

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.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Anthony Barkett

President

Dea Spanos Berberian

Vice President

William Trezza

Chief Financial Officer

David Rishwain

Secretary

Rupert Hall

Voting Director

BOARD APPOINTS MARTIN ROSS

The Board of Directors of Ready To Work [RTW] are pleased to announce the appointment of Martin Ross as new Executive Director. Martin has many successful years working in areas related to transforming communities and in workforce development. He has led and/or designed programs for culinary arts, construction training, plastics manufacturing to name a few. He is a perfect fit to continue the successful development of our RTW programs.

A true leader, Martin served twenty years in high standing positions with The Salvation Army throughout California as an officer at the ranks of Major and Captain. He also held positions at Del Oro Divisional Headquarters for the Harvest Initiative in Sacramento, and most recently the Northwest Division as the Director of Seattle Social Services.

Martin graduated with a B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley and completed his Master's in Business Administration from California State University Monterey Bay. He has a passion for social justice, multicultural outreach, capacity building for community transformation, and workforce development, along with the impact he believes holistic ministry can play in these areas. His travels through Europe and specifically South Africa and Zambia, as well as serving the underserved communities in both city and semi-rural communities, have shaped and confirmed his belief that community-based



Martin Ross, Executive Director

outreach is key to transforming lives and neighborhoods.

Married to his wife Tory since 1992, they have three adult daughters. Martin was born in Germany where his parents were stationed with the United States Air Force. He was raised in Sacramento. Martin is a talented steel drum player and percussionist.

Under the direction of Martin, we believe the Ready To Work program will continue to grow, and reflect our mission of "Changing Lives Through Work".

SERVING AND CHANGING LIVES

MARTIN ROSS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the new Executive Director of Ready To Work (RTW) I am excited and encouraged to be back serving our community and helping change lives. At RTW we give deserving individuals a hand-up and not a handout. RTW is strategically positioned to help move our clients forward in life, as well as give our supporters a solid return on their investment. RTW is cutting edge and explicit in both their mission and name. We seek 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.

On our campus, we currently help and house 45 deserving, worthy and motivated men to 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 enable clients to develop a strong work ethic, commit to personal responsibility, and establish financial stability.



RTW Men helping maintain apartment complex through weekly property yard work.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Direct Hiring Relationship and/or Contracted Work Agreement Arrangement

Our guys are “ready to work”, mature, and looking for a second chance. They are some of the best entry level employees that America and the San Joaquin Valley has to offer. When they arrive to work at one of our RTW Partner business locations, the facility administration will know that our RTW guys are well vetted, cased-managed, transported to work, drug and alcohol tested, and ready to put their “storied past” far behind them. We have great success stories that we are sure our RTW Partners would like to be part of. Let’s

set up a meeting to discuss work sourcing possibilities that could possibly come with a “tax write-off” that can be explored through your accountant. We can help in these areas: Pre-apprentice which includes construction, electrical, plumbing, painting, culinary; warehouse; manufacturing; maintenance/landscape, etc.

DONATIONS

We believe RTW’s mission and values will align with many of you! RTW would love to partner with you as we are a growing organization with huge impact. For instance, RTW had recently provided mutual aid emergency response assistance, at no charge to St. Mary’s Dining Room in Stockton. Please see the story and photos on Page 4 about our involvement with this great community program.

You can read more about my past experiences and interests in the introduction on page 1. I welcome gathering to meet you in person, socially distanced of course, or through phone or video conferencing. And please go to our website for more information on our successful and valued programs. Readytoworksjc.org.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Our men are in need of assorted hygiene products.



Marcus Mata, RTW Graduate. June 9, 2020.

FEE SUPPORT ASSISTANCE

Upon arriving as the new RTW Executive Director, Martin told the staff that he believed there is a donor out there that would like to help our program participants. One important area would be to help them overcome their past “storied backgrounds” by helping eliminate past due fees, such as DUI’s, fines, court fees, etc. We call these “fee barriers”. The following week they were amazed when they were told, “Guess what? A donor and friend just called to tell us they love this project and want to sponsor it.” What a wonderful pledge of support. Our new anonymous donor said, “she felt God had prompted her to reach out to us.”

This is how our “Fee Support” program works. First of all, our deserving client saves their earning from the employment in the RTW program. When ready to clear and pay the delinquent fees, the client pays half and is then matched by our generous donor. Fee amounts range from \$500 to \$2000 each, so you can only imagine what a benefit this is when a client is ready to become responsible, get their own apartment and car and begin a new life. RTW clients are very excited about the interest our generous donor has taken in them, in their success and the opportunity that has been created for them.

GRADUATION DAY

RTW celebrated another graduation from our program! On June 9, 2020, Mr. Marcus Mata completed all of his graduation requirements in record time-8 months. Most importantly, we congratulate Marcus. We, and your family are proud of you!

Clients will successfully graduate RTW once they have completed their individualized self-sufficiency plan. Established by the Case Manager and the client, their individualized plan will include all support services hours, educational

courses/sessions, work experiences, and completion of a professional resume and mock interview. It is the expectation of RTW that once these milestones have been reached, the client should either secure an offer of employment or have the reasonable expectation of becoming employed within a short timeframe.

A very special thanks and great job to everyone who helped make this event happen – including our staff and board members who had the dream for our RTW Campus!

Dinner
— ON THE —
FARM

FOR 45 CLIENTS

Sponsor Dinner on the Farm for \$250 **OR** You bring in homecooked or purchased dinners

To schedule your Dinner Night at the RTW Campus (located on the Sheriff’s Honor Farm), contact:
(209) 392-9096



Mutual Aid Emergency Response volunteering at a local non-profit to help with their personnel shortage due to COVID-19. April 2020.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We are grateful to have wonderful working relationships with other organizations in San Joaquin County. One community non-profit, St. Mary's Dining Hall, found themselves in a state of worry and uncertainty over COVID-19 and how they would handle their operational needs. With volunteer support dropping due to social distancing, they were stretching their staff to meet all the demands in their busy kitchen.

The RTW Team had the opportunity to step in and help alleviate the stress to fill the void of volunteer help during this time. Working alongside the St. Mary's Dining

Hall staff, Monday through Friday during the shelter in place orders, RTW assisted with meal prep, sanitation, served meals and also helped with other kitchen duties.

RTW volunteered their time, and eventually received partial funding for these types of efforts from United Way, the SJ County SB89 grant, and the San Joaquin County Continuum of Care. We are grateful for all of our community partners – especially during these unprecedented times. The partnering allows us to continue to be able to connect and continue building relationships.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



LARRY GANTT

Favorite quote:

I will trust in the Lord. Prayer is the key to heaven but faith unlocks the door.

Favorite food:

Salmon Corquettes

Why I like working at RTW:

Through experience surrounding my life RTW gives me the opportunity to share and give back.

Started working for RTW:

February 18, 2020

What other Staff Say about Larry

“ Larry is a team player-willing to assist where needed. Larry is respectful, dedicated and a pleasure to work with at RTW”.

“ Larry is very persistent with certain things”

“ I enjoy working with Larry because he is always upbeat and positive. He chooses to see the positives in life and for this reason he is a very pleasant person. He is kind and courteous and a pleasure to communicate with. He brought all the female staff lilies on one occasion to help us feel special and appreciated”.

“ ...since I've had the pleasure of meeting Larry-it's been a blessing. He's always willing to help-passing down wisdom in a respectful manner; making sure everyone is comfortable at all times-a true team player”.



MAIN ADDRESS

119 E Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95202-2704

HOUSING CAMPUS

999 W. Matthews Road
French Camp, CA 95231
Phone Number 209-392-9096

LEADERSHIP CONTACT

Martin Ross, *Executive Director*
mross@readytoworksjc.org
(209) 518-6275 *Business Cell*