

For Immediate Release

Contact: Karl Keller, 805.750.5275 or karlbkeller@gmail.com.

One City, One Weekend, One Fund

From 1:00 - 3:00 PM Monday February 16, you are invited to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund, in person at My Florist Bakery, 76 South Oak Street, Ventura, or mail your pledge or check payable to "Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund (UWVC/VHPF)" to Rev. Jan Christian, Unitarian Church, 5654 Ralston Street, Ventura CA 93003.

Temporary set-backs have big consequences! A broken arm forces a family to choose between their child's health and their rent. A pickpocket takes the rent money. A father's suddenly disabled car means he can't get to work.

These disasters happen every day in our City of Ventura.

Twenty percent, or 20,000 of your neighbors are "at-risk" daily for becoming homeless because they earn less than \$25,000 per year.

The large majority of our homeless families are invisible. They are simply trying to get a job to get back into an affordable apartment after a layoff, illness, or some other one-time emergency.

To date the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund has helped more than 100 of your Ventura neighbors, in more than 40 households, stay in their homes in spite of their one-time emergency.

All citizens, businesses, clubs and churches in Ventura are asked to donate to the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund during the "One City,

One Weekend, One Fund", February 14 (Valentine's Day) thru 16 (Presidents' Day).

As a contributor, your name can be listed on the Web at www.onecityventura.org.

It costs much less to prevent homelessness than to fix it once it happens. Eviction makes it hard and expensive to re-rent. And there is no way to assess the human cost of losing a family's home!

"One City, One Weekend, One Fund" raises awareness of these three faces of homelessness -- the huge number at risk, the majority who are temporarily homeless, and the few who are permanently homeless.

"One City, One Weekend, One Fund" also demonstrates the power of working together as One City. Whatever our faiths or paths or circumstances, we need one another and others need us.

This is a joint project of the "Faith Communities" and "Homeless Prevention" Subcommittees of the Ventura Social Services Task Force, "Dedicated to ending homelessness in the City of Ventura" by implementing the Recommendations of the "10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness for Ventura (County)" at www.vchhc.org.

Together we can do what none of us can do alone!

For more information, please call one of the co-chairs, Cindy Cantle, 805.654.2703, or Rev. Jan Christian, 805.644.3898.

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