Dear Supporters:

This “COVID time” has been difficult for every single one of us. No one has been left unaffected. Some have lost their jobs or businesses; some have had to separate from loved ones, and all of us have felt the terrible sadness of so much death and sickness. Here in Arcata our homeless community has also been deeply affected. Arcata House Partnership had to drastically change the way we serve people in order to keep our staff and clients safe. We would like to share what our agency has done to cope. We remained flexible. We got some help from government programs and the City of Arcata. Most amazingly, our incredible staff rose to astounding heights to reengineer our programs so that we could help the folks in our community without shelter.

AHP took drastic measures initially in response to COVID and the shelter in place mandate. People from the family shelter were moved so that staff could provide 24-hour coverage to both family shelter and adult shelter participants. We opened two new emergency shelter programs to help people who had no place to be able to “shelter-in-place,” serving an additional 128 people. We provided 18,531 meals to this group along with 3,100 showers and over 700 laundry vouchers. 5 people moved to permanent housing and 9 people moved to our long-term shelter. We adapted services at the AHP Annex/One Stop by shifting to a curbside model with “window” service only, but still providing food, clothing, shoes and access to support services for approximately 45 people each day. Additionally, we served 5,400 meals to people who were living on the street or in their car. Our Wednesday food pantry services have increased dramatically, and the need is expected to continue to increase, as more people become food insecure. AHP also continued to serve people at one of our locations that were often fleeing a violent homelife. All this while we continue to serve our family shelter, adult shelter, permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing clients.

We have responded quickly to the needs of our community. We are now planning for winter and the rainy season, and it is clear that we just cannot provide the Regional Extreme Weather Shelter in the way we did it in the past. It wouldn’t be safe, and we don’t have the money to do it using hotels. We will be reaching out to the county and the Office of Emergency Services to explore other options to offer this service this year.

AHP decided not to use volunteers during our initial response to coronavirus. Now that we have safety protocols in place, we are looking for volunteers to help out in the kitchen, to transport food, or at our one-stop location. There will be no face-to-face contact with the public. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Rob at rpeach@arcatahouse.org or by calling 707-633-6236.

We have extended our budget to the breaking point. We have hired more staff. We have used a line of credit. We need real financial help from you to continue this work. COVID IS NOT OVER! This is a genuine crisis of national and international proportions. Humboldt is your community. Arcata House Partnership is your local service organization. We are a small nonprofit dealing with a worldwide crisis in our own county. So, give what you can and a bit more because here is something YOU can do to ease the pain of COVID.

Thank you for your support.

Board of Arcata House Partnership