

Supervisory Proclamation

WHEREAS, the most recent Monterey County Point in Time Survey (2022) showed 485 adult men and 161 adult women experiencing homelessness on the Monterey Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, 280 of those men and women were in need of Emergency Shelter, sleeping on the streets, in abandoned buildings, in cars or encampments, and

WHEREAS, **I-HELP** is the only emergency shelter for men on the Monterey Peninsula and has provided shelter for 15-25 unhoused men every single night for 31 years, and

WHEREAS, faith communities in the Monterey area recognized the lack of emergency shelter for men in 1994, and

WHEREAS, those faith communities were inspired to create a “nomadic shelter” that would transport men to shelter at their places of worship each night, and they named it the **Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP)**; and

WHEREAS, **I-HELP** was scheduled to close in 2014 by the agency that ran it because federal funding was no longer available for Emergency Shelters, and

WHEREAS, a group of the faith community members saw the need for **I-HELP** to continue to provide shelter and formed the nonprofit **Outreach Unlimited** in 2014 to continue **I-HELP** without missing a night of shelter; and

WHEREAS, **Outreach Unlimited** also saw the need for a safe and welcoming overnight shelter program to help single women experiencing homelessness in the Monterey area; and

WHEREAS, **Outreach Unlimited** opened the **I-HELP for Women** program in November 2015 which has provided shelter to over 400 individual women; and

WHEREAS, **Outreach Unlimited** adapted to sheltering both men and women 24 hours a day for more than a year during the COVID 19 pandemic to; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that by working together 20 congregations, Rotary clubs, and other groups and individuals are improving the quality of life and providing dignity and encouragement for men and women experiencing homelessness on the Monterey Peninsula by providing a nutritious meal and safe shelter in a caring environment every night.

Made this 24th day of August 2024

*Mary L. Adams, Supervisor, 5th District
Monterey County Board of Supervisors*