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Links: [High resolution photos of Father Joe's Villages](#)

Father Joe's Villages Opens New Sober-Living Shelter Specifically for People Experiencing Homelessness

- *With nearly 250 beds, the new sober shelter is a judgment-free environment for people to receive the support and care they need and heal*
- *In its first month, the sober-living community has already served about 200 unhoused neighbors on the path to sobriety*
- *With drugs like fentanyl putting hundreds at risk of overdose, this year Father Joe's Villages will deepen its support of those with substance-use struggles, by also introducing a 44-bed, residential detox facility in April.*

WHAT:

Just in time for New Year's Day, a time of the year when people commonly make positive health changes, [Father Joe's Villages](#) opened the doors to its new sober-living shelter, a 250-bed safe haven specifically welcoming people experiencing homelessness. In its first month of operations, the shelter already served about 200 unhoused neighbors on the path to sobriety.

Named the Paul Mirable Center's Reaching Independence and Self-Empowerment (RISE) program, the shelter is 100 percent philanthropically funded by donors in the community.

In addition to providing a reprieve from the streets and a safe place to sleep, the shelter gives neighbors in recovery an environment of healing and access to physical and behavioral health care. Father Joe's Villages' state-certified, substance use recovery program offers assessments, treatment planning, individual and group counseling sessions and daily groups that cover topics like coping strategies and relapse prevention.

This is the first of many steps to be taken this year as San Diego's largest homeless services provider expands its support of people struggling with substance use. This spring, [Father Joe's Villages will inaugurate a detox center](#) with 44 beds specifically tailored to those experiencing substance use.

WHY:

As the toll of fentanyl rises throughout San Diego County, unhoused neighbors remain especially vulnerable. In the past two years, fatal overdoses represented a large number

of deaths on the street, with 60% in 2023 and 44% in 2024 of total deaths attributed to this cause.

Just this month, Father Joe's Villages reported that its encounters with neighbors seeking substance use treatments nearly doubled from 2023 to 2024.

San Diego faces a critical lack of resources for people facing substance use disorder. Currently, there are only 78 detox beds in San Diego County, with only two of those being in the City of San Diego, where a majority of overdose deaths occur.

Father Joe's Villages is committed to ending homelessness one life at a time, knowing the charity's mission is carried out most effectively when they meet each neighbor exactly where they are.

QUOTE:

"Preventing and ending homelessness requires specialized approaches like our new sober shelter and detox center, and we are proud to be leading in this field locally," said **Deacon Jim Vargas, CEO of Father Joe's Villages**. "We are helping our most vulnerable neighbors find the stability they deserve. As we have done for the past 75 years, we will continue to lead the movement to end homelessness through the innovations necessary, always with both urgency and compassion, so that all of San Diego can prosper."

ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND CONTACT:

- **Organization:** Father Joe's Villages
- **Interviews available:** Contact Arturo Garcia, arturo@gomixte.com, (619) 732-0789 x278
- **Further action:** [Donate to Father Joe's Villages](#) to support families experiencing homelessness
- **Link to use in your story:** my.neighbor.org/

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About Father Joe's Villages

As San Diego's leading homeless services provider, Father Joe's Villages ensures that each person can rediscover hope and leave homelessness behind. For 75 years, the organization has been a beacon of hope and has striven to address the complex needs of people who are homeless, including by providing housing for more than 2,500 people each night, along with health care, behavioral health and substance use treatment, job training, therapeutic childcare and more. This mission of rebuilding lives is made possible only through generous public and

private [charitable contributions](#), [volunteer work](#), [car donations](#), and the efforts of compassionate staff. For more information, please visit: <https://my.neighbor.org/>.