



SACRAMENTO LOAVES & FISHES

Homeless Survival Services Since 1983

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

The early evening heat radiated off the pavement in visible waves as I walked across North C Street to my car. I set a few frosty bottles of water next to a guest dozing in his wheelchair when I felt scratching on my leg. A tiny black and brown chihuahua jumped into my hands, happily nuzzling and licking. Bending down, I heard a voice say, "Ms. Smalls! Get over here!"

I turned to see the guest was pouring some cool water into a bowl. After introducing ourselves, Wally said he named Ms. Smalls after his son whose childhood nickname was "Smalls". His son passed away unexpectedly on the day Wally got her as a puppy five years ago. Wally's eyes slowly welled with tears as he remembered many father-son dinners this time of year for their birthdays. Every summer since, Wally is struck with memories of his son, gone too soon.

"This summer heat falls on my head like a hammer. My memories do too, but I know she needs me now." Ms. Smalls scampered up his wheelchair and settled into Wally's lap while we said our good-byes for the day.

At Loaves & Fishes, we deeply honor that all our guests have pasts filled with joyous moments, heartbreakingly painful moments and all things in between. Thank you for supporting our mission to see and be present for all our guests like Wally and Ms. Smalls.

Wally's story of loss and finding purpose in caring for Ms. Smalls is a common theme as our guests navigate a landscape of broken promises from policymakers and convoluted access to services. We will continue to bear witness to their journeys and keep pushing for their humanity to be recognized.

Please give today to support an oasis where people are seen and valued both for our wholeness and our brokenness.



At Loaves & Fishes, we honor the stories our guests like Wally carry with them as they navigate hardships in their lives.

Please donate today!

With love and gratitude,

Angela Hassell
Executive Director

P.S. - Your gift provides more than a moment of peace and a listening ear - it sustains a community of people who are surviving homelessness one night at a time.