“Where vegetable, flowers, and dreams grow”

Providing conversation, discovery, learning and resources to build a foundation of trust.
Late 1900’s: Asian immigrants
Chinese Exclusion Act
Japanese internment
Mid-1950’s
1960’s: Bars, bordellos and gambling houses
1970’s: Downtown district changes “homeless” northward to Chinatown
Today: Drug trafficking, illegal dumping & homelessness
• 2007: 3,766 currently “homeless” in Monterey County

• 48% live in Salinas area

• 54% need dental care, 47% need eye care
Since 2007 over 120 persons have participated in Job Training Programs:

Our Program provided a supportive work environment that encourages both teamwork & self-sufficiency to local marginalize
“This is the first real job I have had since 1989” ~ Jim

- 58-years-old
- 2 tours to Vietnam Veteran (w. PTSD)
- Utilized Dorothy’s Soup Kitchen for over 10+ years
- Spoke person
- Moved to Washington to work full time at an organic flower nursery

Over 6 years 36 persons participated in program, 58% were employed or went on to further education.

COST AVOIDANCE: $201,000 per year ($800/mon x 21 persons x 12 months)
The Fiscal Impact

Cost to educate a formerly homeless person. (job skills, life skills, computer literacy)

$11,000

Annual cost of one chronically homeless person Incarcerated and/or using Emergency Room services.

$61,000

Source: The 2004 San Francisco Plan to Abolish Homelessness
Blame was the most common way people viewed another:

- With monthly meetings myths and stereotypes were replaced by real experience and relational knowledge.
- *Blame gave way to true understanding.*
- Solutions have never been easy, but everyone became more willing to consider complexities.
There is strength in diversity

The Community Board
• Homeless persons
• Government representatives (City and County)
• Property owners
• Social Service providers
• University
• Law Enforcement
• Business owners
• Faith Community
• Multiple Perspective – Common Ground
• Respect - Conversation
• Meeting and Learning
Chinatown Renewal Process:

A group effort including projects in collaboration with the:

- Salinas Downtown Community Board
- City of Salinas
- Dorothy’s Place
- Interim
- Buddhist Temple
- Chinese Confucius Church
- Local residents and currently homeless individuals
- California State University Monterey (CSUMB) Service Learning Institute (SLI)

**Major Funders:**

- Federal Housing and Urban Development: Office of University Partnerships Grant (HSIAC-05, 07 and 09),
- California Department of Transportation Environmental Justice Grants (2006--$109K and 2009--$312K),
- USDA (2010--$250K), BTOP—(2011--$80K) Bank of America (2010--$20K) and
- 48+ local businesses!
“Affirmation & reaffirmation that life is good, that change is good, and change here on Soledad St can be even better.”
QUESTIONS?

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