

Walnut Creek Community Task Force on Homelessness

Established in 2014

Purpose: *cultivate creative, innovative and ground-breaking solutions to homelessness in Walnut Creek while serving those in need of housing*

Long Term Solutions:

Residential recovery centers for substance abuse/alcohol
Residential treatment centers for mental illness,
Permanent supportive, affordable housing.

Short Term Solutions:

- Storage units as an alternative to stashing belongings in bushes, along creeks, or behind dumpsters.
- Designated dumpsters and regular garbage pickups and portable restrooms to provide sanitation.
- **Designated sites and provision for homeless individuals who sleep in their cars**
- Public education to increase awareness about homelessness, and how to humanely deal with homeless individuals.

Safe Parking Program

- People living in vehicles – known to Trinity Center & WCPD
- Safe place to park and sleep overnight – restricted hours
- Case management for development and implementation of permanent housing goals – Trinity Center
- Funds for vehicle registration, insurance, CDL
- Management – Trinity Center, Guardian Security, WCPD, CORE, SJV

- Source of Funding
 - Homeless Service Funds, City of Walnut Creek (start up)
 - Other donations: individuals, foundations, crowd funding

- Process
 - Identify location, program management
 - Apply for funding (HSF) - City Council Approval
 - Hold Town Hall – SJV, WCPD, Trinity Center
 - Apply for Special Use Permit – Planning Commission
 - Program begins if approved

Why SJV? Why Trinity Center?

The Taskforce, wanted to move forward with one of the identified short-term solutions – a Safe Parking Program & sought a location and an agency to operate the program.

SJV representatives expressed interest. The program aligned to faith goals and location

Trinity was asked to be the operator based upon successful day, evening and emergency weekend programs.

Trinity Center would screen and enroll applicants, and would provide participants with access to CARE Center day services for showers, food, and other services.

Management – Trinity Center, Guardian Security, WCPD, CORE, SJV - communications

Evening Program Outcomes:

Housing successes: 14 (26%)

Employment successes: 8

Addressing Concerns

- Impact upon SJV worship and ministry activities
- Safety
- Trash/sanitation, potential property damage
- Liability
- Managing time 9:15 pm – 6 am
- Program may “go bad”

Other Safe Parking Programs

- Careavan – Union City: <https://www.fremont.gov>
- New Beginnings – Santa Barbara: <https://sbnbcc.org/>
- Dreams for Change – San Diego:
<https://www.dreamsforchange.org/the-safe-parking-program/>
- Winter Nights Parking Lot Program, Pittsburg:
<https://cccwinternights.org/contribute/one-winter-night/>
- Interfaith Council of Alameda - Safe Car Park:
<https://www.interfaithac.org/safecarpark>