



SACRAMENTO LOAVES & FISHES

Homeless Survival Services Since 1983

MARCH 2024

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

As the wet weather continues and our guests' need for safe shelter becomes increasingly dire, it is easy to feel some level of hopelessness and despair. At Loaves & Fishes, we often turn to our campus manifesto, "The 36 Things" for inspiration and insight. This list of 36 statements guide our daily interactions with our guests and help us recenter on the crux of our mission - building community and trusting relationships with the people we serve.

Javier paces the foot paths in Friendship Park constantly. With the brim of his hat pulled low over his face, he talks loudly to people only he can see. When others enter his bubble, his voice becomes louder and his language more harsh. Most other guests walk around him carefully and respect his needs.

After only a few weeks on the job, a new staff member Jamaal was found sitting next to Javier laughing and having a lively conversation. At the end of the day, the rest of the staff asked Jamaal how he was able to sit with Javier. Jamaal said, "I asked him if I could walk with him and listen. Eventually, he sat down and we started talking."

In light of the highly political nature of homelessness, our society often forgets that at the core of this issue we are talking about people's lives. In other spaces, Javier is probably seen as a nuisance and judged for his erratic behavior.

Your generosity affords guests like Javier the freedom to express himself in a safe and trusting environment - thank you!

Jamaal started connecting with Javier by simply listening and in doing so, he embraced number 21 of The 36 Things that advises, "Don't give out answers. Just walk alongside and listen." At Loaves & Fishes, we fervently commit to focusing on creating an environment where people are welcome, safe and valued as full human beings with agency and dignity.

Donate today to support an intentional space where we focus on walking alongside and listening first.



At Loaves & Fishes, we treasure the small life-giving moments of connection with guests like Javier.

Will you join our community by giving today?

With love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Hassell".

Angela Hassell
Executive Director

P.S. - Your gift provides more than a safe place to rest - it creates a sense of belonging and connection in a society where our guests are often overlooked and ignored.