

Bridge Shelter Partner Profile: Russ Carter

Russ Carter first began his involvement with individuals experiencing homelessness in Costa Mesa 14 years ago as part of a small group from Saddleback Church that served breakfast and provided fellowship at the Sandpiper Motel.

Carter became an advocate for one of the men he served breakfast to. That led him to learn more about those experiencing homelessness and their issues, problems, needs and the services available to them. His role quickly evolved from serving meals to advocating for the unsheltered, both individually and as a group.

Carter and the volunteers from Saddleback Church continue to provide meals and support to those in need. However, with the opening of the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter new rules and regulations have been implemented related to volunteers, food service and more.

Despite these new restrictions, Carter and Saddleback Church have adapted their routine and continue to serve a nutritious breakfast that Bridge Shelter clients enjoy and they hope to continue as meal partners with the shelter.

It is partnerships like these that contribute to the overall success at the Bridge Shelter and ensure the shelter successfully changes lives for the better and continues to make a positive and meaningful impact on the Costa Mesa community.