



District Grant Report

Rotary Club: Irvine

Project Title: Transition from Homelessness

Progress Report Final Report

1. Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries?

Orange County's housing market created a huge gap between rental costs and median family income. Homelessness in OC due to job loss, divorce, abuse or medical crisis created a large number of individuals and families with children that have to face this temporary crisis. Mercy House provides housing and support services to transition these individuals into dignified housing to end homelessness.

Our project was originally envisioned to provide a minimum 15 families/individuals with the essential items needed to transition from homelessness into their first home provided by Mercy House. Although we reduced the number of filled baskets to 12 we were able to expand the project to include 100 fleece blankets to be distributed to the homeless population served by Mercy House.

We were notified by Mercy House of the need of warm blankets in addition to the essential items for a new home. John Gronnel, founder of YANA Cancer Comfort making blankets for cancer patients informed us that due to COVID-19 YANA was limited/restricted in providing finished blankets to cancer patient, however, John Gronnel had mentioned his desire to provide blankets for the underserved, providing Rotary with the opportunity to purchase the fleece materials for 100 no-sew blankets for this project for the homeless served by Mercy House. Rotarians arranged the purchase, pickup of the materials and the assembly (tying) of the fleece materials into 100 finished blankets. On Saturday November 13, 2021 we gathered at San Leandro Park, Irvine for this hands-on community project benefiting 100 individuals living at a Mercy House shelter.

On Saturday, April 9, 2022 at San Leandro Park, Irvine we executed our special projects for the homeless of Orange County We created Welcome Home Baskets for Mercy House clients again. We assembled 12 baskets filled to the brim with towels, silverware, plates, glasses, bowls, pots and pans, floor mats, door mats, cutting boards, cleaning supplies, hygiene kits, and much more! Each client also received a handcrafted welcome home card from our skilled craft group. We had a great number of Rotarians and friends come out to organize the items and fill up the baskets with all the goodies. Then they were wrapped up to be delivered to Mercy House. The filled baskets will be given to the individuals and families who have successfully completed Mercy House's program.

2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?

Blanket project: 13 volunteers which included 8 Rotarians, 6 non-Rotarians

Welcome Baskets: 17 volunteers which included 7 Rotarians, 5 UCI Rotaractors, 5 non-Rotarians

3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples.

For the blankets, we contacted John Gronnel at YANA Cancer Comfort for the purchase of the materials, arranged for the pickup/delivery of the materials to the assembly point. Rotarians, family, friends and members of the community spent the morning, tying the fleece materials into finished blankets. The unfinished blankets were taken by Rotarians, family and friends to finish at home. Finished blankets were collected and the 100 completed blankets delivered by Rotarians to Mercy House, Santa Ana, CA.

For the baskets, Rotarians planned, purchased the items, delivered items to the assembly point. Rotarians, family, friends and a Mercy House representative filled laundry baskets with the purchased items, wrote notes to the recipients congratulating on their new home.

4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?

112 individuals & families. The finished blankets will be distributed by Mercy House and its affiliates shelters to 100 individuals who are being served by these shelters; and, the filled baskets will be given to 12 families completing Mercy House's program who are transitioning into apartments managed by Mercy House.

5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?

Through our social media (ie: Facebook) this project brought awareness of the homeless population in Orange County and the mission of organizations like Mercy House to support, educate and provide stable housing. Our blanket project provided for our community a project that they could participate in to provide comfort to the under served by making warm blankets to comfort these individuals. The basket project provided essential and assist families transitioning from homelessness to their own apartment. .

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?

Mercy House provides dignified housing and comprehensive supportive services to a wide variety of homeless subpopulations including, but not limited to, adult men and women, families, mothers and their children, veterans, chronically homeless individuals, persons living with HIV/AIDS, individuals overcoming substance addictions, and those who are both physically and/or mentally disabled.

Assisting their residents in the areas of economic, emotional, and spiritual well-being to enhance self-esteem as well as a sense of pride. Mercy House is grounded in the belief that every person is born with inherent dignity and that homelessness is an affront to that dignity

Financial Report – Be sure that Income equals Expenditures!

| 7. Income | Amount |
|--|----------------|
| 1. District Grant funds approved by the District | 1000.00 |
| 2. Club contribution | 1519.80 |
| 3. Other funding (specify) | |
| Total Project Income | 2519.80 |

8. Expenditures - please be specific and add lines as needed - receipts must be attached

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. YANA Cancer Comfort: material for 100 no-sew blankets | 900.00 |
| 2. IKEA: flatware, knife set, glasses, plates, bowls, pots, towels, kitchen utensils for 12 | 1444.02 |
| 3. Amazon: 12 laundry baskets | 175.78 |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |
| 6. | |
| Total Project Expenditures | 2519.80 |

9. By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all of the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures have been provided to the district. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights in the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or at any time in the future, throughout the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or later developed. This includes the right to modify the photograph(s) as necessary in RI's sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of RI and TRF.

Certifying Signature Audrey T Ishibashi Date: 05/12/2022

Print name, Rotary title, and club Audrey T Ishibashi, Community Service Chair 2021-2022 Rotary Club of Irvine