



www.mendocinochc.org

**Executive Director:**  
Paul Davis

**Board of Directors:**

President:  
Carole White

Vice President:  
Emily Strachan

Secretary:  
Pr. Kris Strickland

Treasurer:  
Rachel Miller

Dr. Michael Brown

**Advisory Council:**

Sue Gibson

Lynelle Johnson

Gary Johnson

Father Lou Nichols

Bob Schlosser

Jerry Thomas

Lee Welty

William Gibson,  
President Emeritus  
in memoriam

# Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center

*To shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, and provide a path to personal wellness and community connection.*

July 2023

Dear <<Salutation>>,

In 1986, a caring member of our community gifted a house on North McPherson Street in Fort Bragg to a small community group concerned about the predicament of people, mostly men, on the coast who had nowhere to live. And so, the Hospitality House Emergency Shelter was born. While it began as a very small operation, it was the seed that grew into [The Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center](#). Countless individuals in those almost 40 years have had short term shelter from the elements and a warm meal to soothe their hunger. What began as a place for 6 people to shelter, has grown to provide room for up to 24 people a night, 365 days per year. Families with children, veterans, women, and men of all ages have found safe haven under this roof.

In the rear of this same location, showers, laundry, a clothes closet, and meals are also provided at no charge, Monday through Friday to anyone who is not a guest at the shelter but who requires help.

In 2022, 3288 showers, 2494 loads of laundry, and 8459 meals were served to outside guests. These vital services provided to our at-risk community are not covered as part of the County grant funds that we receive and represent one of the largest expenses we have considering the dramatic increase in heating, water, sewer, electricity, and trash costs over the past year.

In the pursuit of our mission “to shelter the homeless, feed the hungry and provide a path to personal wellness and community connection,” those who stay at the Shelter are encouraged to participate in services that can help them achieve their goals and improve their situations. Every single person that comes through our doors has a story. Some are tragic, some situational and most are compelling. Some of the people who work here also have stories and have overcome similar struggles giving them a perspective and empathy that helps them help others on their path to recovery, employment, housing, and community. Read some of these stories on the back of this letter.

Lack of affordable housing and food insecurity is not a new phenomenon. But the risk of losing housing and the increase in those experiencing hunger has grown dramatically in recent years, including vulnerable seniors. Providing these services has never been so important.

In addition to the emergency shelter, [Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center’s](#) shelter programs includes 24 units of temporary housing that can provide a steppingstone to permanent housing. Each resident must have some income and pay some rent, but we receive no outside funding or subsidy to offset the maintenance and other costs associated with the buildings. Last November many of those staying in our Transitional Housing rooms moved into the new Plateau development and now have a home of their own. These are the positive outcomes that motivate us to keep this option available. We hope that you will continue to support our efforts by contributing to our Shelter Program fund that will help fill the gaps in our government funding and allow us to carry on with this important work. Shelter programs make a difference for individuals and for our community; and so do your contributions.

With gratitude for your continuing support,  
[Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center](#)  
Board of Directors

*cut here, place stamp on supplied envelope and send remit information with check*

Yes! I want to support Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center’s work to shelter, feed, and support our local community. For this appeal, I will make a gift in the amount of:

☐ \$500    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$75    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$35    \$\_\_\_\_\_ other

Donating by:    ☐ check    ☐ credit card    **You may also donate through our website: [www.mendocinochc.org/donate](http://www.mendocinochc.org/donate).**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Shelter services do work. Here are three examples of how they can support people through a difficult time. These stories are just a few of the ones we hear every day. For some, it can take more than one attempt to succeed and in that way it remains a safety net.

---



Within a year of moving into Transitional Housing from Hospitality House, enrolling in MCHC Specialty Mental Health, Whole Person Care and vocational focused groups, Vilma McCutcheon achieved her goals! She received her ServSafe certificate, really loved the gardening group and says that “Whole Person Care really helped me out a lot. They had faith and believed in me.” Vilma’s goals were to, “have a safe and clean place to live, get my mental health stable, go to work and save money so I can move back to Oregon to be with my kids.” “If it wasn’t for MCHC, I would not be where I am today, you have to set a goal, put the effort into reaching that goal, accept help and don’t waste time.” Vilma was so very appreciative of all the staff she worked with saying, “Thank you so much to the Director Paul Davis and all of the staff at Hospitality Center for treating me with respect, thank you to Frank and TJ at the Hospitality House for always being so kind and to the clinic staff for putting up with me and being patient.” Today, Vilma is in Oregon with her kids.

It was a great pleasure for everyone involved to help Vilma McCutcheon on her path to wellness. Having stable temporary housing available to her along with the coordinated services, made this inspiring outcome possible.

---

Jessica Fitch was born and raised in Fort Bragg. In 2014 she found herself without housing and was able to move into a Transitional Housing program offered by Ford Street in Ukiah. While living there she applied for a housing voucher and also started working at the Buddy Eller Center, the Shelter in Ukiah at that time. Upon receiving her voucher, she was able to achieve her goal of finding housing back in her hometown. In addition, she became employed at the Hospitality House. Minus a nine-month stint working as a benefit screener for Mendocino County Social Services she has worked full time in many of the programs offered by Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center. Most recently she was promoted to the Vocational Services Coordinator position.



Jessica’s favorite part about working at the Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center is seeing clients that come in and want to change their life by utilizing the programs that are set in place. Jessica reflects on a particular client that has been her motivating factor: In 2017 her client broke down and cried in her office at the Shelter. He said he needed to go to rehab. Jessica was able to give him enough bus passes to get there, and enough to get back in case he changed his mind. A year later he reached out and thanked her, “you saved my life that night when you gave me that ticket.” He also sent a picture of his AA sobriety chip for one year sober and quotes, “I was about to turn myself in and go back to jail because I didn’t think I had it in me to get clean once again.” This man has since reported going back to school to be an SUDT counselor.

---



Our most recent Transitional Housing resident is George Mansfield. The first time he stayed at the Hospitality House was in 2003. He returned in January 2023 with a whole new outlook on life. In August 2022 he had worked hard and succeeded at reaching sobriety. He stated, “I want to get permanent housing, hold down a job, and live in the community.” He says that he wants to “Let go of the past. The present is a gift and I do live in the moment now.”

George has utilized the Hospitality House, the emergency winter shelter, our Specialty Mental Health Clinic, and Whole Person Care. He received his ServSafe certificate through one of the vocational focused groups at MCHC which helped him establish employment at Round Table. George stated, “I hope to find a soulmate, keep surrounding myself with better people and keep making the right choices.” Seeing George overcome so many obstacles to find his path to wellness has been gratifying for all who know him.

---