

Welcome to Paso Cares' first newsletter!

We have just completed our third season of operating a warming station and have grasped the reins of People's Kitchen. We want to share our successes and dreams with the greater Paso Robles Community and look to the future in which we can improve the livability of our City. The news today seems to be replete with stories of homeless persons creating problems nationwide. At Paso Cares, we are stepping forward to do something about our own. We are finding that, by far, most of our clients have either grown up in Paso Robles or have lived here for decades.

Who is Paso Cares?

We are a volunteer-driven 501©(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the immediate and longer-term needs of the homeless and needy in the Paso Robles area.

What have we done so far?

Warming Station: In December 2015 we began operating a Warming Station to provide shelter to the homeless on nights that were rainy or freezing. Our driving desire was to save lives placed at jeopardy from exposure to the elements.

Five local churches have graciously hosted the Warming Station on different nights. Paso Cares contracts with Ride-On to shuttle our clients from People's Kitchen, where they are screened for acceptable behavior, to the churches and then back again to Peoples' Kitchen the following morning. We have 2 volunteers act as chaperones each night that the Station is open.

During our third season, which ran from November 2017 - April 2018, the Warming Station was open 80 nights and we provided a total of 318 "shelter-nights" to 29 adults: 20 male and 9 female.

People's Kitchen: Beginning in the Fall of 2016, People's Kitchen has operated at 2345 Riverside Avenue, a City-owned pump station site. (It had previously operated at the Second Baptist Church.) The City of Paso Robles has graciously permitted us to provide a daily meal to the homeless and needy at their property.



People's Kitchen: Early birds awaiting being served.

Meals are provided 6 nights a week at People's Kitchen: Paso Cares' volunteers serve dinner Monday-Friday and the United Methodist Church serves dinner on Sundays. St James Church continues to provide a lunch in their Parish Hall at 1335 Oak Street on Saturdays. We commonly serve dinner to 20-30 clients.

Where Will We Go From Here?

On April 21, 2018, our Board of Directors held a retreat to formulate a Strategic Plan to guide us through the next 3 years. The new plan sets 2 goals: (1) to pursue a building to house People's Kitchen as we only have a canopy at 2345 Riverside, and we are at the mercy of inclement weather; and (2) Organize and implement an aggressive volunteer recruitment and fund-raising program (which we'll need to realize Goal #1).

We will be looking for a building that will not only house for People's Kitchen but also allow us to provide showers, laundry, case-management and counseling services, a day center in which our clients can seek refuge from the cold and heat when the Station is not open, and other services that may be identified.

It is our deepest hope and implicit goal that our efforts to serve the homeless and needy will not only help lift our clients out of a rut, but provide tangible benefits to the Paso Robles Community as a whole.

Thank You!

We are deeply indebted to many people who have supported us over the past few years. A partial list would include, but not be limited to:

- Ernie Miller, who gathered us and gave us a vision;
- Cherie Michaelson, who followed Ernie and made the Warming Station and People's Kitchen happen;
- Covenant Presbyterian Church, Highlands Church, Life Community Church, Paso Robles Community Church, and United Methodist Church for hosting our Warming Station;
- St Rose Church for providing a place to conduct our General and Board meetings;
- The Bridge Church for providing a meeting room for our Strategic Plan Retreat;
- St James Church for feeding our clients on Saturday;
- United Methodist Church, for feeding our clients on Sundays;
- Our many donors, too numerous to list, of volunteer time, clothing, and funds;
- Ritter Construction for donation of a shipping container in which to store our supplies and equipment;
- Trombley Painting for painting our shipping container;
- Taylor Rental for donating tables and chairs for People's Kitchen.
- Our clients, who pitch in to help everyone and who are so grateful for our attention to them;
- To God, who loves all people, for motivating us and guiding us in this effort!

Check out our website

We have much more information at www.pasocares.org.

Paso Cares
P.O. Box 2834
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Our 1st Newsletter!



Our new shipping container – donated by Ritter Construction, painting donated by Trombley Painting, and shown by our own Gail McNichols

How you can help!

1. **Volunteer:** We need volunteers to be:
 - **Chaperones** for the Warming Station
 - **“Greeters”** to spend an hour on an evening to provide a gentle measure of security for, People's Kitchen;
 - **Volunteer Coordinator** to maintain a data base for all volunteers and to schedule chaperones and greeters;
 - **Groups** to feed at People's Kitchen once a month ;;
 - **Public Relations coordinator** to make arrangements for presentations at churches, and service organizations;
2. **Donate:** Supplies, clothing, and funds. See our website: pasocares.org or call us at (805) 712-4710.

How did you receive this newsletter?

If you chose to volunteer, please let us know how your received this newsletter:

- via email
- via direct (snail) mail
- you saw a newsletter at a church, office, bulletin board, or given to you by a friend.