Dame estimates that **for every \$1 invested in financial assistance for homeless prevention, communities receive \$2.47 in benefits.**

In 2025, We Care will continue to increase agency capacity to prevent homelessness. Strategies include:

- Offering **FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASSES** to help clients with long-term financial stability.
- Converting our food pantry to a **CLIENT CHOICE** experience so clients can select the items they want.
- Strengthening relationships to **BUILD PARTNERSHIPS and DEVELOP RESOURCES** to prevent homelessness.

Our Mission: We Care prevents homelessness by helping people in crisis obtain the resources and services they need to remain housed and develop a plan to return to self-sufficiency.

Our Values: COMPASSION INTEGRITY RESPECT COMMITMENT DIGNITY

3788 Cerritos Avenue Los Alamitos CA 90720 562-598-9790 501(c)(3) Tax ID#33-0487729 wecareorangecounty.org



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DEMOGRAPHICS

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 43% Caucasian | Veterans 2% | Age 25-34 14% |
| 29% Multi-racial | | Age 35-44 20% |
| 12% Hispanic | Female 84% | Age 45-54 24% |
| 12% African-American | Male 16% | Age 55-61 22% |
| 4% Asian | | Age 62+ 20% |

MAJORITY OF CLIENTS RESIDED IN

- Cypress
- Huntington Beach
- Los Alamitos
- Seal Beach
- Stanton

ADDITIONAL CITIES SERVED INCLUDED

- Dana Point
- Fountain Valley
- Fullerton
- Irvine
- Newport Beach
- Orange
- Westminster

REFERRALS WERE PROVIDED FOR CALLERS FROM

- Every city in Orange County
- Long Beach
- Lakewood
- Cerritos

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING (Unaudited)

EXPENSES \$576,000

- PROGRAM SERVICES \$447,000 78%
- GENERAL and ADMIN \$68,000 12%
- FUNDRAISING \$61,000 11%

INCOME \$486,000

- UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS \$119,000
- INKIND DONATIONS \$180,000
- GRANTS \$61,000
- EVENTS \$126,000

Note that our one-time deficit budget was planned and funded with savings due to the passing of our long-term Executive Director at the end of 2023 and the time needed to recruit and onboard new leadership.

WORDS FROM OUR CLIENTS

“You were the only agency that called us back with help. The one month of rent kept me and my family from becoming homeless while I was waiting for my new job to start. We are very grateful.”

“My hours were cut, my wife is chronically ill, my son was just diagnosed with autism and my Mom is now in hospice. We’ve spent all of our savings trying to hold on until I can find a new job. My new job starts next month and we will get through this because you paid our rent when we couldn’t.”

““I can’t believe I am now in the position of asking for help in my seventies. My husband passed away last year and I can’t afford groceries after I pay rent. Thank you for treating me with such kindness.”

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