



COMMUNITY FIRST VILLAGE







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Definition of Chronically Homeless individuals

- An individual who:
 - Is homeless and lives in a place <u>not meant for human habitation</u>, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
 - Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for <u>at least one year</u>
 - Can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental <u>illness</u>, developmental <u>disability</u>, post traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability

What is Community First Village?

- Faith Based & Driven project to reduce (not eliminate) suffering in the chronically homeless community within the Austin Metropolitan Community.
- \$17.5 Million Community sitting on 27 acres of land outside Austin City Limits but within the ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction) = Reduced Zoning
- RV Park / Tiny Home & Canvas Sided Canopy Village / Very Successful Bed & Breakfast & Community Market open to the public
- Runs on generous donations, NO government money & 4k
 Volunteers a Year







Analyzing the Residents

- Very Curious but Shy
- "Looking IN from the OUTSIDE"
- Mentally or Physically Disabled (Chronic)
- Severe Social Anxiety
- Love to Give, Love to Share
- Little Ambition for Saving \$
- Discrimination Still Exists (LGBTQ, Race, etc.)
- Want to Re-Establish Trust with the Public
- "Police" Each other to Maintain Order
- Emotionally bound to animals
- Adhere to different social norms



What makes a home, "HOME"

- Be Fully & Wholly Loved & Valued:
 - Forced Interaction
 - Belonging to Community
 - Orientation to living with others
 - Affection of new friends/neighbors
- "Home embodies a lifestyle full of Christ."



Debunking the Homeless Camp Myth

- "Great White Hope" of fixing problems
- Trying to place a Band-Aid on a bleeding problem in our nation
- Foster communication in diverse communities
- Financial cultures of people's environment



Fun Fact: Cars are donated to CFV and are sold cheap to residents at 0% Interest for 12 months. If they are "team players" then the rest of the payments disappear!

What's so Special about Community First?

Mission Statement

- Empowering communities into a life of service with the homeless
- This is a community that knows that the poor need the rich who are rich in material blessings. This community also knows that the rich need the poor who are often rich in spirit.





Main Questions to be answered

- Who is going to be admitted into the community?
- How do we determine who is eligible/qualified to have a home?
- What is the common/typical size and cost of rent for a home?
- Is the housing temporary or permanent? If temporary, how long?
- How much is the average cost of a tiny home? & who is financing it?
- Where would the location of the homes be?
- Facilities for restrooms, laundry rooms, kitchens, etc.
- How is security implemented? Established rules, regulations, etc.



Who can be admitted into the village?

- Community First (CV) focuses on the single male & female who are determined to be Chronically Homeless
- People who typically receive the "short end of the stick"
- Felons are not prohibited from applying and living in the community
- "20%" Percentage Scale
 - Missional
 - Frequent Flyers
 - Veterans
 - Most Chronic
 - Least Chronic



Eligibility Requirements

How are people eligible?

- All residents are required to complete the Coordinated
 Assessment Intake
- Provide fingerprints for FBI check
- Agree to a Criminal Background Check
- Require proof of homelessness for at least one year within the Austin metropolitan area

Walk-in Assessments are available at the following locations:

Sandra Joy Anderson Clinic

1705 E 11th St, Austin, TX 78702

Hours Monday & Tuesday: 9am - 4pm Goodwill of Central Texas

1015 Norwood Park Blvd Austin, TX 78753

Hours Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 4pm The Southeast Health and Wellness Clinic

2901 Montopolis Dr Austin, TX 78741

Hours Monday - Friday: 9am - 4pm Trinity Center (Monday & Tuesday are women only)

304 E 7th St, Austin, TX 78701

Hours Monday - Friday: 9am - 1pm

Qualifying Criteria

- Qualify through the Coordinated Assessment Process
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Provide valid government ID or fingerprint documentation
- Provide a valid social security card or proof thereof
- Provide gross income documentation sufficient to pay rent
- Meet the Criminal History requirements of the community

- Agree to comply with the housing contract as well as the rules and regulations of the Community First Village
- Complete a resident release and consent form
- Provide documentation of homelessness in the Travis County area for at least one year, if applicable:
 - Certification letters from an emergency shelter for the homeless
 - Certification letters from a homeless service provider or outreach worker
 - Certification letters from any other health or human service provider

Community First Housing Options

Canvas Sided Cottages





Micro - Homes





Family Homes





Costs & Maintenance

- Avg. Square ft. of Homes:
 - 180 for Tiny Homes
 - 325 for RV
- Avg. Cost of Homes:
 - Tiny Homes: Mostly Free!
 - Canvas Tents: \$2,500
 - North American RV's: \$27,000
- Avg. Rent for Homes:
 - TH: \$225 \$375 / monthly
 - RV: \$380 \$430 / monthly
 - Depending on Luxury of home/rv
- Avg. Cost of Utilities:
 - Depends on Usage / Added to Rent
- Financed by:
 - Home Depot / McCoy's Lumber / Donation



Amenities

- Innovative mix of affordable housing options
- Micro-Homes and Canvas Cottages are designed for one adult usage
- Families that are chronically homeless may live in RVs or Park Homes
- Medical Facility for health screenings, hospice and respite care
- Community market / cinema / garden / workshop / barbershop / art studio / park / bike repair shop / veterinary services
- Bed & Breakfast for Overnight Visits
- Capital Metro Bus Stop
- Wi Fi throughout the community









Income Requirements

- Monthly income from all sources must be sufficient to pay rental amount for the unit (1.5x the tenant portion of the rent)
- If receiving entitlements/pensions/rental subsidy, applicant must provide current, updated documentation

- Summary of Household Income data required
- Resident must agree and consent to the release of personal information regarding income
- Income Recertification:
 - Resident gross income is subject to annual recertification. Failure to meet this requirement may lead to termination of their housing contract

Utilities & Facilities

- Monthly rental amount includes: electricity for the microhomes and canvas cottages
- RV and Personal home rental rates include the RV / PH itself, pad site, & water. Electricity and propone is paid for by the resident
- There are separate facilities for toilets, showers, laundry and outdoor kitchens. Focal points for community interaction!
- Full Time Drug Rehab Facility but NO mandatory drug testing or medical screening need prior to move in





Rules and Regulations

- Very Little Crime: No Tolerance for Violence within the community
- Mainly just verbal altercations and disputes that get settled
- Community polices each other
- Rules of etiquette
- Zero Tolerance for Violence,
 Public Drug use & Weapons

- EVERYBODY PAYS RENT
- "Grace and Mercy" Rule for those who are late on paying rent
- After exhausting all resources, people can and will be evicted from their dwelling.
 - Only 2 people have been evicted in 3 years!

Resident Care & Property Management

- Create and Provide an exciting place for their neighbors to live in
- Everything is fully furnished and brand new
- Residents are able to decorate and beautify their own homes to give a sense of belonging

- Activities include:
 - Yoga Classes
 - AA Meetings
 - Holiday Dinners
 - Game Tournaments
 - Mental Health Workshops
 - Birthday Dinners and Cards

Continued...

- Home Health Inspections
- Getting residents used to living self-sufficiently and giving them to dignity to do so
- Ensuring vital resources are available to the residents
- Providing a strong support system
 24/7 regardless of anything



CONCLUSION

- Be Patient, it takes years to develop and for people to get on board with these things
- Fight through Adversity
- Come on, Community!
- Trust the Process

- Relieve the suffer by pursuing the cure
- Just say YES, let the community follow
- Continued Persistence
- Believe in YOUR mission

Semper Gumby

More Questions? Feel free to contact us

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