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Redding's South Market Micro Shelter Facility Begins Construction

United Way of Northern California (UWNC) and Pathways to Housing Provide an Alternative Option for the Unhoused Community

Redding, CA (February 3, 2023)--In June 2021, the City of Redding declared a shelter crisis and took steps to implement Emergency Housing Sites for the unsheltered population. In response to this crisis, the Redding City Council approved the Micro Shelter Community on Mark Street, off South Market Street in Redding. UWNC will oversee the operation of this facility in partnership with Pathways to Housing and the City of Redding.

Construction of the shelters begins Monday, February 6, 2023. The Micro Shelter Community consists of eight 64 sq. ft. single-occupancy units that include a bed, heater, and access to a bathroom. Oroville-based community partner, Haven of Hope, will provide weekly laundry and shower services for residents on Mondays and Fridays.

UWNC was inspired by the success of a similar program in Eugene, Oregon, where small Micro Shelter Communities allowed for more connection with wrap-around services and individualized care, where residents could adapt to life in a community at their own pace. After visiting the site in Eugene, the UWNC team strongly felt that this program could work in Redding as well.

Pathways to Housing will oversee case management on the project and will be able to provide more personalized recommendations for each client due to the smaller workload of the case manager. "Part of the success in Eugene was due to the small size of the community," explained Laural, a committed volunteer and retired social worker involved in the project.

UWNC seeks clients who are ready to use this transitional housing program to position themselves for greater success and achieve long-term stability. "The purpose of this project is to support people who are interested in changing their lives," explained Larry Olmstead, President & CEO of UWNC.

A diverse committee of individuals, including UWNC staff, community neighbors, and partners, will select residents to live in the micro shelters. The program is designed to house eight residents for up to 10 months after going through a four-week probationary period. Residents

must commit to a code of conduct to be good neighbors to other shelter members and the surrounding neighborhood.

UWNC has put multiple safety measures in place. The community is gated and locked, includes several security cameras, and has nighttime security in place. The estimated project budget of \$600k will cover a full-time project supervisor, two full-time site coordinators present during regular business hours, a case manager, and a case management supervisor.

The Micro Shelter program is a step in the right direction to give much-needed support and options for our unhoused community. “The unhoused population is a part of our community, and it's important that we show our support to our community,” said Cherish Padro, UWNC Micro Shelter Project Supervisor.

Addressing the complex issue of homelessness requires robust collaboration and partnerships, and support from a variety of social service providers, including the City of Redding, Shasta County, and the State of California. Multiple options are needed to adequately meet the growing needs of the unhoused population, where personal histories and necessary next steps vary per person.

UWNC is proud to lead this effort in partnership with Pathways to Housing and plans to open the South Market Micro Shelter Community at the beginning of March. This pilot program will inform the best steps for similar projects in the future. “Where the learning is going to come is in operation,” explained Larry Olmstead. “United Way is ready to pivot as needs arise to most effectively meet the needs of the residents, neighbors, and city.”

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About United Way of Northern California:

United Way of Northern California (UWNC) was established in Redding in 1953 and serves nine counties: Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity. Its mission is to fight for the education, income and health of all residents in the community. UWNC is active in disaster relief and recovery raises funds for non-profit agencies and operates three 24/7 human services helplines: 2-1-1 Shasta, 2-1-1 Siskiyou and 2-1-1 Tehama, collectively known as 2-1-1 NorCal. For more information about UWNC, visit www.norcalunitedway.org