



Care Response Unit



*The Fort Bragg
Model*

The Marbut Report

Dr. Robert Marbut,
Executive Director
of the U.S.

Interagency Council
on Homelessness
from 2019-2021

- Prior to his appointment by the President, he consulted here in 2018 for a study of Mendocino County's homeless
- 28 recommendations
- Fort Bragg City Council adopted the plan and provided direction for staff to recommend solutions



The recommendations considered:

1. Develop a common understanding of the scope, scale, and structure of the problem
2. Move to strategic decision making based on data
3. More collaboration, less silos
4. Reduce duplication of services
5. Engage, not enable
6. Strategic coordination between County and Cities
7. Different cohorts based on clinical needs
8. Street-level outreach team capacities
9. Extreme Weather Shelter
10. New housing opportunities (Plateau)
11. “Zero tolerance” approach to encampments
12. Address stolen shopping carts
13. Engage vehicle camping
14. Checkup plan

We have a framework of wet noodles!



What is CRU?



- Began as a crisis unit for the homeless
- Funded by a grant through the Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services Project (CDHCS)
- Mental health follow-up
- Connection to services nationwide
- Addiction services
- **Ego development** (Eric Meade, *Reframing Poverty*)
- Operation of Extreme Weather Shelter
- Co-respond with police officers and self-dispatch



Who is CRU?

- Staffed by two full-time Social Services Liaisons
- Backgrounds in education, psychology and behavioral sciences
- They are NOT social workers
- Committed to service
- Trained in crisis care



CRU Activity

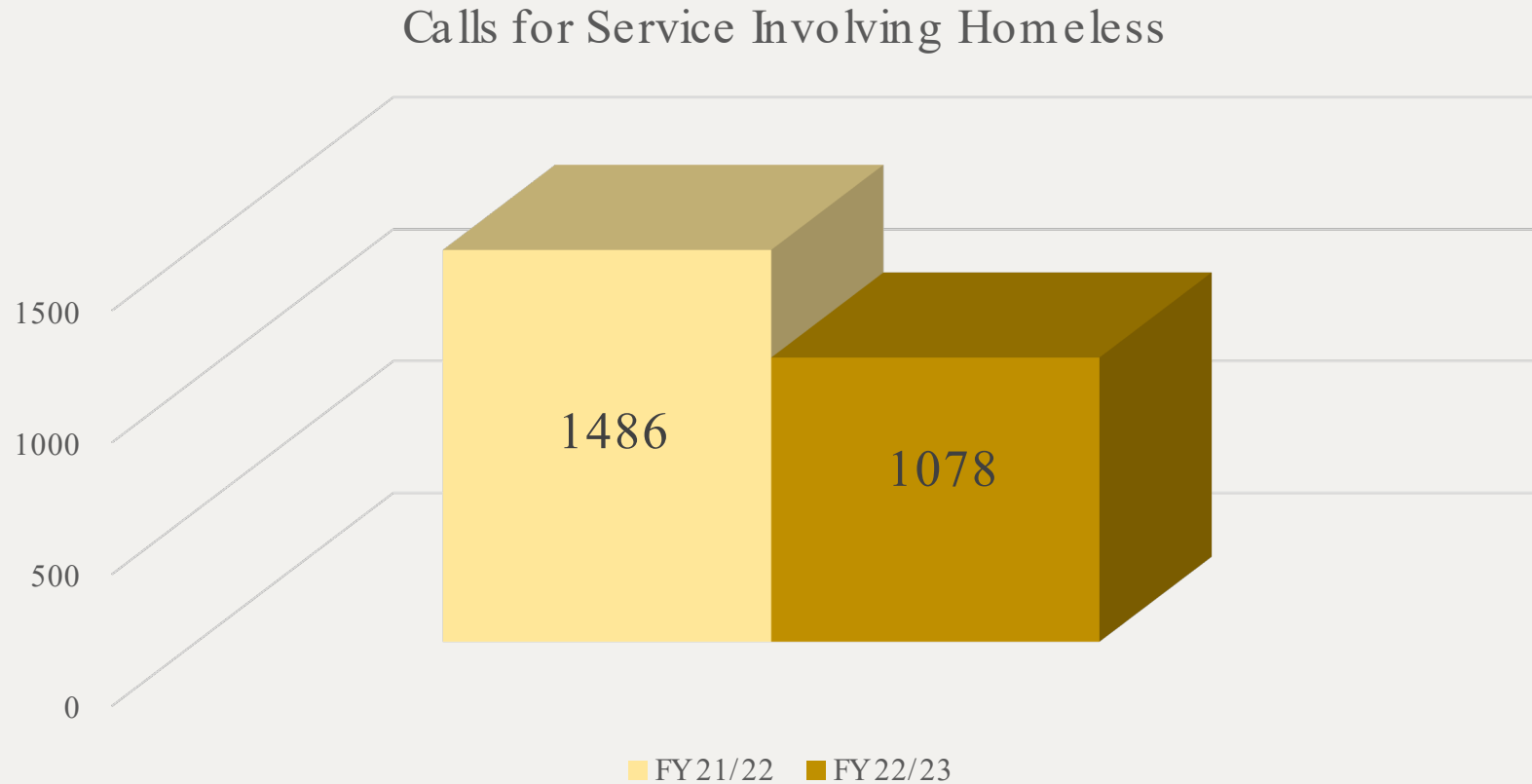
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



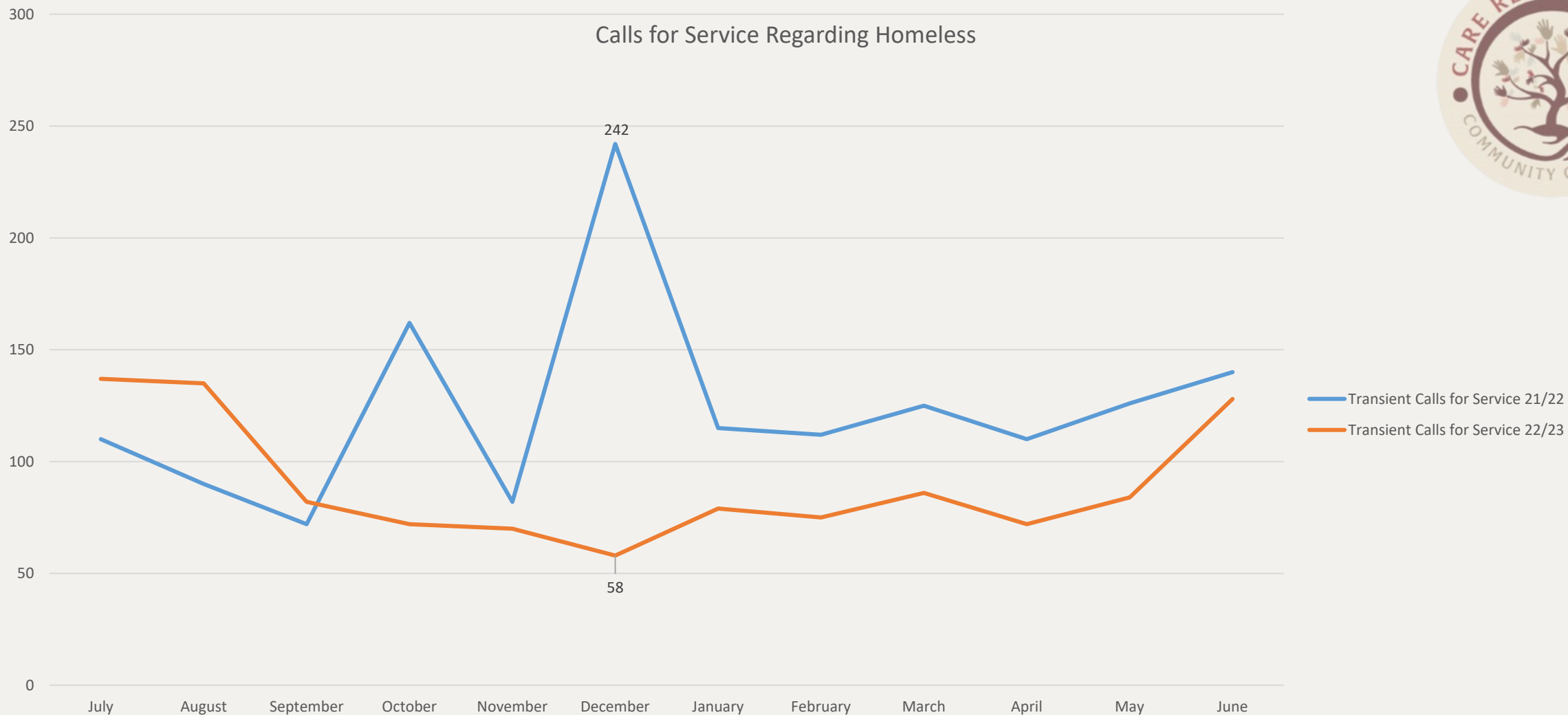
- 321 individuals served – 47 requiring more than 10 hours
- 22 homeless individuals reconnected with family/friends
- 16 into rehab with more being assisted
- The Plateau move-in
- Behavioral Health Court
- Warm handoffs with service providers



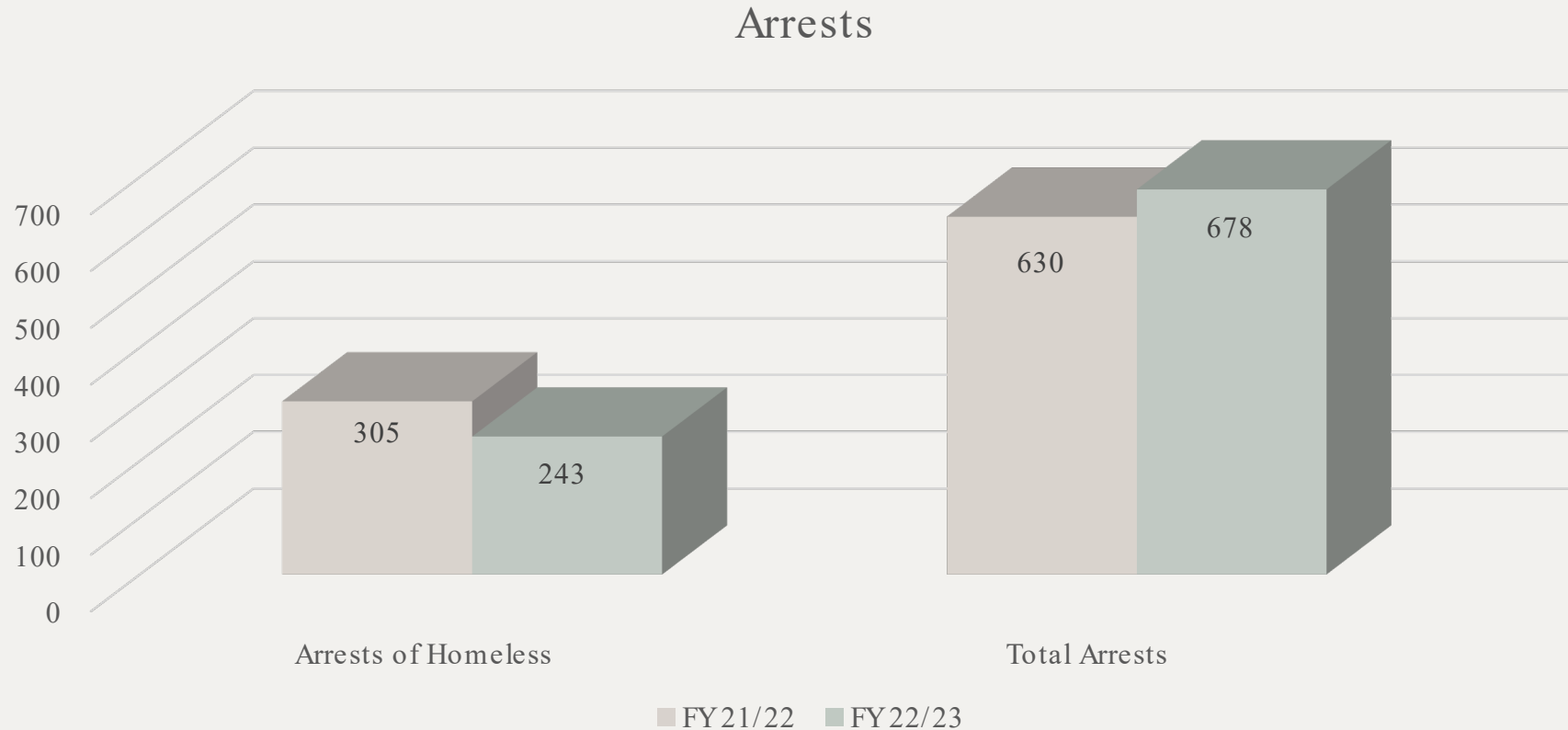
Year-to-Year Comparisons



27% drop

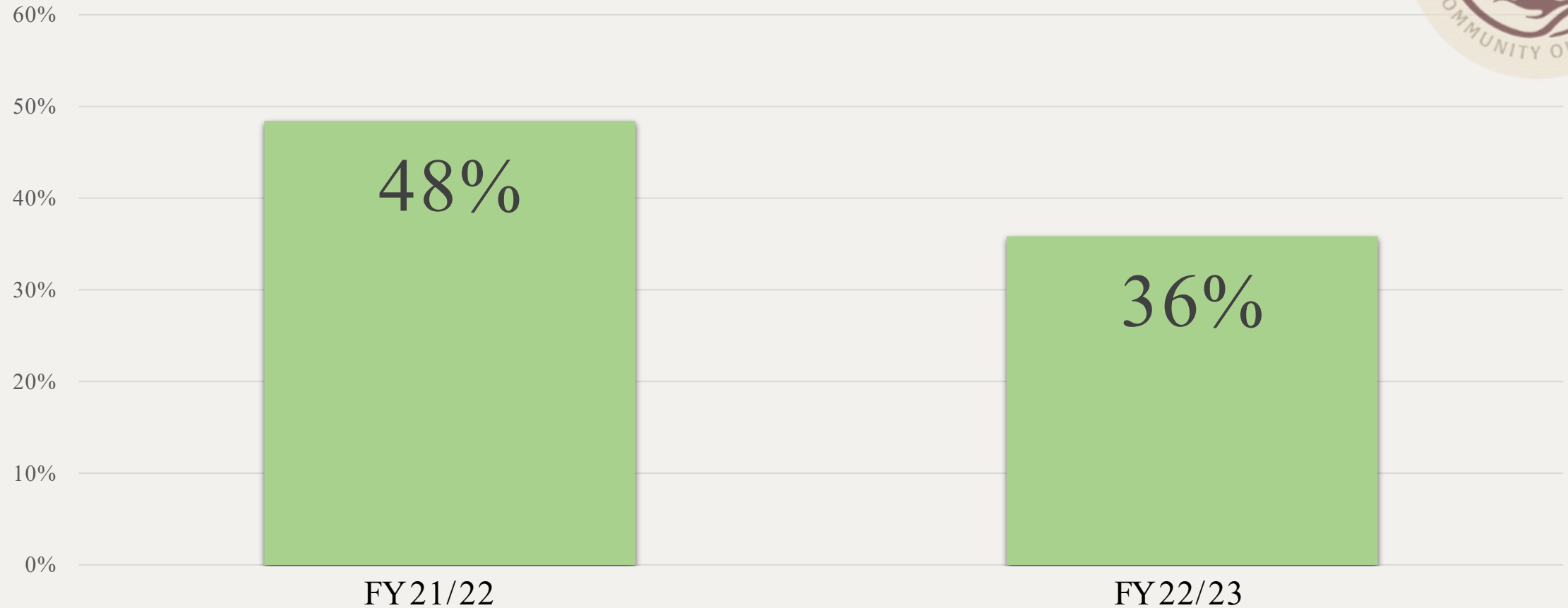


Year-to-Year Comparisons



*20% fewer arrests of homeless,
but overall arrests increased*

Percentage of Total Arrests



Extreme Weather Shelter

12/01/2022 – 3/31/2023



- 60 total nights (60% chance of rain, or <40 degrees)
- 462 total rooms
- 82 unduplicated individuals served
- Less than five events requiring Police Officer response
- Opportunity for connection to services
- 7 individuals from EWS moved to stable housing (9%)



Unexpected Consequences



- DUI arrests up by 277%
- Traffic collisions down by 25%
- Case clearance rates are up and DA case rejects are down
- Police officers interact differently with the population
- Defense attorneys calling the police department to get help for their clients





"To enhance the level of care available for youth with substance abuse disorders by connecting them with available services, advocating for the expansion of services, and creating opportunities for positive healing environments throughout the youth's life."



Project Right Now



- \$345,363 grant from CDHCS - began 4/01/2023
- Funds one CRU member and contract Success Coaches until 6/30/2024
- Identifies those with substance abuse disorders or at-risk
- We work with DA's Office, Public Defenders, Probation, Parole, Substance Abuse Counselors, Mental Health, Schools, and rehabilitation centers
- PRN has served 21 clients



Stories of CRU

- Winter shelter to stable housing – *“John” & family*
- Homeless and addicted to sober and thriving – *“Emily”*
- Homeless, years of addiction, and pregnant to sober, housed, and a healthy baby – *“Laura”*
- Grew up in a drug/crime culture, teen father, active parole to sober, finishing school, and employment – *“Henry”*

Funding needed

- Grants and allocated funding will be exhausted on 6/30/24.
- **Measure B** is to be used for the “*Specific Purpose of Funding Services, Treatment and Facilities for Persons with Mental Illness or Drug Addiction.*”
- Almost all of CRU’s clients suffer from mental illness and/or drug addiction.
- CRU is the bridge from the street to services to wellness.



Annual Operating Expense

- Two Social Services Liaisons = \$300,000 for salary + benefits
- Success Coaches (contract) = \$100,000
- One part time clerical for data entry = \$20,000
- Overtime = \$10,000
- Request: \$430,000 per year for four years (\$1.72 million)





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