

Responding to the Cry of the Poor

Volunteer Opportunities for July 2026, Month of Action

Purpose

This report outlines a coordinated community response to extreme heat conditions affecting unhoused residents in Sacramento and surrounding service areas. The plan identifies participating organizations, summarizes each organization's role, describes planned outreach activities, and documents listed July 2026 action dates.

Participating Organizations

Contact	Organization	Phone	Outreach Location
Herman Barahona	The Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition https://sac-ejc.org/	916-809-4111	95815
Monica Lopez	City Net https://www.citynet.org/sacramento-county	831-210-2526	95826
Hezekiah Allen	City of Sacramento https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/police/police-community-programs/homeless-and-mental-health-outreach	916-207-5530	Citywide
Kerri Jones	City Net https://www.citynet.org/sacramento-county	916-597-6579	95670, 95741, 95742
Alanna (Lanni) Butterworth	Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Mary's Parish in Sacramento https://www.stmarysacto.org/ministries	916-524-4811	95814, 95819
Jill Fox	Volunteers of America - Northern California and Northern Nevada https://www.voa-ncnn.org/	916-761-7902	95817
Dot O'Connor	Holy Spirit Parish/Holy Spirit Society of St. Vincent de Paul https://svdp-holyspiritsac.org/	916-212-9778	95818
Jeannie Anderson-West	Arden Arcade HART https://www.hartstogether.org/arden-arcade	916-719-0382	95864, 95825, 95821, 95826
Angela Hassell	Sacramento Loaves and Fishes https://www.sacloaves.org/	916-637-2506	95811

Don Nahhas	Josh's Heart https://joshsheart.org/ To join either day, email don@joshsheart.org .	916-340-5437	95820
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Organization Outreach with Dates

Date	Organization	Planned Activity
Daily	City of Sacramento	Provide citywide support and coordinate response activities as needed.
Daily	Arden Arcade Hart	We provide meals daily led by different faith communities. We serve in the encampments where sisters and brothers without homes reside. We also have a second Saturday respite center at St. Marks Grace Cafe from 8;30AM to noon where guests are served a hot breakfast, have a shower, get a clean change of clothes, and have a lunch bag to go. Best to contact Jeannie
Daily	Sacramento Loaves and Fishes	See below for available opportunities.
July 3	City Net and St. Francis	Support outreach and distribution activities.
July 8–30	Holy Spirit Parish; City of Sacramento	Holy Spirit Parish will support outreach and distribution activities. The City of Sacramento will monitor the day's heat index to determine whether additional respite centers should be opened citywide.
July 10	City Net	Support scheduled outreach activities, please contact us for opportunities.
July 10 and 11	Josh's HeartDon Nahhas Executive Director & Co-founder916-340-5437	Blessing Backpack Assembly Friday, July 10; 5-7pm Central International Fellowship 4760 16th Ave, Sacramento, 95820 Backpack Delivery Saturday, July 11; 10am-12pm Meet at Central International Fellowship From there, we'll go out into the community to deliver backpacks and connect with our

		neighbors. Families welcome and encouraged. Volunteer with us and help make every backpack a reminder to our neighbors on the streets: You Matter. SEND US A MESSAGE (done@joshsheart.org) IF YOU CAN JOIN US FOR EITHER DAY.
July 18	The Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition	Support community outreach and resource distribution.

Organizational Roles and Responsibilities

The participating organizations will provide a coordinated range of services during periods of extreme heat, including respite center operations, meal distribution, supply collection, direct outreach, and volunteer coordination. Activities are intended to reduce heat-related risks and increase access to essential resources for unhoused community members.

City of Sacramento

The City of Sacramento will mobilize and open additional respite centers citywide when heat conditions warrant activation. These centers are intended to provide safe, accessible locations where residents can seek relief from extreme temperatures.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi, in partnership with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, will support the distribution of life-saving kits every Friday in July. The kits are designed to assist unhoused residents during extreme heat by providing essential items that may help reduce heat-related health risks.

Cathedral Feeding Program and Faith Community Meal Service

Different faith communities are leading daily meal service for unhoused individuals. These groups bring food directly to encampments and help ensure that people without shelter have regular access to meals and personal support.

St. Mark's Grace Cafe Respite Center

St. Mark's Grace Cafe hosts a respite center on the second Saturday of each month from 8:30 AM to noon. The respite center gives guests a safe place to rest, receive a hot breakfast, take a shower, get a clean change of clothes, and leave with a lunch bag. Jeannie is the recommended contact for more information.

Rancho Cordova Housing Navigators

The four full-time Housing Navigators in Rancho Cordova will help deliver donated food and supplies directly to unhoused guests. The supplies being gathered include water bottles, electrolyte packets, sunscreen, hats, and ice. Distribution dates are still to be announced and may take place on a Saturday or Sunday depending on weather conditions.

Volunteers of America

Volunteers of America will help promote the Plan of Action through social media, an employee newsletter, and email lists for donors and volunteers. The organization will collect needed items to support unhoused neighbors during summer heat and coordinate volunteers to help distribute those supplies.

Volunteers will work alongside Donell, the outreach specialist at X Street, who will help guide and accompany the group during distribution. A date for this distribution effort is still being secured.

Holy Spirit Parish/Holy Spirit St Vincent de Paul

Individual volunteers are encouraged to support any organization that needs help distributing items to unhoused community members. Self-volunteers can assist with supply delivery, event support, and direct outreach depending on each organization's needs.

Josh's Heart

Blessing Backpack Assembly: Friday, July 10, 5:00–7:00 PM, at Central International Fellowship, 4760 16th Ave, Sacramento, CA 95820.

Backpack Delivery: Saturday, July 11, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM. Volunteers will meet at Central International Fellowship before going into the community to deliver backpacks and connect with neighbors.

Families are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Help assemble and deliver backpacks that remind neighbors of experiencing homelessness: You Matter. To join either day, email don@joshsheart.org.

Sacramento Loaves and Fishes

Sacramento Loaves & Fishes encourage community members to reach out directly to unhoused neighbors, especially as extreme heat affects Sacramento. The organization has expanded its summer services to provide heat respite and hydration support for guests across its campus.

• Summer Heat Response Measures

Once Sacramento experiences its first 90-degree day, Sacramento Loaves & Fishes activates the following heat-response measures:

- a. Distribute cold water, drinks, and ice in Friendship Park at the end of the day for guests to take with them.
- b. Provides cold drinks at Friendship Park and Maryhouse during daily operating hours.
- c. Make cold water available to after-hours staff and the overnight security team, who distribute it to guests around the property seven days a week. The 24/7 campus security team builds strong rapport with guests and often carries cold water and snacks during regular off-hours rounds.
- d. Offers extra bottles of cold water through the Dining Room program for guests who come for the noon meal. Drinks are available year-round, with additional emphasis during the summer months.
- e. Uses misters to help keep guests cool in respite spaces across campus, including Friendship Park, Maryhouse, the Dining Room, and the Mustard Seed School playground.

• Requested Donations

With these measures supported by staff and current volunteers, Sacramento Loaves & Fishes is encouraging community members to donate bottled water, cooling towels, and toilet paper throughout the summer.

• Volunteer Opportunities

Community members can also support guests through the following volunteer opportunities:

- a. **Friendship Park Breakfast Program:** This community-supported breakfast program operates Monday through Friday and provides a la carte breakfast for adult guests in Friendship Park, helping many guests begin the day with nutrition and hydration. For more information about providing breakfast or volunteering, contact Friendship Park Breakfast Coordinator Bruce Bruley at bruce@sacloaves.org.
- b. **Maryhouse Breakfast Program:** Maryhouse, a day respite center for women and children, hosts a parallel breakfast program Monday through Friday. Volunteers cook and serve a hot meal onsite for families. For more information, contact Maryhouse Breakfast Coordinator Tamaresha King at tamaresha@sacloaves.org.
- c. **Sister Nora's Place Dinner Program:** Sister Nora's Place, the campus shelter program, invites community members to provide, serve, or share dinner with shelter residents. Volunteers may bring food for staff to prepare and serve, cook and eat with residents, or arrange meal delivery. The program can serve up to 15 residents at a time. For more information, contact Program Director Milani Alexander at milani@sacloaves.org.
- d. **Dining Room Volunteer Orientation:** Volunteer opportunities are also available through the noon meal program in the Dining Room, though orientation is required. For more information or to join an orientation schedule, contact Volunteer Coordinator Cyndy Pressley at volunteers@sacloaves.org.

The Friendship Park and Maryhouse breakfast programs both welcome individual volunteers, but they are also well suited for small groups of friends. Because these are early-morning opportunities,

many volunteers can participate before the typical workday begins.

- **Advocacy and Systems Change**

Sacramento Loaves & Fishes also encourages community members to advocate for more after-hours cooling centers at the city and county levels. While cooling centers are opened more regularly during periods of extreme heat, guests report that centers can fill quickly, be difficult to access geographically, or lack sufficient resources.

Advocacy is an important complement to volunteering and donations. Community members can help by challenging harmful policy decisions, opposing the criminalization and stigmatization of homelessness, and using everyday conversations to humanize the crisis. Words matter, and advocacy can help shape stronger future responses to homelessness and extreme heat.

- **Summer Volunteer Need**

Sacramento Loaves & Fishes often sees a drop in volunteer availability during the summer months, especially beginning in July as people travel or take vacations. These opportunities are highlighted to help fill gaps in the volunteer calendar and maintain consistent support for guests during the hottest part of the year.