



the hummingbird

CDS News

In this moment, we are taking time to launch "the hummingbird", CDS News, a project that we have wanted to do since our beginning in 2008. If you are not familiar with us, we work with cities and counties. In addition to public servants, our users include staff of hundreds of non-profit companies. These companies are the backbone of our communities. Regularly, we take pages from their playbook – that of service. This time requires that we step up with longsuffering; that we find creative solutions to problems of a scale unseen by most across the world. These qualities are the cloth from which non-profits are cut. They are built by dreamers and doers, creators and imagineers. Rooted in their communities, they are caring, giving and innovative. They see problems and turn the rubric searching for solutions; solutions through collaboration, reinvention and an enormous amount of knocking on doors.

These organizations are the best of what we Americans are, and what we can do, together. Over the next year, we will be highlighting various organizations. Those that we recognize are indicative of all the non-profits that work in our communities. If we had the time, we would gladly share all their stories. We believe that hearing about a few; knowing that you are seeing the tip of the community services' iceberg is a good start. In short, it is our thank you for all they do; all the people they bring together and all they bring to our communities.

Chris, Steve, Vince and Kirsten

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Spirit of Santa Paula Ventura County, California



“... knowing that you can make a difference keeps you going in the early stages, but then seeing that a difference is being made, keeps you motivated to stay in the game.”

Spirit of Santa Paula Director, Kay Wilson-Bolton

Spirit of Santa Paula opened in 2002 with the desire for meeting unmet needs in their rural community of 30,000 people. During the first few years they were open, they

provided a hodgepodge of assistance with food, dry goods and connected people to city and county services. The founders had good intentions but did not anticipate their organization would become a key service provider in these challenging times.



In 2008, as in many communities, homelessness was invisible. Abruptly, light shown on the reality of homelessness in Santa Paula; the community was shocked to find a homeless man dead in a local church. Spirit of Santa Paula responded, within a couple weeks, they began offering regular pantry services and a year later, they opened their first homeless shelter. The organization continues meeting the needs of their community, in addition to pantry and shelter services, they offer mental health services and hot meals through their Many Meals program.

We salute the Spirit of Santa Paula one of many service providers that are on

the frontline addressing the needs of
our communities.



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