



SACRAMENTO  
**LOAVES & FISHES**  
*Homeless Survival Services Since 1983*

# DIRECT ACTION ACTIVITY GUIDE

COVID-19 EDITION



JANUARY 2021

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO SACRAMENTO  
COUNTY'S INACTION FOR FAMILIES  
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



**maryhouse**  
A PROGRAM OF LOAVES & FISHES

# DIRECT ACTION INSTRUCTIONS

COVID-19 COMPLICATES DIRECT ACTION SO THIS TIME AROUND WE ARE ASKING YOU TO ACT IN YOUR CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE, YOUR HOME/FAMILY OR WITH THE PEOPLE YOU CHOOSE TO SPEND TIME WITH DURING THE PANDEMIC.

---

## WHY ARE WE PARTICIPATING IN A DIRECT ACTION?

There is still a family shelter shortage, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors needs to hear from you!

## HOW DO I HELP?

Complete the Activity Guide by January 31st, the sooner the better! Inside you will find an activity guide designed for all age groups, just flip to the page that best suits you. We give you some information

- to better understand homelessness in Sacramento (pages 2-4),
- a family cover letter (page 5),
- coloring pages for children (pages 6-7),
- writing prompts for kids (page 8) and
- form letters for teens and adults (page 9-10), &
- reading recommendations to help you continue the conversation (page 12).

## WHAT DO I DO WHEN I'VE COMPLETED THE ACTIVITIES?

Once you've completed the activities, put your pages in an envelope and mail it off to your County Supervisor; use page 11 for mailing info. We hope to pack mailboxes with your pleas to change the family shelter system for the better.

Thank you & we appreciate you,  
*Sacramento Loaves & Fishes*



# HOMELESSNESS IN SACRAMENTO: A SNAPSHOT

Homelessness is a complex issue, that meets the intersections of race, socio economics, health, and so much more. The reality is, homelessness is about people living without the basic human right of housing.

We understand and respect that you will have various degrees of comfort when it comes to confronting this issue in your homes and circles but we encourage you to start your conversations with some facts provided by public meetings & the 2019 Point in Time Count (PIT).

The PIT is mandated for communities receiving federal funding & organized by Sacramento Steps Forward, the agency responsible for managing federal funding for Sacramento County:



- According to the December 16, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting, there are 40 spots for families in the current shelter system.
- In 2019, the Point in Time Count indicated that 5,570 people experience homelessness on a given night in Sacramento
- 20% (1,114) of the population experiencing homelessness are families with children. 33% (368) of those were living in vehicles.
- 10,000 - 11,000 people experience homelessness annually in Sacramento.



# HOW DOES A FAMILY ACCESS SHELTER?

In order to access one of the **40 spots** available for the county, families are required to do the following:

- Have a **working and charged mobile phone with internet access** or a laptop/tablet.
- Navigate to the following web address:  
[www.saccounty.net/services/Pages/Sacramento-County-Emergency-Family-Shelter-Reservation-List.aspx](http://www.saccounty.net/services/Pages/Sacramento-County-Emergency-Family-Shelter-Reservation-List.aspx)
- If the family meets the requirement below, which is only on the welcome screen, they may sign up and **wait for a phone call to get shelter**.

"To be eligible for services at one of our emergency family shelters, **your family must include at least one legal parent/guardian** of children under the age of 18 or 19 and enrolled in high school. If your family is **currently homeless and living in a car, tent, or somewhere unsafe**, please continue to complete this registration. If you are currently housed but need support, please call 2-1-1 and ask to speak with someone about diversion assistance"

- **Families are not given a waitlist number**. When a spot is available they receive a phone call alerting them, this requires a charged phone & the same number used to sign up.
- Many families **wait weeks or months** for shelter; some are **never contacted at all**.



# ABOUT LOAVES & FISHES

## MISSION STATEMENT

**In an environment of welcome, hospitality, safety, and cleanliness we seek to provide an oasis for homeless men, women, and children seeking survival services.**

In the spirit of hospitality and radical love, Loaves & Fishes is an oasis for guests seeking respite and a space of belonging. To ensure that our guests are served without judgement or barrier, we do not accept government funds. Our programs are 100% run by the generosity of individual supporters, local businesses, and community foundations. We operate on a 4.5 acre campus in the River District, with 16 programs serving people and pets experiencing homelessness.

*Pictured below: Our founders, Chris & Dan Delany (left to right). Dan passed away in 2015 at the age of 80. Chris still comes in nearly every day to volunteer her time in the Dining Room.*



## **FAMILY PROGRAMS**

### MUSTARD SEED

An emergency school providing a Montessori style quality education for children ages 3 to 15 in a safe, structured and nurturing environment, while their families seek stable and permanent living situations. Mustard Seed School is a place for students to reconnect with positive influences, and most importantly, experience a true sense of belonging.

### MARYHOUSE

A day time, no barrier, drop-in center for women and families experiencing homelessness. The program provides a number of services focused on survival and dignity; Maryhouse serves thousands of vulnerable people every year.

A fierce team of compassionate women endeavor to combat systemic poverty and marginalization by offering a safe space where guests receive support, celebrate triumphs and feel worthy.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEAR SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_,

WE ARE THE \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY, WRITING  
TO GIVE OUR FULL SUPPORT TO THE LOAVES & FISHES CALL TO ACTION  
TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SHELTER TO ALL FAMILIES EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS.

WE SPENT TIME TOGETHER TALKING ABOUT THE CRISIS OF HOMELESS  
AND FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO SHELTER FAMILIES NOW BECAUSE:

YOU'LL FIND LETTERS FROM EACH OF US ENCLOSED. THANK YOU FOR  
TAKING THE TIME TO READ THEM.

HAPPY NEW YEAR,



SACRAMENTO  
**LOAVES & FISHES**

*Homeless Survival Services Since 1983*

2021 DIRECT ACTION  
FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

FAMILIES NEED  
SHELTER!



CARS ARE NOT

HOMES

SHELTER FAMILIES NOW!





# KIDS WRITING PROMPT

On the back of this page, or on paper of your own, write a sentence or two answering the questions below.

**What is your favorite part of your house or your favorite activity to do at home?**

**Do you think every family should have the chance to live in a home just like you? Why?**

Be sure to sign your name.

Feel free to draw or make your letter colorful!

## ADDITIONAL PROMPTS OR QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

What do you think needs to happen for families to get into housing?

Why do you support this call to action?



# TEEN & ADULT SAMPLE LETTER

Here are some tips and prompts to help you write a letter to your County Supervisor.  
**Feel free to use this guide or write from the heart, it's up to you! If you prefer to fill in the blanks, turn the page for a blank form letter.**

The goal is to let your County Supervisor know that you are aware of the shelter shortage, you want them to work harder to make sure families get shelter immediately and you support the Loaves & Fishes Call to Action.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I live in your district and am very concerned about the family shelter shortage.

[In this section you can use some of the following prompts to help complete the letter:

- Have you seen people or families experiencing homelessness in your neighborhood; how does it make you feel that they may be waiting for shelter because there is not enough available in our community?
- Why do you support the call to provide immediate and adequate shelter for families?
- How would you feel if you needed to find shelter but had to wait weeks and months to get it?
- If you were sitting face to face with your County Supervisor and they asked you why they should provide shelter now, what would you say?

I urge you to act quickly, the nights are cold, lives are at risk and we need your compassionate leadership now! Help restore the dignity to families that they deserve.

Happy New Year,

[Signature & Printed Name]



SACRAMENTO  
**LOAVES & FISHES**  
*Homeless Survival Services Since 1983*



SACRAMENTO  
**LOAVES & FISHES**

*Homeless Survival Services Since 1983*

2021 DIRECT ACTION  
FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I live in your district and am very concerned about the family shelter shortage.

I urge you to act quickly, the nights are cold, lives are at risk and we need your compassionate leadership now! Help restore the dignity to families that they deserve.

Happy New Year,



# WHERE TO MAIL YOUR PACKET

If you do not know who your County Supervisor is, go to  
[saccounty.net/SupervisorLookup/Pages/default.aspx](http://saccounty.net/SupervisorLookup/Pages/default.aspx).

If you know your County Supervisor or County District,  
mail your packet to the following address:

700 H Street, Suite 2450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

District 1  
Phil Serna, Chair

District 2  
Patrick Kennedy

District 3  
Susan Peters

District 4  
Sue Frost, Vice Chair

District 5  
Don Nottoli



SACRAMENTO  
**LOAVES & FISHES**  
*Homeless Survival Services Since 1983*

# CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION WITH THESE READING RECOMMENDATIONS

## **Picture Books**

Last Stop on Market Street (2015)  
De la Pena, Matt & Christian Robinson

I See You (2017)  
Genhart, Michael

## **Children's Fiction**

Crenshaw (2015)  
Applegate, Katherine

Fighting Words (2020)  
Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker  
*Content Warning: Sexual Assault & Suicide Attempt*

When the Stars are Scattered (2020)  
Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Muhammed

## **Adult Non-Fiction**

Evicted (2016)  
Desmond, Matthew

Tell Them Who I Am (1995)  
Liebow, Elliot

Rachel And Her Children (2006)  
Kozol, Jonathan

No House To Call My Home (2016)  
Berg, Ryan



**SACRAMENTO  
LOAVES & FISHES**  
*Homeless Survival Services Since 1983*



SACRAMENTO  
**LOAVES & FISHES**

*Homeless Survival Services Since 1983*

Address: 1351 North C St. Sacramento, CA 95811

PO Box: PO Box 13495 Sacramento, CA 95813

Phone: 916-446-0874

Fax: 916-446-0875

Email: [info@sacloaves.org](mailto:info@sacloaves.org)