FACT SHEET

PRESS/OUTREACH INQUIRIES

Immediately direct all inquiries/outreach opportunities/requests from the press and other communications organizations to Morgan. Morgan is the Communications Coordinator and can be reached at mrichie@sos-richmond.org / 808.321.7757. If you want the opportunity for media exposure, we will prepare you and vet the organization.

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND FACTS

SOS Richmond was founded in 2021 by Daniel Barth, our Executive Director. SOS was incorporated in January 2021 and has been a 501(c)(3) non-profit since June 2022, but started sending its unhoused workforce into encampments in January 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic.

WHAT WE DO

SOS Richmond empowers our unhoused neighbors on their journey to health and housing. We are helping people from tent to home with empowerment as the first step toward housing. Hiring people straight out of encampments for work experience, we utilize their expertise for earning peer-to-peer trusted relationships, delivering essential services, and navigation for health, housing, income, and personal goals. The three aspects of our work are:

- Building relationships and trust with unhoused individuals to support their survival/personal development and opening communication channels with service providers.
- Opening pathways for our unhoused neighbors to achieve employment through job readiness that encourage job advancement, longer-term career development and wellness, and sustain stable housing and self-sufficiency.
- Providing a low barrier safe space where unhoused and vulnerably-housed neighbors find respite and have access to peer and clinical support for making big life changes- (The Warm Hand Wellness Center).

FAQs

Where does your funding come from?

SOS is funded by grants from the City of Richmond and organizations along with donations from private individuals.

What is your location?

Our physical location is 32 Harbour Way, Richmond, CA 94804. Our mailing address is PO Box 1490, Richmond, CA 94802.

How do I make in-kind donations?

If you would like to make an in-kind donation, please visit our in-kind donation page. Drop off is at 32 Harbour Way, Richmond from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Monday - Saturday. For other drop off times, call 510.806.8650 for an appointment.

What services are there and how can I get them?

- SOS offers mobile showers, laundry support, a 90-day job readiness program, mobile clean-up, relocation support, and The Warm Hand Wellness Center..
- Contact 510.806.8650 for information and, if needed, a ride.
- Visit our Services page for a services flyer.

How can I help?

Here's a list of ways that you can partner with SOS:

- Sign up for our newsletter
- Follow us on social media
- Inquire about our open positions
- Call the Neighbor Care Line before police if you have a concern about an unhoused neighbor
- In-kind donations
- Cash donations

I am having a concerning/negative experience (illegal dumping, interaction, vehicles on property) - what do I do?

If you are experiencing something distressing, call and leave a message on our Neighbor Care Line. A member of the SOS Engagement Team will call you back and help you navigate the situation.

When mobile showers come to a neighborhood, does that mean you are bringing the encampment to the area?
No, we do not relocate encampments. If we are present in an area with a mobile shower, this means we are helping an existing nearby encampment. By providing services that make people feel better about themselves, we are empowering them to seek healthier alternatives in their own lives.

Does SOS want the encampments to persist? Aren't encampments your bread and butter? No, SOS is not supporting the development of new encampments or advocating for the persistence of existing ones. We are bringing our services to clean up the whole neighborhood, not just the encampment.

Is SOS able to go to private property?
If you are the property owner, you can request that we come to your property on a fee-for-service basis. If you are not the property owner, you can provide our Neighbor Care Line number to the property owner and let them know that they may request us.

What does SOS do to help the elderly and those with mental health issues?
This is on our radar, and we are currently considering whether our programming should include special services for these folks.

Is it better to call SOS or my city council member/police/other government agency?
SOS offers a friendly and collaborative approach to finding solutions with our unhoused neighbors. We are an intermediary step between the unhoused communities and government organizations. Our staff are unhoused or formerly unhoused, have trusted relationships in the community, and can often negotiate care-based solutions.