



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2020

Media Contact: Anna Ferguson-Sparks, 1-877-327-2656,

media@cityofsolvang.com

Public Contact: media@cityofsolvang.com, www.CityofSolvang.com

City of Solvang, California Partners with Santa Ynez Valley Nonprofit, People Helping People, on Food Distribution Grant Matching Program

Solvang, CA – During the Monday, April 27, 2020 Regular Meeting of the [Solvang City Council](#), the City of Solvang (www.CityofSolvang.com) staff and Council members discussed a host of the initiatives on which the City is currently working, including the pressing topic of how the community can continue to feed local families in need, during the extended closures due to COVID-19.

During the meeting, Council motioned in favor of a new agreement and collaboration. The City of Solvang is partnering with People Helping People (www.syvphp.org; PHP) on a grant matching program for their food distribution efforts to supplement their free, weekly emergency food distribution services which take place on Tuesdays at Mission Santa Inés (1760 Mission Drive, Solvang; 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM), as well as PHP's additional, regular food distribution services now, and continuing post-COVID-19.

The partnership is essentially a collaborative fundraising campaign: the City will initially donate \$10,000 towards this effort, and PHP will match those funds. The City has agreed to donate another \$5,000 per quarter in matching funds, for a total of \$30,000 through fiscal year 2020-21, to aid PHP in food distribution services. To encourage community support of this effort, the City will consider a second phase of donations to partially match private and non-profit sector donations.

“While we are confident that we have put the right programs in place, we do not have sufficient supplies of food to meet a growing need. Foodbank deliveries have often times been small and are unreliable as to quantity. We have been required to supplement the deliveries with donor acquired produce and staples valued at nearly \$3,000 per weekly food program,” said Dean Palius, CEO of PHP.

Palius reported during Monday night's Council meeting that the organization has received donations from the combined Rotaries in the area, as well as from private donors, but is looking at spending up to \$120,000 over the next 14 months in food supplies to keep Santa Ynez Valley communities fed. The City's donation by no means covers all of this expense, and PHP of course welcomes additional cash donations – as well as donations of non-perishable food, new books or new board games, for their weekly distribution services.

Palius added, “Most recently, we began a campaign to obtain additional donor contributions and have been modestly successful attracting funding from the Valley-combined Rotary Clubs to the PHP COVID-19 Food Fund. But current funding acquired to date, has only allowed PHP to furnish sufficient food through April.”

With a previous 25+ year partnership with the Santa Barbara County Foodbank, PHP turned to them to support the weekly “emergency” food distribution at the Mission. PHP is conducting the Tuesday distributions in conjunction with their regular program every other Thursday at the Mission, and at Creekside Apartments in Los Alamos. The food distributions are primarily operated by PHP staff with a small number of volunteers in order to reduce contact and to ensure proper distancing and sanitation practices. Tuesday distributions serve more than 600 individuals with Thursdays registering more than 800. Additionally, PHP staff and community partners including Crossroads Church and Los Alamos

Foundation, are delivering 20 meals each day, Monday-Friday, in Los Alamos, cooked by Bell's Restaurant.

PHP has also restarted their Friday Student Weekend Food Program deliveries, having reinstated those previously made to Solvang School students, and have added service for Buellton School District. The 10- to 12-pound food bags through this program are designed to help students qualified for free and reduced lunch, have food available when school is not in session. Weekend Food is a partnership with the local Boys and Girls Club.

PHP will be releasing a grant matching program through its Facebook page, allowing the community to also participate in PHP's grant matching campaign: facebook.com/SYVpeoplehelpingpeople. Donations may be made online through that Facebook page or via the PHP website (www.syvphp.org), or by check made payable to "People Helping People", mailed to PO Box 1478, Solvang, CA 93464, with the Memo Line "COVID-19 Fund".

Additional information about the City of Solvang and PHP grant-matching efforts will be posted to the new Solvang Resources website: www.SolvangResources.com. Questions related to this program, or anything contained within this press release, may be directed to media@CityofSolvang.com.

About People Helping People

People Helping People, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is dedicated to "improving the lives of men, women, and children in the Santa Ynez Valley, Los Alamos, and surrounding communities by addressing emergency and basic needs, furnishing comprehensive integrated family and individual support services, and acting as a catalyst for positive community change." To donate or learn more about PHP and its services, please visit the PHP website at www.syvphp.org or e-mail Kristina at kristina@syvphp.org (donations) or Mayra (services) at mayra@syvphp.org.

###

City of Solvang
(805) 688-5575
1644 Oak Street, Solvang, CA 93463
www.CityofSolvang.com

facebook.com/CityofSolvang // [@CityofSolvang](https://twitter.com/CityofSolvang)