

Happy 2021!

Happy New Year to all of our Friends! **We are looking forward to a new year of good health and healing.** Last year definitely brought us challenges, and even though we were sheltered and distanced, we also came together as families, friends and communities. We all discovered things like Zoom and FaceTime to keep us close, and we have grown accustomed to masks, sanitizer and gloves.

Throughout these upheavals and changes, **the community that is Friends of 40 Prado has remained strong, and for that, we are incredibly grateful.** We hope that you and your loved ones are all well and healthy, and we look forward to seeing you all (in person) very soon!

Friends of 40 Prado Board



40 Prado Update - Director, Grace McIntosh



Recently, we had a chance to sit down with Grace and get caught-up on what's been happening at the Homeless Services Center. She began by saying that Decembers are always hectic and busy at 40 Prado, but with COVID-19, it was even more so. **Unfortunately, they had quite a few people testing positive in the early part of the month, so they were all on high-alert.**

It was imperative for those testing positive to be immediately isolated from the others. To this end, the state provided motorhome trailers that were supplied with food, water, blankets and electricity. Those who tested positive sheltered inside until Public Health transported them to a more permanent recovery location. They were generally picked-up within 24-hours and taken to either designated local motels or a state-sponsored facility with motorhome trailer housing. They stayed in these temporary locations 10-14 days - enough time for recovery from the virus. Once deemed healthy, they were transported back to 40 Prado.

As the number of cases in the center began to rise, it was clear that the elderly and those most frail needed extra protection. Twelve of 40 Prado's most fragile residents were transported to a separate motel facility where they were able to shelter-in-place and remain safe from exposure.

Grace told us that one of the biggest challenges of COVID for the homeless population is that, "If they are not at Prado and they are lucky enough to get tested, there is nowhere for them to go while waiting for their results. The hospitals cannot hold them until the results come back, and many people leave and don't wait for the results. The state-sponsored trailers and motels are only for positives."

They became aware of the situation at 40 Prado when a resident, hospitalized for a non-COVID issue, tested positive. **Public Health immediately began site-wide testing and discovered that many of the people testing positive did not have any symptoms, which allowed the virus to spread throughout the center undetected.** Testing was conducted weekly until they got a clean bill of health, mid-January. However, for the safety of all, they now regularly test random samples of staff and clients.

Grace had nothing but praise for the officials from Public Health and the tireless dedication of her staff at 40 Prado. Fortunately, she and her staff were all vaccinated, along with frontline workers, so that they will be able to continue to provide services to those most in need in our community. There was definitely a positive note in her voice when she spoke of bringing back volunteers, especially the caring individuals from People's Kitchen, led by Mary Parker. They ensure there is a hot lunch served every single day at the center, even when the lock-down meant they couldn't be inside to serve the meals.

In closing, she told us that it was really difficult for them all, emotionally, going through the constant ups and downs between fear and relief. However, they were able to find strength and solace in each other. **"During the craziness, everyone (staff and clients) came together and felt a sense of family, safety and caring."**

40 Prado Success Story

Steve had been living at 40 Prado for over a year, struggling to manage mental and physical health issues. **A 70-year-old man with 35+ years of homelessness and limited Social Security income, Steve found it difficult to secure permanent housing that met his needs.** He had accepted that he was going to be homeless for the remainder of his life and was coping with that reality.

Steve began working with the Case Management Program at 40 Prado and was able to obtain regular medical care through the onsite CHC Clinic. He was able to get corrective shoes to help him walk and to obtain his medications regularly. Beyond that, Steve needed permanent housing with some supports in place to ensure his mental and physical health remained stable.

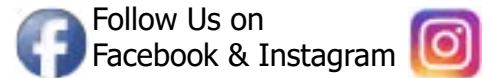
Fortunately, his Case Manager at 40 Prado, working collaboratively with TMHA and their permanent housing programs, found a solution for Steve. He was accepted into the Rental Assistance Demonstration Housing Program here in SLO. **After years of living on the streets and in shelters just trying to survive each day, Steve is now housed safely and appropriately.**

Read more Success Stories on our website - <https://friendsof40prado.org/>



PO Box 12444
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Paso Robles, CA
Permit No. 163



Follow Us on
Facebook & Instagram

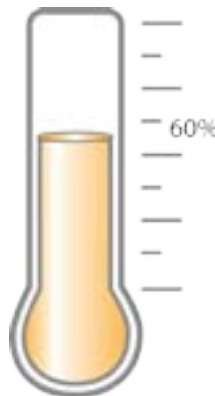
Friends of 40Prado is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, tax ID 77-0540323. We provide support funding for 40Prado Homeless Services Center. CAPSLO manages their day-to-day operations. The People's Kitchen coordinates hot lunches served daily at 40Prado by organizations throughout the county.



Would you Prefer an Email Instead?

If you would rather receive email communications than snail mail, just send an email with your preferences to: admin@friendsof40prado.org

Help
us
meet
our
goal!



Help Us Meet Our Goal

It seems like COVID brought life to a standstill, but as you can see, 40 Prado continued to provide services and help to those in need. Our Fiscal Year ends on June 30th, and **we are hoping to end the year strong so that we can continue to support 40 Prado and the wonderful work that they do.** Click "Donate" on our website, and you can easily set-up a monthly recurring donation.

Donations/Volunteer Opportunities

To make donations or to find out more about Friends of 40 Prado, go to friendsof40prado.org or follow us on Social Media. To volunteer, please call (805) 544-4355 x121 or email volunteer@capslo.org.