



Why Joshua's House?

Do we need a place like Joshua's House?

Yes. Joshua's House is the first hospice of its kind on the West Coast. It's for men and women who are discharged from nearby hospitals who are at the end of their lives, and have no home to go to.

Without Joshua's House these men and women may die on the streets, unsafe and without comfort. That's because homeless people cannot get hospice care unless they're staying at a place like Joshua's House.

Is dying on the streets *really* a problem?

Yes! In Sacramento County over 2,000 homeless residents have died on our streets since 2000. And over 500 homeless residents of Sacramento died on the streets in 2023 and 2024. That's a person dying on our streets almost every single day! The average age of death for a person without a home is now 51 years old, 27 years younger than the national average.*

Is hospice care different than regular medical care?

Yes. Hospice care is professional and compassionate healthcare for patients who are close to the end of their lives. It is only for very sick patients that doctors do not expect to live more than 6 months. Hospice care helps *both* the patient and the families. It:

- improves patients' quality of life, and
- gives emotional and practical support to their families.

Who will run Joshua's House?

YoloCares will run Joshua's House. YoloCares' team of healthcare professionals, social workers, counselors, and volunteers will care for the patients' medical, emotional, and spiritual needs. YoloCares will take over ownership and operations of Joshua's House in the summer of 2025.

*The Sacramento Bee, January 30, 2025 and the University of Pennsylvania, February 2024

What is YoloCares?

YoloCares was the *first* independent hospice in the Sacramento Valley. We are a leader in end-of-life care for our region. YoloCares is a member of the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation and carries the Joint Commission Gold-Seal of Approval for excellence in hospice care.

YoloCares is dedicated to improving quality and access to end-of-life services to *all* people and their families. We provide various kinds of care, including:

- Adult day enrichment programs,
- Accredited hospice and palliative care programs,
- Enhanced Care Management, and
- Grief services for patients and families.

Individualized services are available to people of all backgrounds in our service area (in Spanish and English).

Will Joshua's House be a good neighbor?

Yes. Joshua's House has a *Good Neighbor Policy*. We will work collaboratively with neighborhood residents, educators, and businesses to ensure the best quality of life for all who live, work, and go to school in the area. If neighbors have concerns, we will provide ways for them to communicate those concerns to our staff.

Questions or Concerns?

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Your Questions

“Won't Joshua's House's bring even more homeless people and related problems into our neighborhood and around our schools?”

“I've heard Joshua's House will be run by volunteers and not professionals. Won't this lead to more trouble than we already have in our area?”

“Some people say Joshua's House was forced on our neighborhood without giving us a chance to give input. Is this true?”

“Joshua's House will be nice for the homeless. But won't it lower our property values and downgrade our neighborhood?”

“Won't it traumatize our children to see dying and dead people on their way to school?”

“We're afraid that children and others could get into dangerous drugs because of Joshua's House.”

Our Answers

Joshua's House is **not** open for drop-in programs for homeless people. We don't offer meals, beds, or social programs for the community. Only patients referred to us by medical providers can qualify for care at Joshua's House.

Joshua's House will be 100% operated by professional clinical and medical staff of the highest quality. They will use some trained volunteers, as companions and activities providers. But we supervise all volunteers and they only work in these limited areas. We will also provide professional security for Joshua's House 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

No. The Joshua's House (HCRI) developer followed all city procedures, and presented at the City Council 3 times. Community members spoke up, both for and against the project. And in the end, the City Council approved the project.

Then they hosted 4 community meetings (March 4, June 23, November 18, 2021, and June 1, 2022) to get community input. This has guided our Good Neighbor Policy.

They also added 8 Natomas residents to the Joshua's House Board of Directors. This gives us a lot of voices and guidance from the community about Joshua's House.

Being a good community member is important to us. We will always announce all community meetings in advance and invite our neighbors.

No. There is no proof that programs like Joshua's House are bad for neighborhoods. In fact, similar programs in Salt Lake City and Chicago have *improved* neighborhoods.

For example, some neighbors objected to Chicago's project Bonaventure House at first. But it quickly became a stable presence and a source of pride and jobs in the Lakeview Neighborhood. Some neighbors now volunteer at the facility.

When a person dies at Joshua's House, we take them away. No sirens. No bright lights. It will happen in a way that is private and respectful. And just as events like *Día de los Muertos* help expose kids to death in healthy ways, we can also provide community programs that help you and neighborhood children learn to face difficult end-of-life issues in ways that benefit them.

All patient medications will be stored just like in a hospital. This means we follow strict healthcare regulations to secure and manage our medications. No one outside Joshua's House will have access to the medications under lock and key at Joshua's House. Only physicians and nurses will administer drugs.