



SONOMA APPLIED VILLAGE SERVICES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**“It’s Freezing; Why Are People Sleeping Outside?”
Local Nonprofit Dedicated to Building a Homeless Village in 2021
Asks for Contributions on GivingTuesday**

Santa Rosa, California - November 28, 2020 – Sonoma Applied Village Services (SAVS), a Santa Rosa based 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is using the excitement of GivingTuesday on December 1, 2020 to bring people in from the cold.

Grateful for a successful year of serving local homeless populations, SAVS now invites the public to contribute to a significant difference toward a new solution for homeless people in Sonoma County. Tax-deductible donations will fund the building of a ground-breaking RV homeless village.

SAVS board President, Adrienne Lauby says, “In 2020, we put 4 people into RVs – a major step up from the streets. We have found that RV’s are an awesome solution! They provide a bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, warmth and above all dignity – all in a mobile package. We love them so much; we’re working hard to open our first RV village where we will house 25-40 people during the next year!”

SAVS made differences in the lives of many in both small and huge ways in 2020:

- 390 Individuals became new SAVS clients – receiving food and importantly help navigating them into low income services throughout the year
- Over 30,000 meals were fed with the help of volunteers and the Redwood Empire Food Bank and Farm to Table Partners
- 25 people were placed into temporary housing – a critical first step
- 5 families placed into permanent housing – a small number of people but a huge impact on their lives!

Just One Success Story:

The Bates, with their young children, had been living in a tent in a park in Downtown Santa Rosa when SAVS met them as part of our outreach services. Meanwhile, Eliza Murphy, living in West County, discovered SAVS and was pleased to donate an older RV, in need of repair, that was cluttering up her property. She knew she was making a true difference in the lives of others in Sonoma County, and she got a tax deduction to boot. Auto mechanic Don Greene, who also has lived experience with homelessness, generously donated his services to repair the RV while SAVS funded the remaining expenses to get the RV mobile and legal. The family was helped off the streets and into their new RV home in April. Within 5 months, the newly housed couple stabilized their lives and were able to move into permanent housing by renting

an apartment! This one story show the power that having a stable, legal place to live – even if it is an RV – transforms lives.

[GivingTuesday](#) is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past eight years, it has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

Those who wish to learn more about tiny villages and donate toward this affordable and effective solution are encouraged to visit SonomaVillages.org.

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