

MISSION STATEMENT

Ready to Work seeks to reduce the number of homeless people in San Joaquin County by helping men with a history of homelessness or involvement in the criminal justice system rebuild their lives and the lives of their families.

Ready to Work will help its clients achieve self-sufficiency through cost-effective employment and housing programs that incorporate case management, counseling, treatment, financial planning, work training, paid work, job placement, and assistance in obtaining permanent housing. These programs will enable clients to develop a strong work ethic, commit to personal responsibility, and establish financial stability.



TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

CALTRANS, STOCKTON PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS

Paid work to end homelessness. It's been the central focus of Ready to Work since our doors opened.

Thanks to the commitment of Caltrans and the City of Stockton, we will soon double the opportunities for our clients to earn and save money while giving back to the community.

Since late October, we have led a crew of clients to clean up Caltrans property. Three days a week, at least five clients are on the side of Interstate 5, Highway 99, and Highway 4 picking up the constant stream of trash left by motorists and passers-by.

Our crew has been so successful – and our clients have responded so positively

– that Caltrans District 10 decided our program should be expanded. Starting in April, we can field two five-client crews five days a week.

City of Stockton and Caltrans are making this increased opportunity possible for our clients, and we are taking full advantage. Our second crew leader is hired, and we're ready for our clients to hit the road to make our community cleaner.

We're also working with Caltrans and the city to help our best crew workers apply for full-time jobs with those organizations. Because we don't just want to pay clients for a day – we want to set them up for a lifetime.

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READY TO WORK BY THE NUMBERS

- Opened July 18, 2018
- 86 men sheltered and served
- 56-night average length of stay
- 100% of those staying 30+ days have earned income
- 47 exited the program
- 25 moved into permanent housing or reunited with friends and family
- 2,868 hours paid employment provided

MOVING AHEAD, STEP BY STEP

In the seven months since Ready to Work opened in July 2018, 86 men received shelter and services from Ready to Work. Plenty of those men have engaged in the hard work of building a better life for themselves. Brock Davidson has been with Ready to Work nearly since the beginning, and he's turned his experience into an example to follow.

Brock was part of the program's first group of residents. Before July 25, Brock was homeless and had a difficult family life. He struggled with a history that included drug use. But when he entered



Brock Davidson

Ready to Work, he was determined that his future was going to be brighter than his recent past.

He sought whatever work he could do, both around the campus and through Ready to Work's in-house social enterprise; he built a storage shed, pitched in with local charities through our Bank of America Foundation grant, and went to work for Caltrans as part of our partnership with the state and the City of Stockton to clean local highways.

There were struggles along the way. Each time Brock worked to overcome

them and sought support from RTW and outside community partners like The Wellness Center.

Finally, he completed a pre-apprenticeship program with ABC NorCal. And that hard work and studying led directly to an apprenticeship opportunity as a glazier that began March 22.

Brock's road with Ready to Work isn't over – he's planning to save money while he begins his work, start looking for permanent housing, and continue his efforts to bring his family closer together. But his journey so far shows the impact our program can have, and the type of effort our clients put into their own success every day.



Ready to Work Executive Director Jon Mendelson (third from left) visited New York City in January as part of Stockton's delegation to the Bloomberg-Harvard City Leadership Initiative, where leaders from cities across the world gathered to work on pressing problems in their communities. Stockton focused on

creating long-term strategies to solve the issue of homelessness with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Harvard School of Business. Results of the team's work are impacting policies at the City of Stockton and San Joaquin Continuum of Care.

Also pictured are Micah Runner, City of Stockton planner; Adam Cheshire,

Administrator of Homeless Initiatives; Tony Vartan, Director of Behavioral Health Services; Kathy Miller, San Joaquin County Supervisor; Miriam Lyell, Public Defender; Peter Ragsdale, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin; Trevor Womack, Deputy Stockton Police Chief.