**Resources**

Homelessness and safety issues with women: https:// [www.nhchc.org/wp-content/](http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/) uploads/2011/10/ FOSS\_Keeping\_Safe.pdf

For information on homeless in Ventura, see the Ventura City Website : https:// [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/347/](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/347/) Homeless-Services

Department of Labor OSHA workplace violence resources: ht[tps://www.osha.gov/dsg/](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/) hospitals/ workplace\_violence.html Although this is geared toward health care, this population is similar in many ways.

Infectious Disease Prevention Homeless Population https:// [www.nhchc.org/wp-content/](http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/) uploads/2016/05/fact- sheet\_infectious- diseases\_hrsa-approved-final- version-1.pdf

National health Care for the Homeless: https:// [www.nhchc.org/resources/](http://www.nhchc.org/resources/) clinical/diseases-and- conditions/communicable- diseases/

How Do you Volunteer?



### www.

### thesoapbox.love

Go to the Website

### Sign up

Sign up to Volunteer

### WE WILL CALL

The volunteer coordinator will contact you to get you schedualed.

The Soap Box Volunteer Book September 17, 2018

The SoapBox

Volunteer Handbook

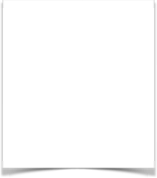
# Safety

The safety of everyone involved is my number one priority. I mean it with every fabric of my being. This cause is not worth one, single person getting hurt by violence. Avoiding it is a lot of common sense, but please review some of the resources I have available. My husband doesn’t think I have common sense, but thats another story. But, basically don’t position yourself with your back to people. Don’t go in the shower with people. Don’t get yourself in a corner. If you don’t think a person can’t safely shower themselves for any reason, they ain’t taking a shower that day. If you feel unsafe in anyway, get safe. Trust your gut. There will always be at least two volunteers on each run, and likely more. One of the rules will be they have to leave everything outside the trailer including shoes. Part of the reason, this will reduce the potential of concealed weapons, needles and that sort of thing. But the main reason I need to do that is for infection control. Which kinda leads to my next topic, infection control.

www. TheSoapBOx.love September 17, 2018

#### Note For Hairstylist Volunteers

If you are a volunteer hairstylist, as I am sure you are aware there is possibilities of lice, fleas, impetigo, fungal infections. Please use your professional judgment. If you don’t feel uncomfortable cutting their hair for any reason, don’t, and tell them why. Then hopefully they will get treated, or we can get them some help to be treated. But again really you know way more about this than me. I am going to look into what kinds of strategies we can use in these situations. Safety note; Please keep your tools Secure.



Infection Control

Please review the information on the links I provided. I not only want to protect the volunteer staff, but the community at large.The homeless population does demand more caution. For the most part it’s hand washing. However the waiver has screening questions as well. If someone has been feeling ill, fever, coughing, diarrhea, night sweats, itching, wounds, lice, bed bugs, and whatnot, they won’t be able to take a shower in the unit until they are well. If someone reports they are sick, please try to get them help, make a referral, do something. If we even think for a minute that we have an infection control issue, we will quarantine the trailer and professionally disinfect. Again I want to cause more good, than harm. In addition the trailer will sit unused for 2 consecutive days at least every other week. and professionally cleaned as well every other week. Between showers the participants are expected to clean up after themselves and clean with a healthcare bleach product after the shower, and sit unused for ten minutes which is the dwell time (time to kill the bugs

Some Commentary

Part of the problem is that there really aren’t that many services available. The ones that are available are fragmented, with intermittent support, poorly funded without long term solutions. (Like we will be too, at least for now.) There are mentally ill on the streets because there are fewer mental health resources, period. Much less, people with complex issues and long term care needs. So where did everyone go out of the state run mental health hospitals? Well people didn’t suddenly get un crazy. Sorry if thats not politically correct. The facilities we do have, Hillmont , is really only for one around, and for a very acute period. To expect someone with a complex mental health issue, it to get adequate treatment in 36 hours, is just ridiculous . You have heard of hospitals down south “discharging” patients that are mentally ill and homeless to the streets, or bus stations, or whatever to get them out of there, because they will not get reimbursement. There is no safety net. So yes, there maybe some very mentally ill people out there, was my point to all that. Just be mindful and aware and go back to your safety precautions.

Conclusion

Yes there are always risks. There are risks in everyday life, but I don’t want you to exceed what you would or wouldn’t do in your normal day to day life. Get yourself informed. Ok, maybe your thinking, WTH am I getting into. I know this sounds kinda scary. But I want you to be fully informed, worst case scenario. And this will be as serious as I get with,……

well, ..just about everything. I want most of this to be fun and rewarding. The locations I am starting out with, will be in a semi-controlled environment. We will be adjuncts to an already intact program. These individuals have had some interventions and screening by default of being in proximity to services.



Common Sense Stuff, but we all need reminders

When In doubt trust your gut. These are in no special order.

* Don’t give anyone your personal information.
* Never go inside the stalls with anyone.
* Always have an exit strategy
* There are personal alarms available in the mechanical room.
* Set limits early
* Deescalate, don’t engage in crazy.
* Educate yourself
* Always get yourself safe first, call the police if warranted, call Keely 805-443-0989 or contact
* Wash your hands
* Don’t push down on trash or linens.
* There are PPE’s in the Mechanical room in the trailer.
* If someone is sick, they cannot use the shower.