February 03, 2020

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Measure Z Committee
825 5th Street, Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501

To: Measure Z Committee and Humboldt County Board of Supervisors:

The City of Eureka and the Eureka Police Department (EPD) have been at the forefront in addressing the homeless, mental health and addiction issues which affect our communities. Since the conception of Measure Z, funds have been awarded to EPD to institute progressive and new approaches to address these issues. Over the past 5 years, EPD has partnered with Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in forming our Mobile Intervention Services Team (MIST). This team has prioritized clients who are in the greatest need, providing the compassionate care and assistance they need to find stabilization. As with any program, its success requires the program to stay fluid and change as those we serve change. MIST has accomplished this and its partnership with DHHS remains strong, and the success stories continue to show the value in this program.

In June 2018, EPD formed a new team, Community Safety Enhancement Team (CSET), to further support the city and our citizens in addressing the issues mentioned above. This team, consisting of a Sergeant, two (2) Parks and Waterfront Rangers (1-funded by Measure Z), our MIST Officer (funded by Measure Z) and our Old Town Officer, works together to support one another in their individual positions. CSET Mission Statement: *To proactively address quality of life, crime and disorder problems in Old Town, along the waterfront, and in city parks while developing strategies to ultimately improve upon or eliminate these issues.* The forming of this team has strengthened their ability to engage our most vulnerable community members and provide resources and assistance while balancing the need for enforcement to ensure accountability and livability for our citizens.

The City of Eureka has taken further progressive steps to provide long term solutions by creating a program called UPLIFT Eureka. This program, whose coordinator and Homeless Outreach Workers are Measure Z funded, works in
conjunction with CSET to address a specific portion of our population and help them find stability and a positive place in our community. These collaborative programs like MIST, CSET, and UPLIFT Eureka are increasingly providing the city with new tools and options beyond enforcement to make positive change. The outreach, communication, relationships and direct linkage to services are key components to our homeless strategy. Their impact has been felt and seen daily by both our citizens and business and I receive positive feedback regularly during meetings and encounters within the community.

As stated by Chief Watson in the City of Eureka’s response to the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury report titled “Les Misérables”, “We know that enforcement alone will not solve the problem of homelessness. Outreach and services are also central components in our response to this crisis. Together we must find innovative and humane approaches leading to real, lasting solutions. May our community stand upon this common ground and work together toward our shared goal of ending chronic homelessness.” The efforts of CSET, MIST and UPLIFT Eureka are prime examples of this increasingly balanced and comprehensive strategy. Measure Z funding is essential to ensuring these innovative and successful programs are allowed to continue to grow and serve some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

On behalf of the City Council and myself, we encourage the Measure Z Committee and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to fund in full, the Eureka Police Department’s Measure Z application. These funds will allow our units and programs to continue to lead the way for the City of Eureka and the County of Humboldt as we all navigate the homeless crisis in our county.

Sincerely,

Susan Seaman, Mayor
City of Eureka

CC: Councilmembers
February 10, 2020

Humboldt County Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Measure Z Expenditures
County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street, Room 112
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Support for City of Eureka CSET Parks/Waterfront Ranger and UPLIFT program

Dear Members of the Measure Z Citizens Advisory Committee;

The Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) would like to express our support for the City of Eureka Community Safety Enhancement Team (CSET) and their application for Measure Z funding.

Measure Z funding to date has facilitated the collaboration between the City of Eureka and DHHS programs which have resulted in increased outreach activities to more effectively address the issues surrounding homelessness in our area. CSET works alongside our Mobile Intervention & Services Team (MIST) to directly assist homeless individuals in our community. The partnership between CSET and MIST has improved outreach, intervention and support services since its inception in 2015, resulting in the chronically homeless and severely mentally ill receiving more timely and intensive support. The Parks/Waterfront Ranger position is a critical component to this collaborative as they serve in an area with a high homeless population. Their continuing presence allows a degree of continuity which improves communication and provides a better opportunity to identify those with substance abuse issues and connect them with recovery services.

Previous Measure Z funding has also supported UPLIFT Eureka, a CSET homeless work participation program to strategically guide homeless members of our community through a series of resources and supportive programming to provide them with the tools to reclaim independence, dignity and employment.

We urge your continued support for the City of Eureka and their application for Measure Z funding.

Sincerely,

Connie Beck, Director
February 14, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my full support to Eureka Police Department’s CSET funding application for fiscal year 2020/2021.

Waterfront Recovery Services works hand in hand with the extraordinary CSET team and have had great success in getting those most in need the detoxification and residential SUD treatment services they need for stabilization. Officer Swanson in particular has been a godsend to those suffering from addiction, homelessness, and mental health issues in the City of Eureka. The relationships he has forged with those on the streets, and the trust they have in him is nothing short of extraordinary.

Uplift has also been critical to the success of those completing treatment at Waterfront Recovery Services. They have an amazing team, and they get amazing results. Their program assists participants in job readiness and Pathway to Payday has assisted many of our clients in gaining employment. At Waterfront, our goal is to provide stabilization and to build a foundation for success (self-sufficient, self-supporting, and positively reintegrated into the community) when out of treatment. Uplift provides invaluable assistance in meeting this goal and we could not ask for more out of a community partner.

Sincerely,

John B. McManus
Executive Director

WaterfrontRecovery.org
2/14/2020

Dear Measure Z Committee,

This letter is written in support of Eureka Police Department’s Measure Z funding request.

As County Librarian I work with the CSET almost daily. Officers Ross, Gagnon, and Sergeant La France are integral to the safety of the library. I find them to be responsive community servants committed to making Eureka a better, safer place.

I am often struck by the compassion of EPD as they work with our homeless community members. CSET is dedicated to helping homeless people improve their lives; they’d much rather bring someone to treatment than jail. Without CSET and EPD, the library would have a much more difficult time serving our community.

Please continue to fund Officer Gagnon’s position with the CSET team. He brings creative solutions to issues facing the entirety of our community

Thank you,

Nick Wilczek
Humboldt County Library Director
(707) 269-1929
nwilczek@co.humboldt.ca.us
February 10, 2020

Humboldt County Citizens’ Advisory Committee on Measure Z Expenditures
c/o County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street, Suite 112
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce to urge the Citizens’ Advisory Committee to approve the Eureka Police Department’s 2020-21 Measure Z funding application.

The Chamber recognizes that the homelessness crisis in our region has significant impacts to individuals and families, Chamber members, and the local economy. We believe that Measure Z funded positions and programs including EPD’s Community Safety Engagement Team (CSET) and the Eureka Community Services Department UPLIFT program are vital to addressing this problem.

The EPD MIST Officer, Parks and Waterfront Ranger, Homeless Outreach Worker, and Homeless Services Coordinator are essential to building trust and relationships with homeless individuals and connecting them with the services they need. Working together with a number of local service providers including the UPLIFT program, CSET has a proven track record of effectively engaging individuals in crisis and moving them off the streets and into mental health counseling, substance abuse programs, shelter, and permanent housing.

We believe the CSET program has proven cost effective. By focusing effort on aiding the individuals who are responsible for the highest volume of police/fire/EMS calls, stabilizing them and getting them the help they need, CSET helps save considerable public resources. The program has also been instrumental in cleaning up many thousands of pounds of trash from Eureka’s waterfront, parks, and city properties.

In addition to their work with homeless, EPD’s CSET team is very responsive to the concerns and inquiries of local organizations including the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce. Such willingness to coordinate community, business, and government stakeholders is vital for the long term success of any program to address homelessness, substance abuse, and mental illness in our area.

In addition to the direct results of CSET and UPLIFT’s mitigation of homelessness in Eureka, these programs are yielding important benefits including workforce development, cleanup of Eureka’s beautiful city parks and waterfront trail, and improvement of the Old Town/downtown atmosphere to create a safe and inviting experience for tourists and locals alike.
Please ensure that the essential work being done by CSET and UPLIFT continues, by granting the funds needed to continue and grow these programs.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Donna Wright
President/CEO
To: Measure Z Committee/Board of Supervisors
Re: EPD Request for Measure Z Funding

I am writing this letter in support of the Eureka Police Department’s request for Measure Z funding. Eureka Main Street is California’s largest Main Street community with 49 blocks of commercial and residential uses. We also have about 90% of all social service programs within, or on the fringe of, our District.

We are all aware that what happens in Humboldt County directly affects Eureka’s ability to maintain a vibrant community where people want to live, work and play, as well as enhance a thriving, visitor serving, destination. Measure Z funding is predicated upon sales tax revenue. Therefore, it is critical that our District stay healthy in order to increase those monies. The ongoing efforts of CSET, MIST, and its newer program UPLIFT Eureka, are helping us maximize opportunities to showcase our uniqueness from Victorian architecture, live theater, mural walks, and outdoor events, to mariculture, kayaking, rowing and sailing, and bay tours on the Madaket.

The Eureka Police Department’s community approach to the social and criminal issues that are tied to homelessness, drugs/alcohol abuse, and mental health problems is proving successful. These programs are demonstrating how effective they are at helping those on the streets connect with support services. Measure Z funding is necessary for our police to continue the level of service needed to operate these valuable programs.

In addition to those programs, Community Services launched a Co-Pilot project that involves a one-on-one partnering of a citizen volunteer (co-pilot) with an individual (participant) seeking support. Together they create a bond that is leading the participant to a quality of life that is productive. I am a Co-pilot and have worked with participants who have successfully found work, housing, and most importantly reclaimed their independence, and dignity. It is a marvelous experience!

This is certainly the time to continue investing Measure Z funding. It is a great feeling to notice an increase in community members and visitors out walking dogs, riding bikes with their children, shopping and dining, or just taking in the beauty of our waterfront. These are all activities that sustain a healthy community and improve the quality of lives for everyone.

Thank you in advance, for considering, and supporting, EPD’s request for Measure Z funds. It is my hope you will fund them at the full level they have requested.

Sincerely,

Charlotte T. McDonald
Executive Director
January 31, 2020

Dear Measure Z Board:

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Eureka’s request for Measure Z funding to support their police department’s Community Safety Enhancement/Engagement Team (CSET) and their complimentary Uplift Eureka program. I consider both programs to be valuable partners in addressing homelessness and reducing negative impacts in our community due to behaviors associated with homelessness.

I connect with some of the most vulnerable in our community each day, as the Coordinator of the Eureka Community Resource Center, an outreach program of St. Joseph Health – Humboldt County. Located inside the St. Vincent de Paul Free Dining Facility, I’m in the perfect place to engage with those experiencing homelessness, substance used disorder and/or mental health challenges. These along with food insecurity, are complex community issues that require strong partnerships in order to address them successfully.

In the last couple of years, I’ve created a partnership with CSET, who come down to my site on a regular basis. I believe that part of their role is to change the perception of the police department with those who regularly interact with law enforcement. They act as an additional resource to connect people with local services and get people the help they need to make long lasting life changes. In order for CSET to be successful with this population, they must build trust, which takes time and consistent messaging.

In addition to my partnership with CSET, I’ve referred people to the Eureka Uplift program. This new program, provides additional support for those experiencing homelessness. Navigating local resources can be an exhausting endeavor and the Uplift’s co-pilot program pairs community members with liaisons that can not only guide them, but join them on their journey to establishing housing.

Homelessness is a nationwide epidemic tied to many social factors, and is felt even more so in rural areas that have a tolerable climate. During the 2019 Point in Time Count, more than 1,470 unsheltered people were counted in Humboldt County, with the majority (653) counted in Eureka. This community issue cannot be addressed by any one organization, and requires a collaborative approach with innovative ideas. I believe the City of Eureka’s CSET and Uplift programs fall into that category, and Measure Z funding is critical to sustain and expand upon these type of services.

Sincerely,

Brian Olson

Brian Olson
SENIOR COMMUNITIES PROGRAM/SERVICE COORDINATOR
EUREKA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
COMMUNITY HEALTH INVESTMENT
35 West Third Street - Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 442-5239
www.StJoeHumboldt.org
February 11, 2020

Humboldt County Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Measure Z Expenditures
c/o County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street, Room 112
Eureka, California 95501

Dear Members of the Measure Z Citizens Advisory Committee,

This letter declares my support for the Community Safety Enhancement/Engagement Team (CSET) application, which the Eureka Police Department has submitted to the Humboldt County Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Measure Z Expenditures.

CSET’s activities provide public safety and promote collaboration between the Department of Health and Human Services- Mental Health (DHHS- Mental Health) and Law Enforcement officers through shared field work and the common goal of supporting individuals experiencing homelessness with obtaining stable housing as well as substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment.

DHHS- Mental Health supports continuing the role of CSET to work in co-response with service providers in the community to identify and engage people with serious mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders experiencing homelessness. Many people experiencing homelessness in our community need better access to appropriate services, ranging from substance use disorder services and detox, community housing support, and outpatient mental health treatment. CSET has demonstrated their ability to facilitate rapid access to these kinds of resources, decreasing the need for admission to acute services and the negative impacts on public safety.

DHHS- Mental Health recognizes the importance of the CSET program, particularly for people with serious mental illnesses experiencing homelessness. We urge your support of the proposed expansion by funding their Measure Z proposal.

Sincerely,

Kelly Johnson, LCSW
Senior Program Manager
kjohnson@co.humboldt.ca.us
(707) 407-9577
February 4, 2020

To whom it may concern:

The Timber Heritage Association (THA) lends its full support to The Eureka Police Department and their Community Safety Enhancement Team. THA is an all-volunteer organization formed in Eureka in the 1970’s to “Preserve, Interpret, and Celebrate” our region’s timber heritage. We are an active and vibrant organization and regularly log more than 10,000 volunteer hours yearly through our many activities.

One of our more popular ventures is to give tourists and locals alike the experience of ‘Riding the Rails’ on our little used local rail lines. With restored rail equipment, we give hundreds of riders a day the rail experience along our scenic waterfront. Unfortunately, these seldom used rail corridors are often a magnet for the homeless, drug use, trash, etc.

We found a partnership with Sergeant La France and his team several years ago. Our mutual desire is to clean up not only the rail corridors, but the city’s less desirable areas in general. The more we have contact with the CSET team, the more respect we have for their efforts. Their sincere enthusiasm for their work is contagious, especially considering the rugged environment they work in. I am often astounded at their excitement for small victories in the effort to clean up, and help, the people in our community who truly need it.

I cannot imagine the City of Eureka without this dedicated team and urge full funding for their efforts. As someone who was born and raised here, I feel lucky to have them working so hard in our community for the betterment of all. They truly make a difference.

Sincerely,

Pete Johnston

Pete Johnston, President
Timber Heritage Association.

The Timber Heritage Association
Tax ID: 94-2388203
February 6, 2020

Captain Brian Stephens  
Eureka Police Department – Service Area 1  
604 C Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Captain Stephens:

Eureka Police Department’s CSET Unit and the Uplift Community Outreach have worked closely with our St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Dining Facility in 2019 and prior. Their ongoing presence has dramatically improved the relationships with many of our daily luncheon clientele, which are largely individuals living a “homeless” existence that suffer from various issues of “mental health, substance abuse, and / or a dysfunctional family history”. The atmosphere during our daily luncheon service and in our surrounding neighborhood has become more harmonious through the efforts of Sargent Leonard LaFrance, MIST Officer Ryan Swanson, Ranger Dennis Gagnon, Homeless Outreach Worker Larry Alexander, and other support staff!

Our SVDP kitchen staff, volunteers, business neighbors, and citizens walking through our neighborhood need to feel safe. The kitchen staff and volunteers care greatly about the clientele that are provided a daily nutritious meal. Our facility also offers additional services from some collaborative agencies – Betty Chinn (showers), SJH Community Resource Center (community outreach), Open Door Mobile Medical (primary healthcare), Councilperson Leslie Castellano (art class), and others. The ongoing efforts to ensure a safe and harmonious environment is of paramount concern to many individuals affiliated with the daily on goings at the SVDP Dining Facility! Everyone involved appreciates the presence of the CDET Unit and Uplift staff!

Speaking for all that have been mentioned above, we hope the necessary funding will be made available to continue the ongoing support from the CSET Unit and Uplift! If you require further information in this matter, please contact me.

Regards,

Robert Santilli  
SVDP Board Member and Volunteer Executive Director  
SVDP Dining Facility  
35 W. 3rd Street, Eureka CA 95501  
303-877-1465
02/03/20

Board of Supervisors
Humboldt County
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 476-2396

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to you in support of the City of Eureka, Uplift program.

This program has helped me secure employment in the field of my dreams. When I first entered the Uplift program I started out as a volunteer in the job skills training program. My duties were trash clean up and graffiti removal in the Eureka Old Town area, and assisting in major cleanup projects with the Eureka Police Department. At this point, I had doubts that the program would be able to help me with my desire to enter the Security industry, but Jeff Davis told me to trust the system and he informed me about the Pathway to Payday program.

The Pathway to Payday is a program that is a collaborative partnership between the City of Eureka's Community Services Department and the Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center. It's a four-session, intensive workshop, open to the public, designed to provide participants with the skills necessary to successfully seek employment.

The program built my self-confidence and self-esteem by having me search for jobs and teaching me the best way to navigate searching for a job. I completed job applications, participated in mock interviews and speed-round interviews with real businesses. At the end of the mock interviews, the interviewers would provide me with constructive feedback and ways to improve my presentation which really helped me with the speed-round interviews. I applied for a job with the City of Eureka, Uplift program, Crew Leader, interviewed for the position and was hired.

While working for the Uplift program, I sought employment in the Security industry. I used the skills that I gained through Uplift and secured a job with Loomis Armored Car Services. I'm so grateful that you, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, assist in making programs such as the Uplift program available. I'd also like to thank Jeff Davis, Uplift, for telling me to trust the system and Drake Goodale, EPD, for inspiring me. The Uplift program is a program that I believe in and a program that believed in me. I recommend the Uplift program to anyone.

Respectfully,

Shante Littlefeather Rivas
2160 Stanford Drive
Eureka, CA 95503
(707) 497-7240

[Signature]

Rivas
To Whom It May Concern:

I am a co-pilot with the UPLIFT Eureka program. Over the years, I've worked with numerous organizations devoted to disenfranchised individuals here in Humboldt County and San Francisco. My experience has often been frustrating. I've been disappointed by the lack of effective projects that actually make a difference in the lives of those we struggle to serve.

UPLIFT Eureka is unique. It is a model for successful rehabilitation of lives torn apart by economical distress, drug and alcohol abuse, unemployment and homelessness. UPLIFT works!

I urge you to support this program and those whose lives are positively impacted by the uniquely inspired staff and volunteers who are working hard to help provide our most desperate population with job skills and housing.

Eureka needs UPLIFT and your support.

Thank you.

Cynthia Bowman
DEAR JEFF DAVIS:

I AM WRITING TO GIVE YOU AND THE UPLIFT PROGRAM A BIG "THANK YOU!" FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH THE UPLIFT PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM HAS HELP ME SIGNIFICANTLY IN MY ENDEAVORS. I BELIEVE THIS PROGRAM IS AN HUGE ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY OF HUMBOLDT AND HAS EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS AS AN AGENCY OF SOCIAL SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE OF HUMBOLDT.

BEING BORN AND RAISED IN EUREKA I HAVE SEEN MANY CHANGES GOOD AND BAD, UNFORTUNATLEY OUR HOMELESS PROBLEMS ARE AT AN ALL TIME HIGH.

IT IS IN MY PRAYERS THAT THIS PROGRAM CONTINUES THOUROUT THE YEAR AND CONTINUES TO GIVE HOPE AND FAITH IN OUR HOMELESS POPULATION

THE BASIC NECESSITIES ARE THE FUNDEMENTAL NEEDS FOR PEOPLE TO GET UP AND BE A PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

YOURS TRULY,
PAUL WOODARD
707 298-9210
02/03/2020

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I’m writing in support of the UPLIFT EUREKA Program, and share with you my experience. I was introduced to the program while residing in a Recovery Program, how Brilliant to bring it to us. I quickly enrolled. When I transited out to a clean and sober house I began to attend weekly meetings.

Jeff, Brandy, and Moe consistently met with us. Here we shared our hardships and victories. They asked for feedback and responded quickly. Next, I volunteered for their Eureka Beautification aspect of the program. We met twice weekly, we cleaned trails, removed graffiti, picked up trash. What a great way to get exercise and learn more about the area I was now residing in.

Soon they offered a Co-pilot program. Volunteers from the community met with us on a weekly basis to assist with everything from obtaining ID’s, to putting us in touch with local resources. I really appreciated this, being new to Eureka I simply didn’t know what was available or where it was. The co-pilot program kept me motivated and gave me hope. I knew I was moving in a positive direction.

Next, I was encouraged to participate in “Pathway to Payday’s”. I got much needed help with creating a current Resume’. We did mock interviews, got feedback. Then Jeff brought in local employers who were hiring. What a great experience! My spirit soared. I now had the confidence I needed.

I’m proud to tell you I’m employed and housed despite my disabilities. And it’s in large part to UPLIFT EUREKA. The staff is not only dedicated and hardworking, but they truly care. They saw me through the first year of my sobriety, and as I’ve explained were with me every step of the way. I don’t think I’d be where I am at today without the UPLIFT EUREKA program. I’m glad I don’t have to find out, and I hope others don’t either.

Thank you for your time. I would like to remind you of the important things I received. Gratitude, Appreciation, Hope and Confidence. Invaluable don’t you agree.

Sincerely,

Barbara Snow
To whom it may concern

My name is Nicol Roby. I was released from prison in June of 2019. When I came home, I didn’t have anything not even my children I was having a very hard time finding employment.

Uplift was suggested to me by one of the crew leaders. Starting uplift gave me hope I was building job and social skills. It was teaching me to be on time be presentable fallow directions and to be in charge of my behavior.

Pathway to payday was a life changing Esperance for me. The workshops on the first day where very informational learning what employers expect what our rights as employees are that there are things that an employer can’t ask you. I was struggling with my resume skills. I learned a lot of skills incarcerated. The ladies taught me what words to use and how to put them down on a resume without saying where I’d learned them. The mock interviews helped me to learn how to sell myself to prospective employers. I learned not only how to answer questions but how to ask question and what questions to ask. I could feel my confidence building. Being able to get interview clothes took a lot of stress off of me. By the end of the second day I felt like I was employable. They also helped me get my state ID and my children birth certificates.

The third day I interviewed for four jobs. I was hired by three I now work two of those jobs. One of which is assistant crew lead for uplift. The other is at best western. If it wasn’t for uplift and pathway to payday I don’t know where my life would be. I now have both of my children with me and a home. I’m currently working to get my driver’s license.

My co-piolet helped me get organized with doctor’s appointment and mental health. She gave me support that I didn’t know that

Uplift changes lives thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Nicol Roby
January 31, 2020

Uplift
Eureka, California

To Whom it May Concern:

I wanted to thank Uplift for helping me get my life together. I was an alcoholic who ended up in an alcohol center for addiction, Waterfront. Working through them and Betty Chinn, the Uplift program came in.

Uplift taught us on the computers how to look for a job and make a resume’ as well as connecting us with job openings all over the city and county. It is because of them that I got a good quality job with the city of Eureka, which I still hold today. I’ve been working for the City of Eureka for about six months, now. I had applied to many jobs, with a good work history, but didn’t even get any interviews until Uplift helped me out.

I can’t thank Uplift enough. With this job, I am able to keep up with all my bills. I truly needed this so my wife and I could get by through life after we’d both retired. Thank you Uplift.

Sincerely,

Mike Gagner
February 2, 2020

Measure Z Committee,

I am writing this letter to acknowledge the Uplift Eureka program, and how much it and all of the people involved have done to help me. After signing up for services at the Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center, I was introduced to the program and began to work with Uplift Eureka’s Job Skills Training Program twice a week. This was a wonderful chance to meet people who were also concerned with improving themselves, and working towards change. For one of the projects, I got to be in a picture for the local paper. It felt incredible to be of service, and a positive part of the community. The stipend we received each week was much needed, and got me through some very rough weeks, learning to live sober and save money.

When time came along, I took part in the Pathway to Payday Program, which gave me lots of chances to practice interviewing and a nice interview outfit, as well as connecting me to local businesses. One of these businesses was the employment agency Express, who got me an interview at Mad River Hospital, where I'm still working now.

I was meeting with Jeff Davis, who has been an immense help, for advice and bus passes to get between Eureka and Arcata. During an Uplift meeting, he spoke of an opportunity to receive monetary help if we found a safe, long-lasting place to stay. Since my condition was improving, a friend had offered to let me stay with them for $650 a month and a $1300 deposit. I had work now, but very little money saved, and $1300 was still a long way from manageable for me. I was afraid that I would lose my job if I did not have anywhere to stay. Jeff helped me to write up a rental agreement and get it submitted, and I couldn't believe it when soon after, I was housed. I will be forever grateful for the help I received. I know that, without it, I would still be on the streets. Thanks to Uplift, I am housed, working full-time, and have stayed clean and sober. My life has improved dramatically, and I have hope again. For myself, and for the other people that may be helped by this incredible program.

Sincerely,

Robin S. Lawrence
(707) 499-0571
To whom it may concern:

My name is Richard Raguth and I’m writing in support of the uplift program. I was part of this program from the last part of 2018- the first part of 2019. I can honestly say that the name fits the program as I was uplifted not only in a future but also my self-esteem. Through uplift I was introduced to a handful of people that shared their skills and time to help me and many others to set goals.

There is so much in the uplift program that is beneficial to the city. It helps an individual or a couple to transcend back into society. The program is an asst to the city of Eureka and a win, win investment. For the people it helps and supports and to the great city of Eureka. Future funding for this program doesn’t only help the current participants but it could and can help many more to come.

Sincerely,

Richard Raguth
Hi my name is Renah Wall and I am writing this letter in support of Uplift Eureka. I was living at the Eureka Rescue Mission Women’s and Children’s Shelter when informed about the program. I did the orientation meeting where I was introduced to the four available components to the program. The City Beautification Team was the first of the services I started. I met a group of people and we walked trails picking up trash and making the City look as Beautiful as it is. This was very beneficial to me because I had not worked in ten years, my health was very bad and I was uncertain of just how much ability I had. The second program I was able to utilize was Pathway to Payday. I updated my ten-year-old resume and meet with possible employers. This portion of the program was very important to give me the confidence I needed to start back to work. I did not land a job that day but very soon after. I was given a Co-Piolet and they helped me to organize the overwhelming dept I accumulated and decided to pay them. $40,000.00 in student loans were forgiven by a loan forgiveness program due to help given by my Co-Piolet. Once I was ready to move into my apartment Uplift was ready to help with my first months, last months rent and my deposit. I did not use this part of Uplift but it was very reassuring to know they were there to help.

Thank you for your time,

Renee Wall

Any Questions (707) 362-4228
To whom it may concern:

My name is Lynn Miller. I have a loving family two kids 26 & 25, a brother and a sister. In spite of all of all that in my younger years I chose to go down the wrong road. It led me to 12 years of homelessness and degradation. Though my family’s help and the help of God I got clean. I went to UPLIFT Eureka for housing assistance. They paid my deposit in my apartment. Before that I was trapped in a never ending shuffle of clean & sober houses and the streets even though I was doing well. If it wasn’t for programs like UPLIFT Eureka, I would still be shuffling and homeless. It is nice to have a place to call home. I feel very blessed.

Thank you for your time,

Lynn Miller
To Whom It May Concern,

In regards to the financial aid I received through the "Life Up or Off Life" program. I was about to become homeless moving from Sobriety living to the streets. Jeff came to the Hotel I was staying and told us about this housing aid offered to us who are trying to make up and out of homelessness. I found landlords willing to work with me and my space rental history. I called Jeff and the did everything he could to help me get into this apartment. I still live in it. The program paid the deposit and the first and second months rent. It has been many years since I've had my own place. And now at 62 yrs old through the program I'm able to be on my own. This program has been a God send and I have & play it remains in fact. Thank you again Jeff. God bless you!

Thank you

Joni B. Kreitzer
Joni B. Kreitzer
530-361-5643
To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Robert Williams and about six months ago I participated in one of Uplift Eureka's programs, Pathway to Payday. I learned many things to help me secure employment. They taught me how to prepare a great resume and gave me a chance to participate in mock interviews. These skills really helped build my confidence.

Before the program I was basically begging people to hire me, afterwards I was telling employers why I would be a valued member of their team.

With the skills they taught me and my newfound confidence I was employed within two weeks of finishing the program.

The staff at this program were all very kind and compassionate. Everyone was so genuine and all seemed so proud of us on the last day of the program. This was very overwhelming to me.

This program truly changed my life and I will never forget the experience.

Robert Williams
February 3rd, 2020
To whom it may concern:

Dear Grant Funding,

My name is Robyn Bahaiel. I am a third generation in Humboldt County. I have lived in Fortuna, Eureka, and Arcata my entire life. All I have known is this community. I was raised in poverty with many life adversities and tragedies. I have always been resilient because I never wanted to become those who have tried to destroy me. But when I married my husband after 13 years, I no longer could be resilient after losing our twins and the domestic violence. I had little to no support besides my Doctor Chris West and Psychologist Amelia Stillinger. My Family that I thought would be there showed no support or help. I was at the lowest point in my life to where all the resources that I could find in my community couldn’t help with my funding for my home after my husband had to legally leave. I really tried very hard to come up with the funds but I am limited due to being on Disability and no other income. My PTSD from my husband and abuse from family left me wanting to take my life. I
thought I did everything right with helping everyone and trusting my family because I believed the words they spoke. But it turned out they only wanted me for what I could do, provide, and put first over myself. I was living life wrong and after 31 years I had nothing left to give to me or anyone else. But then Humboldt Domestic Violence Service gave me Betty Kwan Chinn info to see if she would assist me in trying to keep my Arcata Home that I've lived in for almost 8 years. She then provided me Jeff Davis who saved me and my home thru the Housing Support. It was a blessing beyond words. I am so grateful all my hard work and determination didn't get destroyed after the hardest Tragedy of my life. I had no babies, no husband, no Mother, lack Father, no friends, nothing everyone I gave to turned their back when I finally needed True Help after 31 years. I am now starting over in my life and from there I will also be using the service Path Way To Payday by Betty Chinn. I now have the resilience, hope, faith, courage, determination, and love to continue to live my life and try to be the best Robyn I can be in God's eye.
I can honestly say that if Betty Chinn and Jeff Davis didn't provide their wonderful Foundation, I would not be here today. The support they have and still are providing for me is beyond gratitude. This Foundation has changed my life and helping it to grow. I am very blessed. Thank you.

Always,
Robyn
Back in the summer of 2018, I came to Eureka to spend some good time there. I did not realize the costs were harsher than I expected as I and a friend of mine became marooned on the streets. He contacted another friend of his and he returned to where we came from, Carson City, Nevada.

I found myself homeless and in dire ways of a few other people. Ginger's, My Brother's House residency, Yeah! Ginger Ola Through Saint Vincent DePaul's eatery

and Leslie Costellano I became acquainted with Uplift. It was Leslie more so for she gave me their phone number. I started with the beautification program all some many weeks when they started giving food Vouchers. I had no problem with
Remember the work at hand as I remember the comradery amongst us were worked together, picking up the refuse along the way of our route for the day.

I met the cap back in October and left.

I am currently attending College of Computer aided the Redwoods with an major in drafting.

I am glad to have Uplift pointed out to me to give me time to bridge the many challenges that I faced while in service to Uplift, Eureka City.

the Community

David A. Voight
I don't want to forget, that several associates who grew into great friends with fantastic character, helped me out immensely to connect with Eureha, as well as my inner operation of my spirit. They are Jeff Davis, Brandy Wheeler, MO, and definitely not least, but in her mostess, is Leslie Castellano.

David Anthony Voight
Dear Measure Z Committee,

I am not sure what Eureka will be requesting, however I need to write before leaving for a couple weeks.

I have advocated for moving the system from law enforcement management of people to the Housing First approach using a camp. This would be a stop-gap measure to end the current system that relies on law enforcement to manage people without housing. The courts address one law at a time as they evaluate the toolbox of laws used to manage people. Recently I learned some think a ticket for littering may be a good thing an officer can give someone. Perhaps nudging people with a ticket is better than waiting for people to hit bottom and hoping emergency services will get to them in time. But this system of handing out tickets to nudge people into services, though I hope and believe is well intentioned, is criminalization of poor people and a misuse of our criminal justice system.

Some advocates think what is needed is storage for people’s things, or another day center, or a place to park for people with a license and registered vehicle. I wonder if the people they are speaking for are the people the EPD Officer was referring to when he said some people would not come to a camp. This may sound harsh, but I assume they probably are not needing a camp and will probably be fine. I also think they may find a camp operated under regular tenancy rules (also a Housing First principal) works for them, too.

I know some advocates find the idea of a camp disturbing. I do. But I find even more disturbing the idea of using law enforcement to manage people; writing tickets for petty offenses as the pathway to housing or as an “incentive” to enter a program. The rental market is tight, home ownership is out of the question for many, if not most. We need an option that is based on Housing First principals. Low barrier and under a tenancy agreement, such a camp is civil rights not bogus criminalization, a place where charity is an act of kindness that adds to a life rather than an attempt to save one.

“The criminalization of homelessness refers to practices of enforcement that disproportionately impact people who are homeless. For example, there is an increased police presence and increased engagement with people who are homeless. Another example, the language of ‘public safety,’ ‘social disorder,’ and ‘restoring order’ is used by officials while at the same time there is more engagement with police, rooting out of misdemeanors, and confining use of public space.” (The Book on Ending Homelessness, Ian De Jong, Friesen Press, 2019)

After three or four years of requests that included housing assistance administered by DHHS, it was not included in last year’s EPD request. There may be a request this year from Eureka’s Uplift program for housing assistance funding. It has been well documented that Housing First reduces emergency services costs, as well as mental health services costs. Measure Z funding would go farther, do more if used to fund a camp rather than in the very tight rental market.

Please provide funding for a camp if this part of a request. If not, please ask if Eureka would agree to use any housing assistance grant for a camp and if so, please provide Measure Z funding.

Janelle Egger
Independent activist for civil rights, open government, and a legal place to call home for those without housing.
Humboldt County Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Measure Z
825 5th St #11
Eureka, CA 95501
Ref: Fiscal Year 2020-21 Application for Funding

Dear Committee Members:

Resort Improvement District No.1 (RID) offers this letter of support on behalf of Humboldt County’s Department of Public Works (DPW) Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Measure Z application request to fund $1.55 million worth of roadway maintenance/capital improvement projects and equipment purchases. RID requests that each member of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Measure Z to consider voting to recommend full funding of the entire $1.55 million request from DPW to the Board of Supervisors.

Our county’s roadways are clearly in a failing state with adverse impacts to all residents and businesses. Our county’s roadways must ensure safe and timely delivering of (emergency) services and goods transported throughout the county. Due to a multitude of factors, our county’s roadways now require a large investment of Measure Z funds in order to maintain the current road network and provide for the public safety needs of each and every community within Humboldt.

Measure Z is all about public safety. Recommending full funding of DPW’s road repair Measure Z request to the Board of Supervisors will provide public safety road improvements to our county that will continue to deliver a safer community for each resident and each business throughout the year and year after year.

Thanks for your consideration and thank you for your service as a member of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Measure Z.

Sincerely,

Justin R Robbins
General Manager
Resort Improvement District #1
gm@sheltercove-ca.gov
Humboldt County Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Measure Z
825 5th St #11
Eureka, CA 95501
Ref: Fiscal Year 2020-21 Application for Funding

Dear Committee Members:

The Shelter Cove Fire Department, part of the Resort Improvement District Number 1, fully endorses the Humboldt County Public Works application for Measure Z funding. The Humboldt County road system may be one of the most overlooked aspects of public safety in the entire county. While local police, fire, and EMS agencies are vital to the well-being of county residences, none of us would be able do our jobs and safely access people in need without a safe and maintained county road system.

One of these lifelines is the stretch of county road between Shelter Cove and Redway. Just this road and the roads that connect to it serve six volunteer fire departments, two Cal Fire stations, and City Ambulance out of Garberville. All these departments use county roads to access people who are hurt, need help extinguishing structure fires, or even utilize them as fuel breaks to stop wildland fires. Just this year a failed culvert outside of Redway shut Briceiland Thorn Road down. The detour around Old Briceiland Road added an hour, to the already almost hour-long commute for the ambulance responding to the Shelter Cove area. In Shelter Cove alone the lack of funding for county roads maintenance has led to numerous potholes, overgrown roads, and failed culverts, which took out water lines supplying over a dozen fire hydrants.

While the state of the Humboldt County roads may not be as obvious as showing off a new fire engine or seeing more law enforcement officers on the streets, when it comes to the safety of the public in Humboldt County all the entities that have been funded in the past rely on the Humboldt County road system in order to utilize many of the benefits they have already gained through Measure Z. The Shelter Cove Fire Department feels strongly that the Humboldt County Public Works application for Measure Z funding be awarded in full ensuring the county roads are in a condition that allows our first responders to rapidly and safely access the people in need.

Sincerely,

Nick Pape
Fire Chief
Shelter Cove Fire/Resort Improvement District #1
Measure Z letter of support

New Directions
John Shelter
Email: johnboy95501@yahoo.com
Phone: (707) 616-1182
1626 Myrtle Ave. Ste. B Eureka CA 95501

John Shelter and his organization, New Directions, provide a vital service to Humboldt County by providing environmental maintenance, homeless assistance and home cleanup the county. By focusing on encampments and houses that have been squatted in by homeless and/or people with addiction issues, Mr. Shelter’s crew clean up the worst of the worst including hypodermic needles, blood, feces, and trash. Not only do their services prevent contaminants and trash from entering creeks and streams and abate houses with code violations, they employ formerly homeless individuals. New Directions has partnered with many organizations, businesses and agencies, including CalTrans, Pacific Builders and communities from Trinidad to Garberville, with the majority of their work focused on McKinleyville, Arcata and Eureka.

To see more of their work, check out:
https://www.facebook.com/thepeopleofnewdirections/

New Directions is requesting $10,000 to supply crucial safety equipment for their workers (specialty gloves, waterproof boots, grabbers, nylon gloves, safety goggles, respirators, nylon suits to protect employees from contaminants and hazardous and wet conditions.

Thanks all for helping support New Directions’ work - John seemed totally surprised and grateful to hear of our interest in supporting this work. Honestly, we are so lucky to have someone willing to take on such an endeavor.

Sincerely,

Gregory Orsini
General Manager