In Loving Memory of our son, Josh Moore

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You Matter

Josh's Heart Homeless Connect 2025 Grant Narrative

Executive Summary

The Homeless Connect 2025 was a one-day outreach event held on August 9, 2025, at Sacramento State's Harper Alumni Center, serving approximately 100 individuals experiencing homelessness in the Greater Sacramento area. The event provided barrier-free access to essential services, including free public transportation through Sacramento Regional Transit, hot showers, haircuts, new clothing, meals, and on-site support from more than 25 local and state agencies. Of the 75 guests who completed a voluntary intake survey, over 40% were age 55 or older, and nearly half reported experiencing homelessness for five or more years, indicating a population with significant long-term needs. More than 100 volunteers supported event operations across two days, contributing to a program budget of approximately $36,000. While overall attendance was lower than previous years, guest engagement was deeper, with extended interaction between guests, volunteers, and service providers, demonstrating the effectiveness of a focused, dignity-centered service model.

Josh's Heart Homeless Connect 2025-Grant Narrative

Program Background

Homeless Connect is a one-day outreach event designed to bring individuals experiencing homelessness together with local and state agencies, service providers, and community organizations in a safe, welcoming environment. The event removes common barriers to access by offering transportation, basic necessities, and services all in one place. Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) supported the event by providing QR codes that allowed guests to ride the bus or light rail for free to and from the event.



Throughout the day, guests were able to receive a fresh haircut, take a hot shower, select new clothing items such as t-shirts, shorts, underwear, and socks, enjoy nutritious meals, listen to music, and relax in shaded seating areas. Most importantly, guests had the opportunity to connect with service providers who could assist with housing navigation, healthcare, legal support, veteran services, food assistance, and counseling.

Mission and Purpose

The mission of Homeless Connect is simple and heartfelt: to provide our unhoused friends with a day of dignity, rest, services, and joy. For many guests, daily life is focused on survival. Homeless Connect offers a pause—a space to feel seen, supported, and valued. Even if the impact lasts for only one day, we believe that restoring dignity and human connection creates meaningful change and renewed hope.

Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, August 9, 2025
- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- **Location:** Sacramento State, Harper Alumni Center

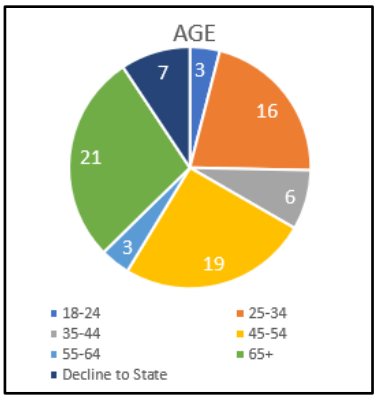


Guest Participation and Demographics

Approximately 100 guests attended Homeless Connect 2025. Upon arrival, guests were welcomed at a check-in table and invited to complete a brief, voluntary four-question survey. A total of 75 guests participated.

This data reflects a diverse population, many of whom have experienced long-term homelessness and face ongoing barriers to stability and services.

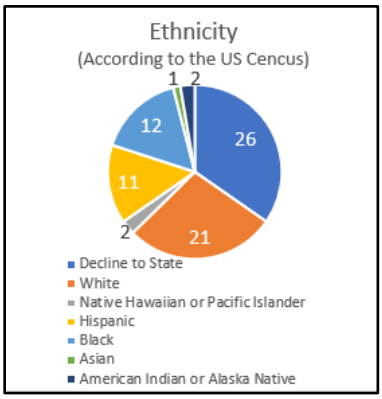
Age Range of Guests:



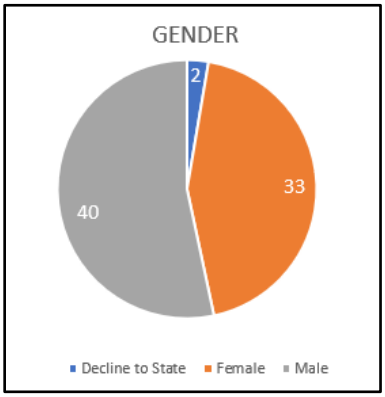
- 18–24: 3
- 25–34: 16
- 35–44: 6
- 45–54: 19
- 55–64: 3
- 65+: 21
- Declined to state: 7

Ethnicity (U.S. Census Categories):

- White: 21
- Hispanic: 11
- Black: 12
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 2
- Asian: 1
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 2
- Declined to state: 26



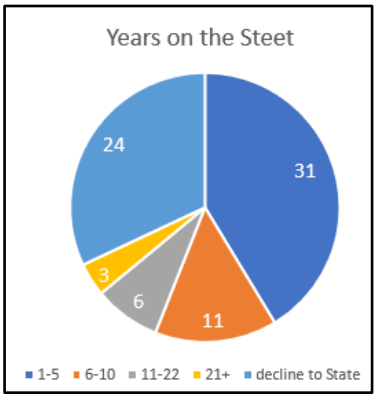
Gender:



- Female: 33
- Male: 40
- Declined to state: 2

Length of Time Experiencing Homelessness:

- 1–5 years: 31
- 6–10 years: 11
- 11–20 years: 6
- 21+ years: 3
- Declined to state: 24



Resource Partners

Homeless Connect 2025 was made possible through collaboration with a wide range of community partners, including:



- Peak Adventures Bike Shop (Bike Repairs)
- Federico Beauty Institute & Great Clips (Hair Services)
- La Familia Counseling Center
- First Step Communities
- Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home
- Sacramento Loaves & Fishes
- 211 Sacramento
- California Department of Veterans Affairs
- Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance
- Community HealthWorks
- My Sister's House
- Sacramento County Homeless Engagement and Response Team
- El Hogar Community Services, Inc.
- Sacramento Public Library
- McGeorge Law School Buccola Family Homeless Advocacy Clinic
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul Sacramento
- River City Food Bank (CalFresh Enrollment)
- Volunteers of America Veteran Services
- One Church Sacramento
- Sacramento State, Office of the President

Event Implementation



On Friday, August 8, volunteers gathered at the Harper Alumni Center to assemble 400 Blessing Backpacks and prepare materials for the event. On Saturday morning, volunteers arrived as early as 6:00 AM to set up tents, tables, chairs, shower stations, clothing distribution areas, and resource partner spaces.

A key feature of the event was the "Rest Nest," a shaded 40'x40' tent furnished with borrowed outdoor furniture to create a calm, welcoming space for guests to relax. Guests checked in beginning at 9:00 AM, either walking in or arriving via the sponsored shuttle from the 65th Street Light Rail station. Each guest received a tote bag with a refillable water bottle, meal voucher, and an introduction to a volunteer guide who helped them navigate available services.

Despite extreme heat reaching 104 degrees, guests were able to stay cool with shaded seating, cold water stations, and refreshments. Many guests spent time resting in the Rest Nest,

enjoying gourmet meals from Sac MOFO food trucks or cold Starbucks beverages. Several guests even took naps—an indicator that they felt safe enough to rest.

Outcomes and Impact



While attendance was lower than our inaugural Homeless Connect in 2023 (approximately 100 guests compared to 325), the depth of connection was noticeably stronger. Guests, volunteers, and resource partners consistently shared that interactions felt more personal and meaningful. Over **100 volunteers** supported the event across both days, reinforcing the strong sense of community ownership and compassion that defines Homeless Connect.

The event would not be possible without the dedication of volunteers, the generosity of sponsors and donors, and the commitment of our resource partners.

Budget Overview

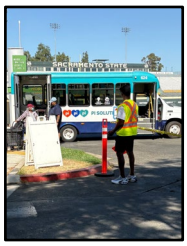
The total cost of Homeless Connect 2025 was approximately **$36,000**. Major expenses included:

- **Meals** (1,400 meals from Sac MOFO Food Trucks)**:** $9,800
- **Eight-Station Shower Units:** $7,781
- **Tent Rentals** (40'x40' and 40'x80')**:** $5,361
- **Shuttle Transportation:** $2,000
- **Starbucks Beverage Truck:** $2,000

Several essential expenses—including venue space at the Alumni Center, tables, chairs, pop-up tents, and Sacramento State Police patrol—were generously sponsored by the Sacramento State Office of the President.





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Video Link: https://youtu.be/BclEZcTWis4?si=f1M7xc8QBk0x5uFy