

Safer Ground News

“Standing Together to Keep Each Other Safe!”

Volume 1, Issue 1 – May 11, 2020

Hi, I am Dr. Kathleen Clanon, Medical Director of the Health Care Services Agency, and I am proud to say that I work for the County of Alameda. The health and safety of all of our residents is very important to us. We hope you are feeling well and welcome. All of us are learning what keeps us safe. This newsletter is for and by you, the guests of Safer Ground. This a place to contribute your own voice. It is a place for current information to update the many unknowns, for getting to know each other, and to nurture hopes and possibilities. It is also a place to share our challenges and breakthroughs.



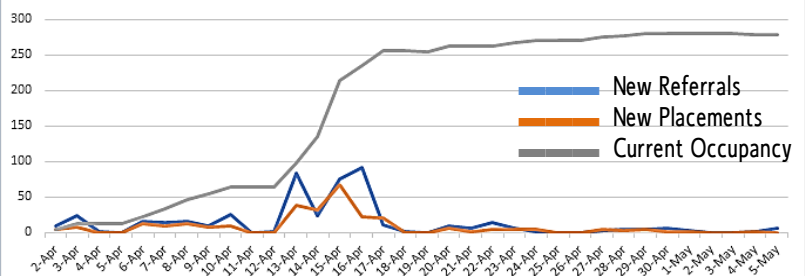
A challenge we all experienced was the fire in a guest room last week that required some Safer Ground guests to move to an adjacent hotel while the rooms were dried out from the automatic fire sprinkler system. Although no one was injured, this points to the importance of everyone following the rules (see below) that keep us all safe. Safer Ground is getting bigger – the first Safer Ground hotel is just about full now with 290 households. An additional hotel began admitting guests on Friday. Now that you are a guest of Safer Ground there are many health and social services available to you, which you can read about in this newsletter. As we shelter in place, we have an unexpected opportunity to reflect, rest and build new possibilities for our lives in a safe community.

Safer Ground By the Numbers:

Ever served at Safer Ground: 292 households
Currently Living at Safer Ground: 283 households
(all hotels)

Ever served at Operation Comfort: 201 people
Currently Living at Operation Comfort: 54 people

Occupancy at Safer Ground



RULES OF SAFER GROUND: SHELTER IN PLACE

- *No visitors can come to Safer Ground: Phone your family and friends!*
- *Don't leave the hotel unless it is an essential need!*
- *Outside your room: Cover your face!*
- *Outside your room: Keep your space (6 foot Apart)!*
- *Wash your hands for 20 seconds before leaving your room, before eating, and upon return to your room!*

Featured Guest – Malcolm Mayfield

(You can be a featured guest in a future issue by emailing 4SaferGround@gmail.com)



My name is Malcolm. I am an artist myself. I do beats and album covers. I rap using Mixcraft 10 and Fruityloops. We got 12,000 views this year already on YouTube. I do keyboard also since my dad enrolled me in keyboard lessons when I was a kid. Many people here do not know that I make music. You can email me (MalcolmMayfield24@gmail.com) and ask me for a beat. A lot of people here do music or take photos and do edits. There is a guy here who has made eight tunes in his room. You can also do online schooling. Open up your laptop and try to start something. I am on my laptop all day.

You can find my beats at: www.Beatstars.com/sleeperbeatz or Doobie tha Gasman at YouTube. We were live streaming shows and hosted many Bay Area legends. I have thousands of followers: 6,600 at Instagram, 1000 on Facebook. I want to teach the kids how to do beats on Mixcraft. Anyone can do it and I am willing to teach the kids free. Keep them off the streets and stuff. Give them an outlet.

We (my fiancée and I) have been here about a month. We have a little refrigerator and use a lot of dry goods. It's a pretty cool community, some youth, mostly seniors. Since being here I am beginning to see ways that we might work together to as a community. We could use a bulletin board in the lobby for guests to post. I believe we should power wash everything down, keep it clean around here. Outdoor ashtrays would also help. A lot of people here approach me and ask for advice. Maybe I have something and you can use it. I like to help. I believe everyone has goals here, vision. Keep growin' it!



Photo Credit - M an' M Photography (Malcolm and Michelle)

"A rose that grows from concrete symbolizes that no matter how dark life seems, there's always beauty, and growth that always flourishes"

- Michelle Camarillo, Safer Ground Guest



Hi, I'm Vince Russo, Abode Site Manager. When I first put on an Abode shirt down in Santa Clara, I was proud to join an un-housed services team that believes every person deserves their own home as the road to receiving needed care, and that Harm Reduction is the road to health for all. Throughout California, Abode provides many additional services for the homeless. Now I am with Abode Services at Safer Ground and several other locations where we are passionate about our work as a partner of Alameda County Health Care Services Agency.

Each day at Safer Ground, Abode provides 'Navigators' who knock on your door for daily wellness checks including temperature checks when needed, case management support, and other needs. As the Safer Ground programs develop, each guest will have access to a 'Navigator' to help them find their way at Safer Ground. Guests are welcome to find Abode personnel at any time in the lobby, or by dialing '0' on the room phone to connect with the front desk for referral to appropriate help.

The Abode staff encourages all guests to comply with the rules at Safer Ground, all of which are based on personal enjoyment of life without infringement on other's safety. Like elsewhere in California, we are all required to shelter in place. Guests may leave the site for URGENT needs. You must wear a mask, and you will be cleared for return after answering five health questions and receiving a temperature check. If you see behaviors that you believe are threatening to your own safety, please connect with the Abode personnel who will have a conversation with the other party. If you wish counseling for an addiction, it is available but not required at Safer Ground. It takes a whole village to create Safer Ground, and everyone plays an important part.



Lawrisha Okon, Abode

I want to thank you all for your bravery in this time of uncertainty. We all have to do our part to keep everyone safe!

Weekly Mobile Clinic



HOW TO GET HELP: Dial (0) on your Room Phone

Weekly Mobile Clinic – Look for a sign in the Lobby on clinic day.

Substance Use Counseling (SUD) – Call (510) 560-3083, contact an Abode Navigator, or talk to your Peer to Peer Fellow.

Wellness Checks Daily – Abode Navigators come to your room.

Emotional Support / Mental Health – Contact Abode Staff

HEPPAC Harm Reduction: Once Weekly – Contact an Abode Navigator or drop in

Housing Planning and Social Services: Counselors Available

Room: Linens, plumbing, electrical

Food: Breakfast at 8am, lunch at 12, dinner at 6

Special Dietary Needs: Contact Abode Navigator

Pets: PAL team meets all new pets. Pet food and poop bags available.

“We over me. We are your home. We make sure everyone is taken care of. Period.

That is the spirit of our team and that is what I am proud of.

Estamos aquí para ayudarle. Llama a ‘0’ en su teléfono”. Irving Baltazar (Abode staff, bilingual)

Peer to Peer Advisors – The Fellows

The Peer to Peer Advisors of Care Connect are a program of the Alameda County Public Health Department. You received a welcome card in your room from them when you first arrived. The Fellows are Alameda County residents who have experienced many of the same challenges that guests of Safer Ground have: homelessness, health problems, and managing the stress of hardship such as lack of money, family concerns, returning home from incarceration, and recovery. They work remotely Monday through Friday between 1 and 3pm and will be calling you. They will ask you how you are settling in and if there are any issues or concerns that you have. Fellows will also ask about ways you may wish to become involved. In addition to offering an understanding ear, they can link you to other services that are available.

Fellows contact info: Phone: **(510) 268-2999** Email: **communityengagement@acgov.org**

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ccfellows2/>

Get Involved – Building a Community Council

Calling all artists, musicians and community leaders! This is a new experience for all of us. There are many ways to get involved at Safer Ground, from hosting specific events, to being part of a community council for making a better life here. An event could be a song or something that we all do together (keeping the guidelines of safe distance). You may have heard about people in other places who have howled at the moon, sung together, or made music. Here at Safer Ground, Malcolm Mayfield has offered to sponsor music and beats in the courtyard. Hook up with MalcolmMayfield24@gmail.com to help on this event. If you would like to volunteer to help plan other events we welcome your leadership and participation. Please send your ideas to 4saferground@gmail.com.

Be the Media

You are invited to create the next newsletter. Imagine your voice here.