

Developing Diamonds Community

A Project Proposal of the Public Benefit Non-Profit
Building Community Thru' Healing Homelessness
Founded & Presented by Jaclyn Tredway

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This Project is called **Developing Diamonds Community** because it targets a segment of the homeless population that has a **hidden potential** invisible to the untrained eye. They are the coal that creates blinding soot when burned, but when put under pressure for a long time, they may go through a **transformation** that is unimaginable. They may become the diamond in the rough, still undiscernible to the typical observer. But to the trained eye, potential is discerned. The diamond-in-the-rough is gently removed from it's surroundings and trimmed of it's dross. Then the expert hand **gently and slowly** cuts this rock along it's **unique**, core planes. until it becomes the most valuable of rocks by the unique way it captures and reflects the light. Trying to cut the rock into your personally preferred shape only shatters it's potential, leaving only worthless diamond dust.

You, the miners of the homeless population, have the job of extracting these human rocks from the dirt and **transitioning them** into productive members of society. But do you assume "one size fits all"? Do you presume that all worthy human beings think like you and must fit into your mold? Are you **helping some "typical"** thinkers, who can accept **your** decisions about *their* future, but shattering those who are "divergent" thinkers, who see and process the world differently, yet offer the **greatest potential?** That is their innate creative and **innovative nature. Some of the greatest inventors and contributors to society are of the "divergent" persuasion.** That is how society improves and advances, responding to the visions of an advancing and maturing humane community.

The **Primary Goal** of this project, is to provide an **appropriate** "transitional/transformational home" and training for the **Neurodivergent Chronic Homeless (NDCH)** where they can feel "at home," accepted as they are, safe, secure, welcomed and valued; to de-compress and pursue who **they are** and what **they want** to become. When they are **free to choose**, they have no need to refuse or rebel against further training in life and livelihood skills as **"Stepping Stones"** to the future *they* wish to live.

The **supportive objective addresses the opioid and suicide crises** that are so prevalent in the chronically homeless community. These drugs are currently part of their mechanism to survive the horrors of life "on the streets." It **dulls their pain**, and gives them temporary relief. Too often, that relief ends in intentional, or accidental escape from having to survive one day, only to relive it the next. When they are in a **safe home** that

recognizes their **value and worthiness to realize their hopes & dreams, their minds are able to recognize that the drugs are only illusions that prevent them from achieving the real peace of mind and purpose they desire. At that point they may become receptive to detox and recovery programs** that can get them on a healthier path toward recovery, at which time, they are **welcomed back** to the **uplifting & supportive** DDC home **that** supports and **stabilizes** them on that **higher road to self-determination.**

The **Secondary Goal** of DDC is to provide more than “Transitional Housing, but actually **“Transformational Housing”** to Neurodivergents who **do not readily adjust to change.** They begin their **housing journey** in a familiar, but upgraded, **camping environment, with built in motivations.** They see peers gaining more comforts and more desirable tents with doable increases in service, building relationships and **community.** Once ready to pursue a livelihood of their choice, they advance to the Developmental Village, where they may choose the design of and participate in the construction of their first DIY micro pod “house.” Again, as they progress in their training, they may evolve into larger Tiny homes and “neighborhoods” within the DDC, until they start to produce incomes that can support them in group homes. boarding houses, **low-income housing, finally** to more **traditional housing** in the public community supported by livelihoods that give them joy and serve the public’s needs.

Being homeless is a life that involves police harassment and violence from both inside and outside of their community. It is completely **beyond the comprehension** of anyone who has not lived it themselves. Their primary goal is to **simply wake up** from their broken and erratic sleep, only to endure another day of hope for a bit of relief, often in the form of drugs and alcohol for at least the illusion of life and humanity, or give up and let those illusions take them out of their misery. Then **why** would many **choose this life as opposed to the shelters** currently being offered them?

It takes time to look deeper into the soul and personality of the most neglected segment of the homeless community, the Neurodivergent Chronic Homeless (**NDCH**), children of the homeless. In the shelters they

are offered, these homeless are vastly misunderstood and unintentionally demeaned, offered offensive and inappropriate **“solutions”** for **“fitting in”** to the needs & demands of the public, rather than their own. These providers are unaware of the capacities and needs of this population, as well as their demeaning history of verbal and emotional abuse. These homeless have tried to **trust** the good intentions and protocols of the well-meaning services offered, but **will not endure** any more dehumanizing just for a dry bed.

Neurodivergence (**ND**) is **not a pathology but an innate personality type** of 20% of the global population, less than 10% of the US population, but more than 80% of the chronic homeless population, who simply see and **processes their world differently** than the neurotypical population and have both extraordinary capacities and challenges in living as a minority in a neuro**typical** society.

By their second year of life, 1% **may manifest**, the extreme form of Autism or related social or language dysfunctions, possibly caused by pre-natal trauma, infection, maternal medications, or premature birth. Even at that extreme, great advances have been achieved, by massive amounts of **loving, empathetic** and supportive attention from families who refused to institutionalize them. I am subscribing to the the Newsletter and articles of **“The Neurodivergent Brain”** put out by a 49 yr. old autistic mom with dyslexia and ADHD who developed her non-profit of the **“Mindscape Neurodiversity Institute** to provide vital and correct **research** and **advocacy** for the neurodivergent community, dedicated to the **enhancement** of the lives of individuals with autism and ADHD, to make things easier for others on a **similar path**. **DDC** wants to be that family who, with professional help, offers that secure, caring and supportive home in which **they can thrive, not merely survive**.

The bulk of authorities now agree that this **ND** personality is an **innate** part of them. It is **something they cannot, and should not, change**. For their capacities are of as great a value to the neuro**typical** community as are **their challenges** to function **in collaboration with them**. Among their **attributes** are: thinking “out of the box,” hyper-focussed on what interests them, strong analytical skills, enhanced perceptual and sensory sensitivity, super observational skills in recognizing patterns, and approach to

problem solving from **unique angles**, not to under-estimate their enhanced creativity. **Their challenge** is that they also must learn **self-regulation** to modify the hazards of their short attention span and easy distraction from issues that do not interest them, trouble filtering out **external stimuli** and organizing thoughts, dyslexia, **difficulty adapting to change**, difficulty in communicating thoughts clearly, possibly with speech impediments. They are **socially awkward** and have difficulty planning, organizing and **self-regulating**.

Their “**mental illness**” comes not from a **pathology** but from a **lifetime of invalidation** by a world that believes all “**normal**” **people** must think and process their world as they do. They were probably **called names** like: “crazy,” “dumb” “mental”, “out there,” “unteachable” “argumentative” and defective by peers, teachers, even parents, and/or employers, and even punished for their divergence. Such trauma tends to create **inner conflict between** what their spirit is telling them about their valuable perceptions of truth, as they see it, and what the outside world, is telling them about their unworthiness as thinkers, human beings and members of **their** society. They lack the skills to **effectively communicate** those ideas to the neurotypical thinkers in the general public. They can get **numb and quit trying**, begin to **believe their unworthiness**, or get downright **adamant** about standing up for their visions and insights! **But insights and inner turmoil cannot be conveyed to those who will not listen.**

The life-time **Chronic Homeless (CH)** , although they do not begin with the same divergent innate personality, have suffered many of the **same traumas** growing up as the neurodivergent. Homeless adults who were children of homeless adults have suffered, first the **instability, verbal abuse and even abandonment** of their parents, the very ones whom they are supposed to trust to be valuing, nurturing and protecting them. Growing up, **they never knew** if they were going to wake up in a relative’s or a stranger’s home, in a car or on the street; or just abandoned, for days to years, in their own (temporary/found) home or on the street, to fend for themselves at their most vulnerable ages.

They were either **pitied or reviled** by the public. They came to school dirty, smelly and in rags while their parents went on a drinking binge, or just went. Their peers at school often called them names as well: “stinky,” “rat,”

“vagrant,” “dirty,” “useless,” “an accident,” “worthless.” They were rarely seen as children of potential and value. **Dr. Andrew Newberg** wrote a book revealing how **words can actually change one’s brain**. Their inner personality core was different from the neurodivergent, but the atmosphere of verbal abuse and humiliation was comparable. Both developed **comparable trauma induced triggers and responses**, whether raised on the street, or devolved to the street. Without access to appropriate correct loving and **supportive words** from parents, peers or authorities, their **crippling mental state and self-concept** made them the most likely to turn to drugs and alcohol for relief or escape. In their DDC home, they will be saturated with words that reflect **sincere** value of them as unique children of God. It is **their job to discover** and utilize their special innate **talents**. to make lives better. Once they **believe in themselves** and learn how to **self-regulate** to convey their humanity and truth to others who are willing to learn. They may just be consoled in the warmth of that truth, and **know their own value** that does not depend upon what another thinks, but **seeks it’ own, personal path** to self-realization.

“**Criminal history**” invented by a system of misdemeanor offenses accruing and transforming into felonies, etc. when they were unable to pay fines or show up for court hearings to defend themselves. This made them both unemployable and disqualified for housing. So some, often fueled by drugs and alcohol, may have used their innate creativity to “**make a living**” in the only ways they could manage, sometimes in the same drug trade that was destroying them & their peers. As they were **being punished** for their **crimes** of sleeping, peeing, even existing while being homeless, some resorted to crimes of **theft and violence, punishing** the public for enjoying the lives they were denied, or for standing by and **allowing** the inhumanity of their daily sufferings. Most just **resigned themselves** to living like the **animals** the public presumed them to be, maybe even coming to believe that they were worthy of no more.

The **NDCH** should not have to feel either resigned to their degradation, nor violent in defiance of it. They have **attributes and talents** to re-discover and apply to a livelihood. According to the **U.S. and California Constitutions**, they have the **Human Right** to choose their own path in their “Pursuit of Happiness,” and “obtain safety.” The DDC will Listen to and **acknowledge** their pain, helping them to release it. We will listen to

and validate **their** hopes and visions of **their** better lives, to help the hopeless gain **faith in their own abilities** to pursue them, with our help and resources. We will **earn their trust** to do **everything possible** to help them realize the yearnings of their souls.

California, I'm told, has the highest rate of **suicide** of the U.S and Shasta Co. has the highest rate of California, and I'm sure the chronic homeless, the most spurned by the public and authorities, have the **highest rate** of suicides in Shasta County. Drugs are not their only **way out**, but by far the primary one.

Fentanyl is the drug of choice for the Shasta Co. chronic homeless, which is a synthetic opioid, similar to morphine, but 50 to 100 times more potent, misunderstood and deadly. To the public, the homeless represent **"disease"** and **fear of crime and violence on the streets** and in the parks of Shasta Co. The Redding City Council, at one time, calling them a **"blight"** to public health, safety and the public's sense of security. From their view, they are right, but they don't see how **"clearing the streets and parks"** of the homeless encampments has become a **double edged sword**. The homeless are no longer "out of sight, out of mind," but forced to wander the streets, their **misery in public view**, with no safety or security, carrying on their backs, or pushing in carts all their worldly possessions, being cited for **vagrancy, when pausing to rest**, and being denied access to the port-a-potties they used to rely on, forcing them to relieve their bodily wastes on the streets or parking lots. Their **Hope for a better tomorrow** is failing and suicides are on the rise.

Wonderful agencies like **"FactsFightFentanyl.org,"** are trying to address the suicide problem with logic, facts and recommendations of Naloxone, or "Narcan." But they are **not addressing the underlying causes** of it's

use and the **ambivalence** of the many chronic homeless who reach a point where they just don't care if they live to fight another day. **Narcan** can save lives, in the moment, but it is only a temporary fix.

I am a certified instructor of **"Safe Talk,"** a suicide prevention program, which is an excellent guide to alert an individual's "inner circles" around a

soul who may be contemplating suicide, to **recognize the signs of suicidal** consideration and have rehearsed “safe” responses to talk them off the edge, if possible. Our monitors and mentors will be trained in recognizing signs of serious consideration and how to “intervene” to recognize and validate their pain without judgement and softly offer options. Even this program doesn’t attempt to address the **healing of the tortured soul** behind those contemplations of suicide, but DDC will.

The three day **Healing Justice** workshops bring together victims, survivors and criminal exonerations of crimes for healing **games**, which help each reconcile the relationships of one to another. This has been found to be a successful start to the healing process. The DDC plans on utilizing these activities in combination with **ACES** protocols, in our **Family Legacy Repair and Renew** groups where the parents are often the ones who perpetrated the same traumas and violence to their children as they experienced within their childhood family. We add a new twist to that by looking back at their family origins, with new eyes of understanding and compassion. They may recognize common talents as well as challenging traits that influenced their lives and relationships. They become empowered when they gain empathy for each other and set a new course for their relationship with each other and the new legacy consciously pursued by the family as a renewed family unit.

On March 21, 2025, I attended a workshop with the **broader scope** of mental health first aide and am on the path to my 3-year MHFA **certificate to train my team** in helping “**assess**” the type and degree of a perceived pending crisis, especially if suicidal, then referring them to the appropriate professional to assist them further. However, they cannot wait for, nor rely on, the professionals to help them. Even if they **are willing**, they probably won’t manage to navigate the system. If they do manage to receive a “**diagnosis**”, they probably will not qualify for treatment, for their neurodivergent “disability,” unless there is a co-related disability that the

professionals are authorized to treat, The ones I know that *did* receive help or housing, received it only after an **unsuccessful suicide** attempt or a **near death crisis**, after which they were diagnosed with a specific **trauma related** physical or mental condition for which they needed therapy, time and rest to recover. We cannot play suicide roulette with these souls on the edge.

When the hopeless homeless attempt suicide in their encampments, or hidden on the street, as their only way out, their plights go unnoticed, unless they are lucky enough to be close to a Narcan source. Even then, they may refuse a mental health referral because they **don't believe** they over dosed, or almost died, they just think they **fell asleep** and they may not even remember feeling "sad" at the time, because it's just a norm for them. Or, they may fear the further **stigma** of being seen as **just another "sicko."**

To move on, they need the life affirming environment of the DDC to internalize that their mental health disabilities are not in their core personality and thought process, but in the brutal emotional traumas they have been subjected to for the bulk of their lives. Once their inherent human value has been affirmed, they can **learn to self regulate** their responses to the triggering words and acts more constructively, and help others to self-regulate their trigger responses, as well. I will be collaborating with **CaIMHSA** to train members of the **DDC team** as "**Peer Support Specialists,**" available through the weekly "Call-to-Action SALLLT Social," and, hopefully, our own "**DDC-PSS**" **Hotline** number even before we have a stable home site for them available.

There are many reasons why these souls have difficulty holding typical jobs, even if they make it through the application and interview process. Although they tend to have **exceptional focus** on tasks or research that engage their curiosity or passion, they can be very **easily** distracted, if not.

Unless NDCHs are completely absorbed in a task that utilizes a **talent** they are passionate about, their attention may be quickly diverted off task. When an **employer** calls them on it, they may feel demeaned and trigger into a defensive rage **trying to protect themselves** from an emotional blow to their human value. Even those who have been educated on ways to self-regulate, to avoid a mental health crisis that may escalate into disruption or even escalate into violence, are encouraged to simply "**walk away**" from such potentially triggering encounters. However, **an employer** would probably consider this trained response, "walking off the job" and **cause for dismissal.** Since one's habitual triggered response is **re-active, rather than pro-active,** the NDCH would not have time to think

through their most appropriate response to any given scenario. To create a more appropriate **response habit**, they would have to mentally rehearse the new desired response until it became as habitual as the old. **This takes time**, and many errors, to become reliable, quite a lot to expect of a **NDCH** while on a new job with a neurotypical employer.

I am already signed up to attend the “**Standing Against Stigma**” training in May of 2025, This organization focuses, on educating employers in how to develop a **stigma free workplace** where NDCHs may work as a part of a **supportive team**, filling in for each other’s strengths and challenges to make themselves invaluable as the **innovative part of a proactive team**, building an employer’s business, and possibly going on to build their own. I will also be partnering with the **CAI** who has developed a unique remote service of assessing the ND’s talents, providing remote Service Skill’s development, webinars and on-line internet training programs to help educate our the NDCHs and our DDC team in strengthening our own “stigma free” environment, especially at the **Developmental Village Level** and addressing what we can in the weekly SALLT Socials to help us **educate our local businessmen** and match our NDCHs talents to the needs of supportive and empowering employers.

Shasta County seems to feel that all homeless should be channelled into shelters that are not equipped to address the needs of the majority of the **chronic** homeless. They are neither **safe at night** from internal theft and violence, nor are they anything close to **secure**, for the sheltered homeless may be evicted, even in the middle of the night, for infractions of unspecified “rules,” or policies. The purpose of these shelters is largely to **relieve the voting public** of the **fear** and **guilt** that comes from not being able to shelter the masses of NDCHs that are left in the streets and under bridges.

These shelters offer a respite from the elements and training only to the minority of homeless who are able and willing to submit to **unquestioned compliance to protocol and be “fast tracked”** into job searches to provide minimum wage jobs to barely qualify for unsustainable, subsidized housing.

This **unquestioned compliance** is one thing the ND cannot do. They, like 2 year olds, always **want to know “why.”** That phase of human

development is called the “terrible two’s,” only because the parents, or authorities, don’t have the answers. It “is”, just because that’s the way it has **“always been.”** To our target population, this is not a phase, this is a **definer** of who they are. They look at the world, and rules, with fresh eyes to offer **new innovative ways** to possibly do things better. This is a life perspective these shelters may not tolerate. And many NDs who try, just add more **stress** and more **“failure”** to their already traumatized self-concept. No wonder they have such a **high recidivism rate**.

For those who cannot **“fit in,”** and **return** to the street/encampment life, Shasta Co. feels they have the answer; simply add more jail cells to a new location and rename it a “Correction and Rehabilitation Campus.” This is no more than a **camouflage** to the old “solution” of **incarceration**, again trying to relieve public guilt of failure to **appropriately** address chronic homelessness. The target population rightly feels they are being treated as animals who are supposed to be grateful for being **“caged.”** Again, they are being **punished for simply being who they are** and expected to “recover” from their “defective thinking” through **“accountable imprisonment”** with “Credits” for “good (compliant) behavior.” The DDC feels it is far past the time for Shasta Co. to start being accountable for its **criminalizing** of neurodivergency while being homeless.

In the New and Innovative DDC paradigm, the First goal is that the DDC Sanctuary residents become **stabilized** in their sense of **safety, security, well-being and personal value**. **Not until then,** can we begin to discuss what **dreams and goals they have** and what would promote or **interfere with attaining those goals**. **The first demonstration** of their willingness to take charge of their future, would simply be the fact that they choose to remain at the DDC Sanctuary as opposed to returning to the streets and under bridge encampments. DDC environment offers needed sleep, nutrition, positive dialogue and guidance to increase their **capacity for reflection and self-regulation**.

Detox and recovery programs are available locally to give them a foundation for clarity with a sober mind, but most relapse from having to return to the only community they can find to accept them, their homeless homies who don’t want them to stay sober, because their homies feel like greater failures when *they* can’t. DDC will welcome them back, to it’s

supportive, stabilizing, empowering and purposeful path of fulfilling *their* dream of who and what they have regained the choice to be.

NAMI, National Alliance of Mental Health suggests that strengthening the ND's unique functional challenges in social communication, interaction and team work be best addressed through **“play”** as opposed to traditional **“classroom study.”** Through team sports and games, they build consultative and **team-work** skills that utilize the different skills of each participant. Empathy, relationship & self-regulation challenges may be acted out in improv and theater. **Communication of ideas** may be developed through the arts, as well as learning, and teaching others, to speak to the neurodivergent honestly & directly **without hints or hidden agendas**, or expectations. Research skills, critical thinking and empathy are needed to turn persuasive debates into problem solving **consultation** on social issues, etc. Computers will also be a part of obtaining **GEDs**, etc. **CFI** remote learning and **Service skills.com** have many engaging on line and webinar job skill development programs such as such as “read & write for work,” training for those who struggle with digital text.

Our DDC staff will continue to **model skills** such **clarity in verbal communication**, and **small bites** of information, or instruction, at a time to help the ND grow their **tracking ability** of a series of details that comprise the “bigger picture. **“Listening Circles”** help the Villagers practice how to “Listen to Learn” by **focusing on key “tracking” words** that communicate. **Virtue Clarification in Action** teaches how to employ Living Virtues to improve personal and community relationships. **“Active Listening”** techniques are incorporated into all discussions to clarify or confirm understandings from each other and the typical public.

What other California Counties are doing, in comparison:

Since the first stage of the Developing Diamonds Community is a tent **encampment**, the public may have concerns that it may be another **“Tent City,”** with **justifiable reputations** as eyesores and breeding grounds of

disease and crime. Some of the homeless are leery of tents because of their reputation as “leaky,” and without protection from heat and cold, plus they anticipate their collection into a soul-less environment. Some **encamped homeless** feel that at least they have shade and protection from the weather under bridges and the beauty of the environment that feeds their souls. All of these presumptions are justified based on the reality of most “Tent Cities,” The most significant in **California** are as follows:

The closest “**tent city**” is along the West coast desert in **Imperial County, Cal.** called “**Slab City.**” It is more of an off-the-grid “**successful**” curiosity of 12 + “Hippy Commune” style, self governing neighborhoods, doing their “**own thing.**” They even have an **air B&B** for curious snow-birds. It was formed in the **1950’s** when **Camp Dunlap military base** was dismantled and left behind concrete slabs where buildings used to be. The bulk of the property is simply hardened dirt, **full of “freedom seeking” people** living **off the grid** in trailers, tents, lean-tos and broken down school busses, with packs of dogs roaming freely. One camp is a make shift kitchen/bar/outdoor living room made from found materials which supplies meals to 12 resident campers for \$125/month. Since they are on California State property, they are technically “**Squatters,**” although the **local police** patrol the property for a sense of safety... for the public. At the entrance, is a technicolor art project that invites many camera loaded tourists, but no income, and few venture beyond that entrance. Their summer population of **150** swells to a **few thousand** as winter “snow birds” flood in bringing with them an **influence of drug abuse**, trash and the challenge of trying to build community programs.

Up a dirt road is “**Camp Jesus,**” but they are on 30 acres of private property purchased for them by a local non-profit, whose main attraction is an elaborate, **outdoor art museum.** They are **accused of “gentrifying the Slabs,”** because they offer a battery bank and back-up diesel generator and composting toilets, a water heater, hand washing station, a library, pantry and recycling area to offer the community a way to “improve itself and take responsibility” to make something “more livable,... because there are a lot of people out here who have become accustomed to the filth, because they don’t have a choice.”

At the other extreme are 6 **“safe sleeping villages”** created by San Francisco to **clear the streets** of the homeless. They are offered a place to set up their tents in converted parking lots and receive 3 meals a day, around the clock security, bathrooms and showers. Although being cold and uncomfortable on the cement, this is costing the city \$60K/tent/year, and they are asking for another **\$15 million** to support the project. In between, is the very admirable **“Camp Resolution,”** in Sacramento that maintains a population of 61, rotating people in and out as a **“waiting room”** until they are awarded **permanent housing**. Inspired by the neglect of a homeless disabled woman who was left in a gut to be flooded out by a massive rain, a group of rebels declared, **“ENOUGH!”** With the help of a pro-bono lawyer, they challenged the city to make a **“Master City Plan Design”** for the homeless, based on the U.S. and state **constitution’s guarantee** of their right to Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness **and** to **“obtain safety.”** They have no power, rely on donated food and live in tents and RVs with random and junky placement, but at least it’s safe. Legally the city cannot clear the camp until ALL of the residents have found permanent housing, although many have tried. As a resident representative said “The difference between a Sanctioned Camp and theirs (they feel) is that the sanctioned camp is part of an **“Industrial Complex”** of human storage and costs (at least) **\$4,000/head/month.**” If they had that kind of money, they wouldn’t have to depend on donations of food and would have utilities and AC in their “hot box” RVs.

Our camping “Sanctuary” is nothing like these, first of all, it is more of a “glamping” campsite. DDC provides visually **lovely and clean tents**, so residents do not use their own, dirty, leaky and potentially infested ones. In addition to making the filth acceptable, they could pass on imported diseased vermin droppings, bugs or mold that could be unhealthy to the user, and transferred to other tents. A clearing and walk path is **graded, for the tents**, around the natural trees and bushes, tents, **set up on palates** held off the ground by **cement pavers**, and are **nestled** into their private spaces, with **pavers** on the walk path, plus a **“welcome” mat** to wipe feet on, to keep feet from tracking dirt into the **tent**, especially when the ground may be muddy from rain. **Grass** is also seeded along the walk path into the **common area** to make a cleaner and attractive lawn throughout. Residents **maintain the lawns and landscaping**, as one of the **services** they may provide **to earn more comforts** and bigger tents. They only take with them into the Sanctuary, what will fit into their

tents. Tarps may be labeled and washed to be used as **“rugs”** in the tents to avoid tearing the floor, especially if **sleeping with pets** in their tents at nights. All their old tents, wagons and other **homeless trappings** will be **stored** at DDC’s expense for 3 months until the new resident decides whether or not they will remain in the camp, after which they may be sold, disposed of, or stored at resident’s expense. Although they live **primarily “off the grid,”** they will have electricity for **security lights and charging stations**, for phones and rechargeable camping heaters. and will have sufficient **port-a- potties** and fire safe **smoking areas**. Around the hand washing and gravity fed **hot water tent showers** that are positioned around attractive and compact **“Drying Trees”** clothes lines. That way tents are not littered with drying clothes.

Although the residents of **“Camp Resolution”** are allowed to pursue an income producing trade, like bike repair, they are not given assistance in developing untapped talents into an **upwardly mobile income**. The residents of all these camps, are stuck in whatever shelter they can find or create, or sleep on cement in San Francisco. **Social relationships**, or **developing “community”** is random at best. San Francisco tent residents **stay “out of sight”** in their tents, unless using one of the associated facilities. The **Slab City** residents congregate only with **like minded** residents, while the social interactions of **“Camp Resolution”** are random, but with **empathetic assistance** in crisis, or working together to provide for their needs, collection of refuse and simply helping gather and disburse donations. **Soul nurturing beauty** is consciously provided only in **“Camp Jesus.”** In the DDC, beauty, human dignity and community **are top priorities**, along with **safety and security**.

None of the “tent cities” I found made provisions for **upgrading their housing** unless, or until, permanent housing becomes available, whereas DDC has a **built in, self motivating system** that allows each citizen to **track and emulate their neighbor’s advancement in both housing and life-style** until they evolve into financially sustainable housing in the public sector. Also, other than the San Francisco Encampment, the best tent cities have qualified success with self-governance. The organized voting system of “Camp Resolution” on setting the rules is admirable, but it also has the **strictest code** on compliance to the rules, being a **“one strike, you’re out”** policy, which does not engender a sense of **security**.

“Self-Governing” has very **limited success** in homeless camps and is even less functional with the neurodivergent. Although our target population, the NDCH, may have an exceptional **IQ** (Intelligence Quotient), they are low in other types of Intelligence, as Montessori defines them. They are very low in their **EQ (Emotional Quotient)** which measures one’s ability to maintain peace with others, keep to time schedules, be responsible, be honest, respect boundaries, be humble, genuine and considerate, and **SQ (Social Quotient)** which measures one’s ability to **network** with friends and maintain it over a long period of time. Their creativity fights with their low tolerance to change, to essentially “zero out” their **AQ (the measure of one’s ability to go through a rough patch in life, and come out of it without “losing their minds”)**. All these disabilities of “intelligence” can be modified in time, but do not support governing decisions that are not only fair to themselves, but equally fair to the needs & rights of others. The DDC will be governed by **elected** representation.

DDC has set up a **3 part “republic” system as a more appropriate form of governing our target population**. After 3 months in the Sanctuary, where there are minimal expectations of socialization, their population may elect one representative for every 50 Sanctuary residents. **In the beginning, approximately 1 in 3 Sanctuary residents will enroll into the Village Developmental Program**, where they become **more advanced in life & livelihood skills, like team-work, social empathy and awareness**, so they may represent a higher percentage of representation in DDC governance, with representation being of 1 in 17 Village residents. These representatives will be those to whom **community grievances**, suggestions and disputes may be directed, and may receive **a small stipend** as a token of their extra service to the well-being and contentment of the community. Those representatives will **take complaints and suggestions to the Advisory Board**, at open meetings, to discuss and further refer to the Executive Board with their recommendation. If **personal disputes arise**, the representative to whom the dispute is brought, with the manager on duty, may assist in arbitrating a solution. If unable, that dispute may also be taken to the Advisory Board for a decision which will be binding. Although decisions may be appealed to the Executive Board, the **original decision** will stand unless and until it is amended or reversed. It would be possible that this early

training in governing *may* lead them to become a **semi-self-governing entity in time**, with **Executive & Administrative Oversight** with the Bi-Laws and policies set up in the non-profit entity sponsoring the DDC program, "Building Community Thru' Healing Homelessness," as **the equivalent to it's Constitution.**

Tiny houses were the rage nation wide, and developed as permanent and vacation homes, As far as homes for the homeless, their success has been limited. A beautiful example is in Olympia Washington. **Quixote Village which evolved** from a controversial tent city that rotated between churches to ultimately become a very elegant Tiny House Homeless Community with **30, 144 sq. ft.** units, in a beautiful location, with common area for showers, etc. at a cost of **\$3,050,000.**

California, however has pretty much stuck to tents for the homeless, except for one project started in **Los Angeles.** "Hope of the Valley **Rescue Mission**" in 2021. "**Hope the Mission**" Started by erecting an 8' chain-link fence with strips woven in, to **obscure vision** from the outside world to them and the residents to the outside world. That immediately gave it the **look of an internment camp.** Inside that barrier is a **Guard Shack, Trailer** for case management, "**hygiene trailer,**" **laundry facility and a dog relief & run.** These are built on a **cement surface**, that is paint infused to designate different areas of the refuge by different colors to promote a sense of "**neighborhood**" to each section and to "brighten up" the general appearance, as are the housing units. The common area has traditional **umbrella covered seating**, like fast food restaurants (no good in the rain) from which residents receive 3 meals a day. The housing units, however, are **quick assembly 64 sq.. ft (8 x 8) units**, all looking exactly alike, even those adapted for couples and "ADA" units for wheelchair access, and stacked in rows, like dominos, just inches apart. They have electricity and are furnished with a bed, TV, bookshelf & AC. Since these units were "Bata Projects" they were approved as "worthy," on faith, developed by the company, "**Pallet Shelter Housing,**" at a cost of **\$5,000** each. The total cost was not revealed, but one of their **spin-offs** with only 50 units and similar fencing and accommodations, built on dirt, utilizing existing cement slabs cost **\$3.1 mil.** This shelter gave birth to 6 more spin-off compounds around L.A. The Fresno development is designated for formerly incarcerated and individuals on probation. Governor Newsom has promised to develop similar sites around the Sacramento area,

allotting **\$80 mil** for the project. Stockton Blvd, alone, consuming **\$22.5 mil** of that and figuring **\$100,000/unit** served for the entire set-up of each compound. **Pallet Shelter Housing** is the “state awarded” contractor for all these **camouflaged internment compounds**. Typically these units, in this “**Homeless Industrial Park of Human Storage Units** and where they are found elsewhere, are vastly overpriced to feed the money machine and uniform to **pacify** residents into conforming to a life-style that **trades comforts** for individuality and self-determination in advancement.

Unlike other shelter programs, the DDC housing will reflect order with diversity and the residents **transitioning from the Sanctuary** will have a **choice of Architecturally Designed and certified DIY micro homes** (plans already purchased) which offer variety both in style and colors of choice. As residents advance in their personal, social service and livelihood skills, their housing advances from those charming micro-pods to various stages of tiny homes, to neighborhoods, group homes and affordable basic housing as they begin their economic mobility.

Other **unique features** of the Developing Diamonds Community is the **3 tiers of safety provided**. **First tier** is for the **car camping homeless**, who usually have enough income for food and basic needs, but not enough for housing, and may be semi-nomadic. This is merely to provide them a **safe and sanitary** (port-a-potties with hand washing station) **place to park and sleep at night, from 8pm to 8am**. This lot will also have spaces reserved for **emergency and service vehicles**, for DDC staff, residents and parking for **day-time public events**. Once parked, the gates will close at 9:00 pm, or when full, and open again at 7:00 am to exit. Behaviors within vehicles are not monitored, unless they become a disturbance, or import drugs into the Drug Free Home Community. This car park may accommodate up to **80 car campers**

The second tier, the Sanctuary, begins the **drug-free, safe and secure home** environment with the most essential basic needs to a healthy life and receptivity to personal advancement: a **good night's sleep** and **good breakfast**. In their old environment of unimaginable stress and dangers, drugs were almost essential to survival. The DDC policies and environment virtually eliminate the stresses they were subject to in their street homeless and encamped lives. The **internalized stress responses** that have historically triggered them into mental health crises are respectfully and

non-judgmentally addressed until they are **self-regulated, disarmed and managed**. New, **positive social relationships** are developed so that the drugs that were previously needed to reduce the stress of survival or community are no longer needed, and dependency or indulgence gradually fades. The Sanctuary will ultimately accommodate up to **300 campers**.

They will enjoy **the privilege of Personal Space** with a **lock** and key on a chain (labeled with resident number) to secure their personal items. Even **couples** have their own personal space with **verified** night visitation rights until they **choose and prove** they can live peacefully and quietly in the same tent at which time they may upgrade in service and tent size. They will be allowed to **come and go according to the level of service** they choose and move about freely at night, utilizing sanitation, hygiene and smoking areas while respecting the right of their neighbors to **peace and quiet** while sleeping. They may also upgrade tent size and comforts according to the amount of service to their community they choose to provide. They will be provided with **pajamas, tent showers, sleeping linens**, warm “**army blankets**” as well as a light weight “**towel blanket**” for extra inner layer during winter and to **drape over tent**, with periodic misting from the water hose, for **evaporative cooling** in the summer. The guard shack will offer a **secure charging station** for their phones and rechargeable camp heaters. Each item will be **marked** with the name and address of the resident owner who will be **required to match** their ID card to the unit to reclaim them from the secure charging station.

In the DD Community, **drugs will ultimately** no longer be needed to get through the **pains** of homelessness **or need for social interaction**, and those Chronic homeless who do not take illegal drugs, wish to be in our DDC program **because they feel safer with our drug free protocols**.

We recognize that **forcing the drug dependent homeless**, especially the neurodivergent ones, to go to **detox and rehab**, **has never worked for long**. **Even in jail**, where they are forced to go through detox and live without drugs while incarcerated, they are living a life of compliance to authority, not choice. That often builds even more **resentment** to those traumatic rehabilitation efforts. **Recidivism** is very high until they have reached their lowest point of realization, that drugs are depriving them of

the joys and purpose of their humanity. That realization would be their **most effective** turning point in **choosing to get free**. Even then, when they **return to their homeless cronies**, they will most likely relapse from the social pressure to join in.

To require that all chronic homeless be **drug free in order to enter** the DDC Sanctuary leaves the addicted homeless helpless against their daily survival stresses and would likely cause them to continue in a state of drug imprisonment that not only **endangers their own lives, but the wellbeing of the public**. It would **deny them the experience of what a drug free life feels like** within the safe, secure, joyful and empowering environment of the **drug free DDC home**. That can build even more **resentment and resistance** to all typical rehabilitation efforts. **The DDC has an innovative and atypical solution to fit the needs and capacities of the atypical homeless addict.**

All applicants are told that **they are free to choose** when they are **ready** to become drug free, but they **may not endanger others** with their habit. They will not be subjected to humiliating pat-downs or breathalyzer tests upon entering or leaving the DDC, but they will be **required to surrender** all drugs and paraphernalia to be held in clear labeled bags, **stored in a safe, secured lock box** in the guard shack at the gate, upon entering.

We will **trust** them not to bring in, or assist in importing drugs into the DDC, but **verify that trust** with **random** security guard and drug sniffing dog **sweeps** of common areas and around personal spaces. Before acceptance into the program, **applicants will sign a waiver** that if dogs detect illegal drugs in their personal possession, or home space, they give **permission to designated staff to unlock and search** that space, even in their absence, witnessed and video recorded. **If proven to be the importer** of drugs into the DDC, the **only choice left** to them is to choose to go to detox & drug rehabilitation, or jail, then be welcomed back into the community's clean and sober support program.

Since residents of DDC are given a personal address and **id cards** verifying they are no longer homeless, they become "**public citizens**" and, as such, are required to **follow all local laws** designed to **protect the public**, especially where children may be present, from sales or influence,

disorderly or dangerous conduct **while under the influence** in public places. If they **violate** those laws, they are subject to **legal consequences**, including incarceration. With this signed & verified understanding, when addicted residents leave the DDC for the day, they may **sign a waiver** relieving the DDC of responsibility for their drug related choices and **sign out** their personal drug pack to include a Narcan device. At the end of the day, all will be welcomed back to the DDC, surrendering packets, to “**sleep off**” any side effects of their substance abuse during the day.

After experiencing the safe and secure **drug free Sanctuary Park** life-style, and being given the time they need to adjust to the realization that **drugs are standing in the way** of their living a more meaningful and purposeful life style by developing their talents and potential, they are ready to kick the degrading habit. Being “Clean and Sober” is, at that time, a **requirement** for entering the **Developmental Village phase** of the Developing Diamonds Community.

The Developmental Village component should accommodate up to **110 residents in “Scatter Housing” model from micro-pods to tiny homes and affordable housing units** for those who have **apprenticeship positions** in the public, or low paying entry level jobs. New Villagers may choose their **Unique Design MicroPod** mini homes with new materials, as well as **remnant building materials donated** by local residents & contractors, like acrylic skylight panels, replaced windows, board, plywood and shingle remnants, silicone seal and hardware. They help build them (with a contractor’s supervision) and participation from high-school students in shop classes. Then they may choose up to 3 complementary colors to **paint them**. In time, these homes will also be upgraded to more elaborate tiny homes that testify to their level of competency in life and livelihood development. **Competency development** starts with team work, then emotional self-regulation and empathy, family heritage & relationships, community relationships and service, life skills, communication in body language, conversation and consultation, then, finally, livelihood skills. On the grounds, there will be an area for Basket Ball, Volley Ball and other team sports.

In addition to **Toilets, Showers and comfort** in weather extremes the **Community Center** will provide upgraded Dining and a Coffee Shop

where the Villagers can get a snack, play team board games, **re-ignite a love for reading** with Graphic Novels and Engaging Books, It will also be the place for acting out their personal and social issues in **improve theater, debates and consultations**. The Community **large screen TV** will be educational, motivating and uplifting with such programs as “Earn your Way Every Day,” Whose Line is It Anyway, “Shark Tank” “Double Dare” (overcoming obstacles),” Highway to Heaven,” Saturday Night Live” (Finding the humor and irony in laughing at current events,) etc.

In the evenings, the Center will light up with **Karaoke, and Open Mic Nights**, to showcase their talents, even a bit of line and other cultural dancing. The DVD connecting to the TV screen provides **Movies** that release the human emotions they have had to stifle (fear, hope, inspiration and humor) ranging from Mad, Mad, Mad Mad Mad World, to World’s Fastest Indian and “Crash.” Residents will be encouraged to **invite friends and family** for an evening or lunch visit and tour, show-casing how they are changing and evolving into **the person they always wanted to be**.

After the new Villagers **show a desire and commitment** to their DDC development program, they may receive their first grand perk, a **CRI Ancestry DNA portfolio**. The Villager’s DNA is traced back as far as 100,000 years to their ancient family origins and migrations, famous people in their family line, legacy of basic **family traits and talents**. This gives those who have often lost family connections a **sense of belonging**. They may find family they didn’t know they had, as well as **reunite with family**, with whom they have lost touch. The second grand perk is their “**Reset Smile**” partial dentures to move out into the world with the confidence of a great smile to introduce them to future employers or meet family.

Tracking the personal developmental **milestones** of our residents will be easy. Each new tenant receives an **address** (enrollment #) when they are accepted into the DDC Sanctuary, *ie: John Smith, 4455 Oasis Rd #003, Redding Cal. 96001*. Then they are issued a **picture identification card** with that address to confirm to policing agents that they are no longer homeless, for they have a **home address to which they return at night** to sleep. Therefore, they should be treated, and are accountable to the same rules, as any other public citizen in Shasta Co. They are then given an **address marker** that is staked outside the tent they will be moving into. That marker moves with them as they progress through their

transformational housing experience. In the office, there will be a **magnetic board map** of the DDC with a magnetic strip quickly identifying their current home site. **Time cards** will also confirm whether they are home, off site or at an assigned job. The posted **service assignment schedule** indicates when each is “on duty” and where. This way, they can be **quickly located** by a runner or by phone as needed.

In the office, they each have a **computerized personal file and spread sheet noting** their progress through the “**bench marks**” of the program and any **anecdotal comments** to assist in understanding their process. Daily, the site managers note any significant events and recommendations to **complete a bench mark competency**. When three managers agree that competency has been achieved in a particular bench mark skill, it will be noted in their **flow chart of progress**. We hope to continue to track their progress, **even after graduation** to offer assistance whenever we can. Even if our resident may **choose to leave** and forfeit their DDC ID card, DDC will **keep the card** in their file, should they choose to return, later, their departure and return dates and reasons leaving noted in their chart.

The first bench mark is their **90 day decision** to stay, giving up their “street life-support supplies,” or pay storage on them, if still uncertain. Next, we track their **upgrades in comforts** (“cushy mat,” cot, portable camping heater, tent size) purchased with service. If they have an **alcohol or drug addiction** and are ready to unburden themselves of it, they may choose to enroll in a **detox and rehabilitation program**, knowing they would be welcomed back into the supportive, dignified and purposeful environment of the Sanctuary with on site **AA/NA** meetings to help them maintain their sobriety. Upon their return, we would gather around them for the ceremonial burning of their previous drugs and paraphernalia. Following that, when they are ready, they may apply to **enter the Village Developmental program**. Once settled into the Village, they begin their **money management program** by opening up a **bank account** to **responsibly budget** their income between life-style & development expenses at DDC (1/3), saving for future (1/3) giving to others in need (1/6) and discretionary (1/6). If residents are still in the Sanctuary, at **6 months**, they will **Contribute** 1/4 of their income to their DDC Room & Board, or, if

they have no income, they may give time to working in one of the DDC's income producing enterprises.

When they are ready to commit to the **Developmental Village**, we will track their competency in the life and livelihood skills progression, mentioned earlier. We will track when they get their **Ancestry portfolio** and if/when they **restore contact** with estranged family and new family. We will **note** the **livelihood skill** they choose to pursue, and help them make a plan for how to achieve it and how they may be **mentored**, even outside the village. We will track when they get their "**Reset Smile**," and go out for **job interviews** with a letter of recommendation from DDC. We will also track when they **graduate** and follow their progress **thereafter** and their new contact information, keeping in touch with their evolving life and life-style, inviting them to "**Family Reunions**" and DDC Functions.

Just as we will track the individual's progress, a **quarterly review** of *their* progress will indicate the success of our program, or provide insights to how it may be modified and improved. We will likewise be accountable for **Fiscal tracking and semi-annual auditing of grant income** and expenditures in specified categories, as well as expenditures of non-specified donations from other sources.

Community Program Planning (CPP-1) History and Development Milestones this New Vision.

My **first experience** in working as an advocate for the homeless was in the early 2010's, in Sarasota Florida. The street homeless and the business community of **Sarasota, Florida** were in a volatile clash, and I felt the need to step in and advocate for a **united effort** to resolve the clash for the benefit of both. I suggested many ways they could work together by helping clean the streets and collaborating street entertainment to attract customers to businesses in exchange for meals, etc. My homeless team and I spoke on ways to bring together the special interests, talents and insights of the different segments of the community in a **united effort to uplift** the most neglected population in their midst. With my **team of two**, we helped **organize one homeless encampment into a model** of how each could benefit when cooperating with each other. Ultimately, many of the **principles I introduced** were incorporated into Sarasota's policies in creating a place and **humane life-style** for the homeless.

Then, when I moved to Shasta Lake, **February 2023**, I saw a similar crisis developing in Redding. I wanted to help, so I started reaching out & listening to homeless. By **March**, I started attending meetings of the NorCal COC, and other stake holders to understand better what they were seeing as the problem. They recognized there were homeless who refused the available choices of shelter, but nobody knew why and nobody asked *them* why. One advocate asked why there were no services for the neurodivergent. As I included that question in my deep dive, **a common thread began to emerge, that everyone else was missing**. It seemed that these were the ones who became triggered into crisis by the typical fast track to “stabilization” and “job search” demands of the other available shelters. As I got to know the homeless on the streets and nearby encampments of Redding, I was increasingly impressed by their common childhood history, their creativity in managing the parts of their environment they could control and desire be “seen,” and understood. By **April**, I began interviewing homeless personalities to spotlight in my monthly Newsletter, **“Developing Diamonds News,”** which I printed and **distributed** to local, high traffic businesses to **display**, so the public may better understand their histories and traumas and lighten up with a little “Homeless Humor,” and an **invitation to SALT (Speak-up And Listen Together)** meetings where the public could meet with the homeless, to gain understanding and empathy for each other.

These were held on week days at a convenient time for the Homeless, but not such a good time for the working public, and sometimes conflicted with obligations of the homeless to a shelter’s required programs & social services, but was still **fairly well attended** with one church and 3 stakeholder representatives attending and between 5-20 public and homeless that came to share their stories, insights and concerns, all making suggestions on how to improve on functions of existing **available shelters** and **law enforcement**. Together, we developed our original **mandate** and a 2 page **bullet assessment** of what was not working and what we believed would work better. I continued to speak with various Homeless Services and Stake Holder Representatives. At that point, I was ready to make my first presentation to NorCal COC and the Innovative Dept. of MHHS.

One of the requirements for submitting a proposal to this INN Dept. was to collect **letters of support** for my proposal. Although many saw the need for an alternative solution and **recognized the simple but powerful practicality of this proposed project**, they were not allowed to openly declare their support, as elected officials or employees of various services. Fortunately there were **other homeless advocates** who happily wrote letters on my behalf, and I treasure those letters. **A newly “released” elected official has added their letter of support** to the others, and I do expect more to do so soon.

.By **March 2024** the Public-Benefit Non-Profit **501c3** Corporation, **“Building Community Thru’ Healing Homelessness,”** was formed. It became the means to developing and implementing the dream of creating a true Home where the homeless could become stabilized and self-motivated better versions of themselves, transforming into **community assets**. Our Executive Board has a wide variety of talents and backgrounds to **visualize and implement successful development** of the “Developing Diamonds Community” that we are working towards, today. We have also gathered homeless advocates into our **Advisory Board** to act as liaisons between the DDC community, the homeless and public communities and the Executive Board. Since the site I had envisioned as the perfect home was denied, finding a new site was our first assignment. But, concurrently we needed to continue to build support and assistance from Advocates and Public.

We continued going to meetings, making presentations and **good connections**. I also developed the **trust of a small cluster homeless** who began to sign the **Survey** expressing their interest in moving to the DDC **Sanctuary when available**. Some attempted to go on their own **to spread the word of DDC** and gather other signatures. Those **interest surveys** never made their way back to us, their friends were not interested in **another “do gooder,”** making more **empty promises** that would suddenly vanish like all the ones before. They had **more immediate traumas** to deal with. Homeless **sweeps** were picking up and they were packing up to find another place to **hide to survive**. Signatures that were collected were swept up and **lost in process**.

It was clear that finding a site for them to settle into was going to take some time, so we started the **Kindness Project** in the hope of easing the stress and trauma of constant displacement as much as possible until the DDC had a site to offer them.

The team designed a **“Human-kind” Poster (“We’re all a part of Humankind, why can’t we be Both?” (Attachment #6)**, The posters were laminated and attached to stakes for the homeless who had committed to cleaning up their sites and street litter could post at their camp site or attach to their street carts while carrying trash bags to collect litter from areas surrounding their campsite, trying to be a part of the solution. In return, they asked for amnesty while waiting for the **DDC solution**, or at least some kindness in return.

I asked to meet with **Chief of Police, Barner**, but since he was too busy to meet with me, he referred me to **Lft. Tim Renault** with whom I met several times. He was very supportive and offered several suggestions. The homeless reported that **some officers** did their job more kindly **when** they read their “Human Kindness” signs.

This effort and the development of content for a **website** continued until I left for an **extended vacation**, during which **my team** was to continue the meetings, develop the DDC website and advocate as indicated. **Unfortunately**, while on vacation I suffered a bad fall and injury which required surgery in Greece and much time in recovery until I was allowed to return home. Once home, I found that another **major sweep** of the homeless camps and street homeless had **displaced and scattered** my homeless team. It was heart breaking to learn that some had **lost their lives** in the process, and I haven’t been able to reconnect with others, so I don’t know, yet how they fared. My **advocate team** also suffered health and personal crises being unable to follow up as expected. and I have been confined to a wheel chair with limited access to my people, unable to drive to or walk through camps. My team and I are in the process of regrouping and reconnecting to **restore momentum and hope**. I have **re-arranged** my two remaining surgeries to be performed in Redding, instead of La Mesa, Cal. as planned, so I may be available to **further train and strengthen** my team and **restore hope to** the homeless **Diamonds-in-**

the-Rough that are **depending** on the DDC for **a home and life worth living**.

(CPP-2) to Affirm the Need & Future of the DDC

1. The website will also **establish new and renewed relationships** with Mental, Physical and Social (behavioral) Health services with whom we must collaborate, even now, to begin building sustaining fragments of healthful and purposeful living before our developmental Home site is established. Some of our new relationships will also provide **training for Peer Support Specialists, Volunteers and Staffing of the site**. These non-profits and agencies included on our mailing list are:

1. SHASTA Inter-Faith
2. Becoming a member of SCCAR (Shasta County Citizens Advocating Respect)
3. Nation's Finest
4. The Neurodivergent Brain.org
5. Mental Health (Upward Mobility)
6. Mental Health (Hope Van)
7. Mental Health (Suicide Prevention)
8. Baha'is of Redding and Shasta Co.
9. Mercedes Patee, New Life Medical Group, detox & Rehabilitation
10. Standing Against Stigma, Subscribing to Lyra Health News Letter
11. SMART Workforce Center
12. Shasta Scout
13. Providence International
14. Redding Chamber of Commerce
15. Partnership Health Plan of California
16. Halsey Resources ECM
17. Homeless Health Care,
Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) projects
18. Shasta Co. Citizens Advocating Success (SCCAR)
19. Tiny House Committee:
20. NorCal Continuum of Care
21. Redding's Day Resource Center
22. Shasta Public Library
23. Good News Rescue Mission
24. Several Businesses & Restaurants along Market and Cypress Sts.
who have posted DDC Invitation posters & have donated supplies
25. The BelovedCommunity... Implementing plans of Justice
26. St. James Lutheran Church.

26. Dr. Kyle Patten
27. Redding
28. Micro Shelter Community Advisory Board
29. Lighthouse Church
30. Shasta Substance Abuse Coalition
31. Lotus Educational Services
32. Redding and Shasta County Law Enforcement
33. Lutheran Social Services
34. Redding City Counsel
35. Shasta Co. Supervisors
36. Mystic Heart Spiritual Center
37. Mandt System of Building Healthy Relationships
38. Hill Country Crisis Care Center & Mobile Health Crisis Line
39. CalWorks
40. CalFresh
41. Transformative Leadership

from Organizer to Educator in Community Development

- *The **website** also provided information for those who may be seeking **employment or volunteer service** and where to go for more information. All will be trained in special needs and approaches to the NDCH directly or indirectly through work-shops and collaboration with the agencies and non-profits mentioned in pages 3-7. One way of **vetting** them is to see how they interact with, care about and socialize with the Homeless at the new **Socials. Job Descriptions and Applications** will be available there.
- *. We have already **reserved** the services of **Security Guards for 2 night shifts** (6p-1am) & (1am-9am) 7 days a week.
 - * **Construction site Contractor** to assist with DIY home construction **and construct the Community Center, Guard Shack/Office and Sanctuary Savory Grill.**
 - *. **Executive Director** to oversee that all components of the program are running smoothly and
 - * **Part-time assistants** who are on call to advocate and carry on when Director is off-site.
 - * **Social Director** to oversee the evening Social Components of the Community Center.
 - * **2-4 cooks** to coordinate for 3 meals/day/ 7 days a week.
 - * **Shift Managers** part time to work into full time.

- * **Mentors** to teach Trade Skills and lead the activities for personal, social & and community development
- * **Volunteers**, random hours (unpaid) may work toward scheduled (paid) position. These volunteers would work with staff as helpers on the jobs of serving the needs of the DDC residents, helpers in building their micro-homes, as companions and as ears who can listen non-judgmentally, empathize and encourage the residents. They would also accompany residents doing community service, even providing services that may enrich the lives of DDC residents, such as yoga, crafts, line-dancing, chorus, etc.

We are **investing in advertising** to target groups of Seniors, Youth & Homeless on Face Book and other sites they frequent, to attract volunteers to share & connect with homeless at the New SALLT Socials and do weekly outreach to listen and connect with chronic homeless in the field.

*The website's **First Call to Action** is to **SHOW UP** (on time) at the “**New SALLT Social**” which started Feb. 1, 2025 to engage in the **Power of Unity**. It is an **Upscaled Version** of the first SALT meetings where it all began, to engage homeless and public to make a change in their lives and the lives of their community. These socials will be on **Saturdays** to be more available to both the **working public and the homeless**. In these Socials, the environment of high regard for the homeless is first set by the quality of the material setting and refreshments provided. The homeless are treated as the esteemed and honored guests. The homeless learn, often for the first time, who and what they are as neurodivergent. They find out they are a very distinct inherent **personality type** that thinks & expresses themselves differently offering valuable divergent insights to the majority neurotypical society. Their mental illnesses are from their efforts to respond to and protect themselves from the **emotional traumas** they have suffered from being invalidated for their differences. They can help each other and the public understand that they need and deserve a **home with family that understands** them and helps them tap into their innate talents to thrive by being true to themselves as part of a team effort with neurotypical.

First, the public and homeless share quality refreshments and the common relief of laughter, **laughter, being** a human expression that homeless may have lost touch with, for their lives are lived from one stress to another and do not afford many opportunities for such indulgences. **Comic relief is the best medicine** for the conflicts, divisions and stresses that have smothered that common spark of **humanity and unity**.

After that light hearted engagement, meaningful conversations that strengthen skills of undivided attention to listening-to-consider-to-respond to-and-build-upon a given topic and thoughts shared earlier. The neuro**divergent** have lived the emotional trauma of having their views overlooked or disparaged because they were different from, and therefore inferior to, the neuro**typical**'s views and thought patterns. The NDCH population needs to learn **communication skills** to engage the typical thinker to *want* to listen to, consider and understand the value of their contribution to the consultation and problem solving process. Both public and homeless **need practice** in critical thinking skills to put all their thoughts together to come up with a plan of action that improves the lives and activates solutions for all.

As these **conversations grow** between the majority neurodivergent homeless and the majority neurotypical public, understanding and empathy grow between the two communities who lived as much as possible in isolation from one another. Their previous views of seeing the "other" as the problem, fades and they may begin to see the **power of the solution** lies in their empathy, collaboration and unity. Together they can build a more **empathetic and creative society**.

Other activities may be woven into the Social as appropriate, with "Poe, the (Inter-active) story telling bear" to enjoy and learn imaginative story telling components and apply core principles to their own stories, **"How are you Feeling" dice, "Getting to Know You" activities and reflecting on funny and, or thought provoking movies**. We may be adding some **Karaoke** and even a bit **line-dancing**, together-Whatever **joys we can**

share. While getting to **know and enjoy each other**, homeless may fill out applications to **enroll** in the DDC **Sanctuary** and the public will also have access to **job and volunteer applications.** The homeless may also join the **DDC Workforce** to help collect early donations and interact with public neighbors in **service projects**, gaining first access to help prepare the DDC Sanctuary for population.

2. Outreach has been limited with my **limited physical capacity** in recovering from the overseas accident and preparing for follow-up surgeries I have been, and will continue to be, in and out of a wheelchair and walker being unable go into rough terrain to locate and navigate the new homeless encampments created by the latest **homeless sweeps** while I was away. Being driven to wheelchair accessible gatherings of the **street population**, I have begun again, with my new team, to **show and discuss DDC Policies** created in collaboration with the public and homeless together. **We** are just beginning, with enthusiastic homeless **teams from SALLT** to venture together into homeless encampments as I started before, to find my old team and offer those who either don't remember me, or the DDC program, and don't know about all the information (and visuals) available on the website the opportunity to sign the interest survey as well.

Members of the public are just starting to join us, one has already started taking the petition to her contacts, and will join us, as she is able, when we go to shopping areas and other public gatherings for **petition signing "stake outs"** for those who do not know of the Homeless Crisis and the dilemma we're facing with the solution. It involves **going to where each hangs out**, engaging with them for understanding of our mutual concerns, passions and purposes, creating mutual benefits for all.

For a target population who finds change very difficult, they have been, **highly responsive** to the DDC program and eager to sign the **interest survey**, over 100 signatures to begin, **about 85% of the homeless approached**, and more when **new teams reach out.** They like that they start with the open air camping that is familiar to them, but with the safety, security and dignity **they crave.** Change is manageable when not forced, but allowed the **time and choices** needed to adjust. Instead of **rule**

overload, they can respect the **reasonable rule** of refraining from any behaviors that may deny their neighbor of the same **safety, peace, security, cleanliness, order and dignity** of choice that they want for themselves. That includes their neighbors in the public sector. And when in the public, they are expected to abide by the same rules for the welfare of the whole community, or suffer the same consequences as any other public citizen.

The DDC is also recommending the **humane relocation** of reluctant homeless campers **to one other site** to act as a “**waiting room**,” with accessible trash containers and port-a-potties to allow a bit more clean and sanitary conditions. The **DDC is offering to provide tents** to the street homeless who do not have any, so they may at least have some shelter in this waiting room until the DDC is able to gradually welcome them into it’s program, or another of their choice. This will **save** the city and county a great deal of **money in policing and providing physical and mental health services** to unsheltered homeless, without having to constantly search and re-find them in the scattered encampments and under tarps on city streets. Instead, they can relocate them to a site with affordable access to their services, as well as **return the parks to the public, clean and safe**. The one in Yreka, Cal. across the street from human services seems to be working out quite well, and the public streets and parks are clean and safer, as a result.

The DDC “**Kindness Project**” may be restored, also, for preference in gaining admission to the DDC, for helping keep at least their portion of the camp clean and safe from drug paraphernalia, creating “happy campers” all around.

The **Developing Diamonds Community Pilot Project** may start in Shasta County, but it should **become a model** for other communities and even other states. As far as I have found, **there is no other** Transitional housing/Developmental Program that recognizes and specifically addresses the needs, desires and potential of the Neurodivergent-Chronic Homeless population as the **key to Healing Homelessness**. **Locked within the** their DNA is the genius of **diversity of thought and perception**, the **challenge and opportunity** to transforming our communities from myopic, strictly “standardized” communities to ones with **creative and empathetic energy** to create new visions of problem solving and innovative movement forward.