

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**New Area Organization Develops Long-Term Plan to End Homelessness and Affordable Housing Shortages in Region
Hope Foundation Ventura County Introduces 10-Year Permanent Affordable Housing Plan**

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VENTURA, CA, July 5, 2015 – There are currently an estimated 1,417 homeless individuals living in Ventura County, approximately 200 of which are children under the age of 18. In addition, there is a significant shortage of affordable housing, with fewer than 20 affordable and available housing units for every 100 low-income families in need of accommodation, says a recent study by the Urban Institute.

With an estimated 39,000 households earning less than \$25,000 per year, a large percentage of families in our area are at extreme risk of falling into homelessness and food insecurity due to soaring rent rates and stagnant wages.

Adults earning as much as \$28 an hour at full-time, stable jobs still face the possibility of being forced from their homes and into the streets when unforeseen illness, accidents, or unemployment strikes.

The Hope Foundation Ventura County, a start-up nonprofit organization based in Ventura, has created a three-phased, 10-year plan to drastically reduce the occurrence of homelessness in the area.

The organization was recently founded by a group of passionate locals with decades of experience working to meet the needs of homeless individuals in Southern California, using a housing-focused approach to aiding local families and individuals in need.

The first stage of their plan, to come into fruition within the next few years, will be to purchase property to house one homeless family using funds from grants and donations.

Upon the successful transition of one homeless family, the Hope Foundation will raise funds to acquire a long-term housing facility for homeless families with a restaurant and room to build a thrift store on-site for revenue-generating purposes.

The third and final stage will establish a permanent planned community for low-income and homeless veterans and families in Ventura County, with access to social services, vocational training, childcare, and more in one location.

More information on the Hope Foundation and homelessness in Ventura County can be found on the web at www.hopefoundationvc.org or by calling (805) 633-1211.

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Hope Foundation Ventura County is a local, nonprofit organization dedicated to collaborating with the community to end homelessness and hunger in our area through permanent housing solutions, education, and access to social services.