

October 25, 2011 at 12:13 PM

Non-Profit The Effort Holds Pre-Halloween Events for Formerly Homeless

by Steve LaRosa

On Thursday, October 27, from noon to 2 p.m., Sacramento non-profit agency, The Effort will hold a pumpkin carving party and Halloween door decoration contest for their client/residents at the new affordable housing community of Boulevard Court. (5321 Stockton Boulevard).

The carving party and decorating contest, like other activities facilitated by staff of The Effort, are held to reinforce a sense of community and ownership.

“For many of our residents, this is the first time in many years when they will be able to celebrate any holiday season in their own home,” said Effort CEO Jonathan Porteus, “The simple act of decorating a door in effect says...Come to my house...a major declaration for someone who has been chronically homeless.”

Currently, 49 of the 74 Boulevard Court residents receive wrap-around services from The Effort, everything from primary care treatment, mental health counseling and substance abuse counseling to vocational and educational placement.

“We follow a medical mantra that Housing is the Fifth Vital Sign like a pulse or blood pressure” says Effort CEO Jonathan Porteus. “When provided with stable housing and wrap-around support, all of our clients’ needs become less urgent and they start preventing issues by working with our medical and social support staff instead of reacting to runaway crises because they didn’t have adequate support.”

The Effort also provides art therapy classes, cooking classes, and facilitation of men's and women's groups.

Says Porteus “This housing model also has a highly positive financial impact for the whole community because many of our clients are people who would otherwise be seeking routine medical care in an Emergency Room and now they have an on-site federally-subsidized clinic and case managers who can open the door to all of the services they need in the community”