



Good Samaritan Shelter

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## Good Samaritan Shelter Remains Committed to Serving the Most Vulnerable Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic

Good Samaritan Shelter (GSS) is the largest homeless shelter provider in the Tri-Counties area, serving over 400 persons per night in our shelter and residential programs. GSS has continued to offer mental health services, drug and alcohol treatment, and shelter services to those in need during this time. We employ over 130 people who are dedicated to providing the essential services for this population.

### *Lives Still Being Changed!*

In the midst of hard things, there is still good news:



- 5 households have been housed through Good Sam's Rapid Resolution and ReHousing programs
- Good Sam's Supportive Services for Veterans program has housed 2 veterans in the last two weeks
- 15 Medically fragile and elderly clients were relocated to a new location (Atkinson Center) within the City of

Santa Maria to create more social distancing space and increase precautionary measures to keep them as healthy as possible.

- Hand washing stations were installed outside of both the Santa Maria Emergency Shelter and BridgeHouse in Lompoc to increase hand washing to prevent possible spread of illness
- Sobering Center in Santa Barbara was reopened to serve as a Jail Diversion/ Transition Program for inmates that are discharging from Santa Barbara County Jail, to provide stability and medical clearance before the transfer to a residential treatment program within the county
- As of 4/6/20, Good Samaritan Shelter assumed full operations of the Santa Maria High School Emergency Shelter that was originally opened by Santa Barbara County



## **Other Ways GSS is Supporting Clients**

Good Samaritan Shelter is deeply committed to ensuring a consistent service delivery for our clients, many of whom are homeless, have lost their jobs, or are struggling with mental health issues.



- Two weeks ago GSS re-opened the After School Program at the Santa Maria shelter campus. There are currently over 25 students on campus who are sheltering in place. The opening of the After School Program provides a sense of normalcy and a quiet spot to focus on distance learning. The Santa Maria Bonita School District has provided students Chromebooks to use during this time.
- Our Mental Health Department is offering telehealth services via telephone and videoconferencing platforms to ensure clients in quarantine are able to access these services. For more information contact

Chelseá Jensen at 805-347-3338 x108.

- Our inpatient and outpatient Treatment Program continue to enroll clients needing substance use treatment services with increased precautionary measures for screening for any potential illness. Services for outpatient clients are being provided via telehealth platforms. To enroll in treatment services clients should call the 24/7 ACCESS Line at 888-868-1649 to be connected to Good Sam programs.
- All of our residential treatment programs and our SAFE House Program for human Trafficking Victims are still taking in new clients, and we have created a medical clearance system before they can enter into our programs
- GSS delivered Food Bags donated by the Santa Maria Food Bank to all of our clients residing in our permanent housing and clean and sober living facilities to ease some of their daily needs, reaching over 70 households.
- Clients at Santa Maria Emergency Shelter and BridgeHouse Shelter in Lompoc are being encouraged to stay inside the shelters all day, and only leave for essential medical appointments and work.

## **Please Help!**

The demand for services for our clients is greater than ever before, and Good Sam is dedicated to increasing staffing and needed resources to ensure the most vulnerable of our County are taken care of at this time. To find out more information about how to support us or to make a donation please visit our website at <http://goodsamaritanshelter.org/>

Thank you!

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### **Good Samaritan Shelter**

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