

Building Bridges to Quality Hospice Care for Those Experiencing Homelessness



2024
CALIFORNIA
Recuperative Care
SYMPOSIUM
SEPTEMBER 12-13 ★ SACRAMENTO

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We acknowledge that the land on which Sacramento stands is the traditional territory of the **Nisenan** people, as well as the **Southern Maidu, Miwok,** and **Patwin** tribes. We honor their enduring connection to this land and recognize the deep history and contributions of Indigenous peoples to this region.



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“Dying is hard enough, but dying alone and on the street is hell.”

—JOHN GRAY



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“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.”

—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

GOALS

UNDERSTAND

the **challenges** we face delivering end-of-life care to terminally ill people who are dying on our streets and along our rivers.

CONSIDER

the **ways** others have navigated justice-oriented, dignity-sourced startup and how you can learn from and improve on them.

PARTNER

with, support, and encourage those we are trying to **build** new bridges to care that offer dignity, inclusion, and compassion.

1

The Challenge

Getting clear about
the crisis



the unvarnished
story

America
653,104

Annual Homeless Assessment Report, December 2023 (HUD)

the unvarnished
story

California
49%

the unvarnished
story

Sacramento
10,000

the unvarnished
story

Sacramento

10,000 > 5,570 > 4,000

the unvarnished
story

Sacramento
1 death every 5 days
(between 2000-2021)

the unvarnished
story

In 2022, someone died on
the street **every other day.**

—*Sacramento County 2022 Homeless Deaths Report*

Lack of **economic resources**

Barriers

Limited access to **healthcare**

Other

53% report **multiple** health-related **conditions**

Health problems are exacerbated by **lack of housing**

the unvarnished
story

The national death rate for
those experiencing
homelessness **tripled**
between 2011 and 2020.

—Fowle and Routhier, University of
Pennsylvania, February 2024

the unvarnished
story

among the
Homeless

Average age of **death** is now
51 years of age.

the unvarnished
story

“As the homeless population continues to age, you’re just going to see death rates keep going up and up and up. **It’s horrendous.”**

*—Dr. Margot Kushel, Director, UCSF
Benioff Homelessness and Housing
Initiative*

the unvarnished story

“It’s unlike any other mortality trend we see. It’s **comparable** to something like a **natural disaster or war.**”

—Matthew Fowle, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania Housing Initiative

the unvarnished story

Building new bridges requires:

- innovation
- collaboration
- courage
- perseverance

2

A Start Up

What we're trying
to do



Photo by David Travis on [Unsplash](#)

Joshua's House

Sacramento/South Natomas



Photo by Lex on Unsplash





3630 Larchwood Drive, Sacramento

JOSHUA'S HOUSE

**A caring community for
terminally-ill residents
who would otherwise die
on the streets**



3630 Larchwood Drive, Sacramento

JOSHUA'S HOUSE

**Dr. Marlene von
Frederichs-Fitzwater**

**Healthcare Communications
Research Institute**



JOSHUA'S HOUSE

- 15 residents
- 5 *real* homes
- 1 acre, landscaped, secured



JOSHUA'S HOUSE

- **Professionally staffed & managed**
- **Highest quality hospice care**
- **Volunteer enriched**



JOSHUA'S HOUSE

- Health system referral only
- Expandable to 21 residents
- Academic partnerships



JOSHUA'S HOUSE

Opening fall 2023



JOSHUA'S HOUSE

~~Opening fall 2023~~



JOSHUA'S HOUSE

~~Opening fall 2023~~

Opening winter 2024



JOSHUA'S HOUSE

~~Opening fall 2023~~

~~Opening winter 2024~~



JOSHUA'S HOUSE

~~Opening fall 2023~~

~~Opening winter 2024~~

Opening summer 2024



JOSHUA'S HOUSE

~~Opening fall 2023~~

~~Opening winter 2024~~

~~Opening summer 2024~~



JOSHUA'S HOUSE

Opening ?

3

The Lessons

Two steps forward, one
step back, and
sometimes . . .



1

Turn Setbacks into Steppingstones

Stay **nimble**
Pivot frequently



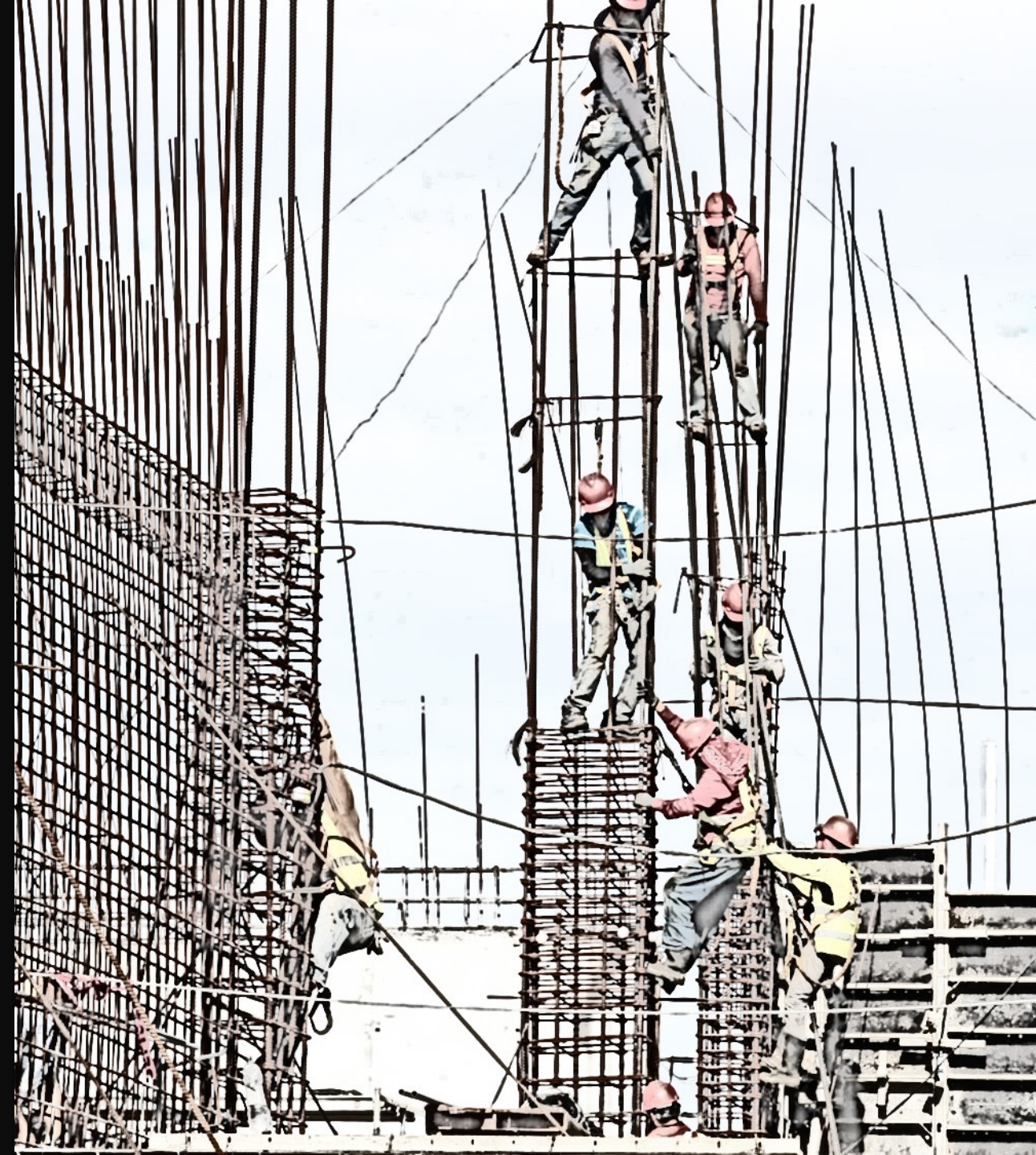
2

Expect Resistance
Stay **curious**
Learn constantly



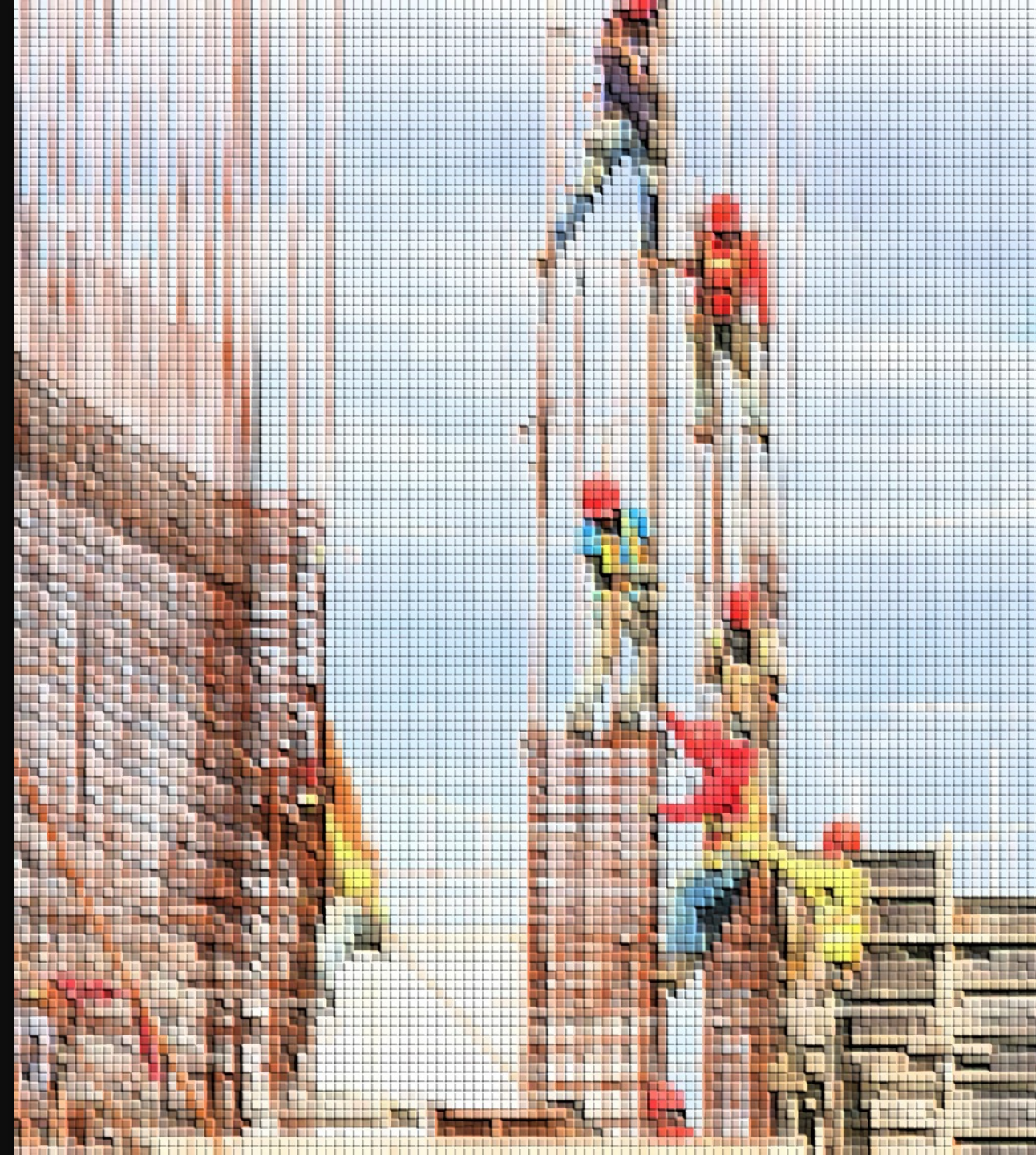
3

Partner Passionately
Find **allies**
Expand your **gift-mix**



4

Stay Focused
Navigate the **noise**
Enrich the **mission**



5

Practice Self-Care
Pace yourself
Pursue **wellbeing**



6

Put People First
Foster **loyalty**
Deliver **meaning**



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Together, let's take the hell out of dying.



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