



Father  
Joe's  
Villages

*Ending  
Homelessness  
in San Diego,  
One Life at a Time*



**STREET HEALTH MEDIA RIDEALONG GUIDE** ■

**MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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# WELCOME TO FATHER JOE'S VILLAGES

Father Joe's Villages thanks you for joining the Village Health Center's Street Health team on today's ride along. The Street Health program plays a valuable role in connecting patients experiencing homelessness to the health care services they need.

Though we welcome our friends in the media, we ask that you follow these guidelines to ensure that we are able to protect our clients' privacy and provide services with minimal interruption.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program overview video covers the history of the Street Health and/or Street Psychiatry teams and goes over what to expect on a ride-along visit.



[CLICK TO WATCH THE PROGRAM OVERVIEW VIDEO.](#)

## BEFORE THE RIDE

When requesting to join Father Joe's Villages' Street Health Team or Street Psychiatry Team for a ride-along, it may take upwards of several weeks to schedule a ride.

Due to program outreach events, expansion projects, patient confidentiality, staff availability and other such factors, it can take time for us to identify opportunities where we are able to offer media access. Thus, available times for ride-alongs are fixed and cannot be rescheduled or moved. We encourage you to reach out in advance when requesting a ride-along opportunity.

Prior to attending a ride-along with the Street Health Team or Street Psychiatry Team, we ask that you complete these required steps:

- ▶ **Watch the program overview video**
- ▶ **Sign the Health and Safety waiver**

Our media team will provide you with the location to meet our Street Health and/or Street Psychiatry team within 48-hours of your ride-along appointment.

### MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

Please note that media opportunities, outside of a ride-along, are available with trained Father Joe's Villages primary care, outreach, behavioral health, and psychiatric staff upon request.

Opportunities include phone, and virtual or in-person interviews. We ask that you consider such media opportunities in lieu of a ride-along as these can often be facilitated more timely.





## ON THE RIDE

### WHAT TO EXPECT

Joining FJV's Street Health team for a ride-along can be a rewarding experience where you can witness firsthand the impact of these critical health services and shadow the staff who make our mission possible.

On every ride-along experience, you will be invited to join a shift with members of the Street Health or Street Psychiatry team.

Members of the Street Health or Street Psychiatry team will provide services, including treating wounds, providing medication, diagnosing conditions or providing welfare checks to patients who live on the streets. While efforts will be made to answer your questions and clarify activities performed by members of the Street Health team, the care of patients comes first.

Ride-alongs typically last for upwards of one to three hours depending on the objective. Routes of ride-alongs will vary based on the team's schedule, patients with critical needs, and other objectives.

### PROTOCOLS

The health and safety of our patients, our staff and you are of paramount importance. Thus, adherence to the following protocols are mandatory. Should you be found to violate these guidelines, permission to attend a future ride-along may be permanently revoked. Additionally, the ride-along may be ended at any time if safety is deemed to be a concern.

- **Stay in the vehicle unless permitted to exit by a Father Joe's Villages team member.**

Many of our patients are experiencing active medical and/or psychiatric health crises. To protect the health and safety of all involved, it is crucial to wait until you are told it is safe and/or appropriate for you to exit the vehicle.





- ▶ **Do not interview, photograph or collect video footage of a patient unless given express permission.** Due to patient confidentiality and federal mandates (HIPAA; 42 CFR Part 2), we cannot allow patients to be photographed or filmed unless they have given express, written permission, even if they appear only in the background of a photograph or video.
- ▶ **Do not interfere or interrupt our Street Health professionals while administering care.** To preserve both patient privacy and comfort, we ask that you do not do anything to interrupt team members when they are collecting patient data or administering care.



## FOLLOWING YOUR RIDE

We thank you for joining us on a ride-along and for following our protocols to ensure a safe and comfortable experience for all.

In the days and weeks following your ride, our media team will be in touch to answer any questions or arrange further interviews. You are welcome to request further information at any time.

General photos or b-roll that you are welcome to use in your reporting will be provided upon request as well.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What are the Father Joe's Villages Street Health and Street Psychiatry Team(s)?**

Both the Father Joe's Villages Street Health and Street Psychiatry teams are made up of registered or licensed healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurse practitioners, substance use disorder counselors, medical assistants and community health outreach workers. Our multidisciplinary team is comprised of outreach workers, alcohol and other drug (AOD) counselors, behavioral health clinicians, nurse practitioners, and doctors with different team members deploying into the community on different days meant to address the health needs of the diverse community of individuals experiencing homelessness.

### **What services do the Street Health Team and the Street Psychiatry Team offer?**

Clinicians, including doctors, nurse practitioners and other medical and psychiatric providers, working with Father Joe's Villages Street Health program provide care in the form of primary care, behavioral health (including substance and alcohol use disorder treatment; including Medication Assisted Treatment—MAT), and psychiatry services.

### **How many patients do the Street Health Team and the Street Psychiatry Team treat?**

Since launching in 2019, the Street Health and Street Psychiatry teams have treated hundreds of local San Diegans experiencing homelessness.

### **How do patients access care?**

Patients may be approached by Outreach Workers who work alongside the Street Health and Street Psychiatry teams. The Outreach team provides rapport-building, education, referrals support, hygiene supplies among other items to meet basic needs, and case management, as appropriate. They serve as the primary point of contact and liaison to the Street Health provider. In addition, dates of when the Street Health and Street Psychiatry teams will be operating in a given area are provided to patients in advance. Patients are also welcome to call our outreach team if they are in need of care.





## **What conditions are commonly treated?**

The most common issues that our primary care Street Health providers treat are skin infections, wound care, substance use disorders, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes, hypertension and mental health diagnoses, including anxiety and depression.

## **Can't patients go to a shelter or clinic to get care?**

Too often, clients face major physical and psychological barriers, including inadequate sleep, extreme pain and illness, a hesitancy to leave their belongings or shelter and intimidation to engage with office settings and waiting times. By meeting people where they are at, we can build rapport and trust between patients and Father Joe's Villages healthcare professionals.

## **How often are patients provided care by the Street Health Team or Street Psychiatry Team?**

Members of the Father Joe's Villages Street Health Team deploy into the community daily to provide care. Some services, such as AOD Counseling, MAT or Street Psychiatry are deployed on a weekly basis to serve specific identified patients. Times may vary based on staff availability and patient need.

## **Can members of the Street Health or Street Psychiatry team diagnose medical or mental health conditions?**

Providers, including doctors and nurse practitioners, on the Street Health and Street Psychiatry teams are capable of diagnosing patients and making recommendations for care. In certain cases, patients may be referred to other providers for more in-depth examinations.

## **Does the Street Health or Street Psychiatry team follow a harm-reduction model when treating substance use?**

Overall, Father Joe's Villages believes that harm reduction is 'compassion in action.' Members of our Street Health and Street Psychiatry teams are trained in the administration of naloxone and other treatments intended to treat overdose emergencies and prevent loss of life. Our team of outreach workers, AOD counselors and providers offer education, harm reduction kits, MAT, referrals to treatment, and other options to meet each unique patient where they are at in their journey to improve health and reduce harm.

## FATHER JOE'S VILLAGE STAFF AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS



**Deacon Jim Vargas**  
President and CEO



**Megan Partch**  
Chief Health Officer



**Ruth Bruland**  
Chief Program Officer



**Joshua Bohannon**  
Sr. Director of Government Relations  
& Public Affairs

## RESOURCES

Father Joe's Villages Website:

[my.neighbor.org/](https://my.neighbor.org/)

Comprehensive Care and Services:

[my.neighbor.org/our-solutions/](https://my.neighbor.org/our-solutions/)

High resolution photos of Father Joe's Villages:

[my.neighbor.org/aboutus/media-center/](https://my.neighbor.org/aboutus/media-center/)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

 [@FatherJoesVillages](https://www.facebook.com/FatherJoesVillages)

X

 [@FatherJoes](https://twitter.com/FatherJoes)

Instagram

 [@FatherJoesVillages](https://www.instagram.com/FatherJoesVillages)

YouTube

 [@FatherJoesVillages](https://www.youtube.com/FatherJoesVillages)

LinkedIn

 [@FatherJoesVillages](https://www.linkedin.com/FatherJoesVillages)

TikTok

 [@FatherJoesVillages](https://www.tiktok.com/FatherJoesVillages)

Podcast

 **Coming Soon!**



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