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For immediate release

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Better Outcomes Sought for Homeless Residents

After ten years of hosting and sharing dinner with people in Marin who are experiencing homelessness, the rotating emergency shelter team program known as REST will be coming to a close, in pursuit of better outcomes for REST guests. The season of REST that began on November 1 and ends on April 30 will be the last.

“The end of REST is a movement toward better outcomes and a better life for those who are currently without a home,” said Pat Langley, chair of the Marin Organizing Committee’s REST team. “We can do better than provide a floor on a part-time rotating basis to our guests, we can work with them to find housing, and that is our goal.”

Created in 2007 to be an emergency stop-gap measure, the REST program is evolving to focus on interim housing through a housing-ready shelter. “Our intent is that this housing-ready shelter will be a short stop on the way to permanent housing, rather than a destination where people return year after year”, said the Reverend Jan Reynolds of First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael, a founding member of MOC and of the REST program.

New national best practices teach that housing is not a reward for good behavior, and homelessness is not a punishment. A housing-ready shelter that acts as interim housing on the way toward permanent housing is in line with these best practices, and MOC urges the inclusion of such a program in the overall system of care in Marin.

Over the course of this final REST season, the REST team and MOC will be working with guests, volunteers, and community partners to educate and organize support for both a robust housing-ready shelter, as well as an increase in the supply of housing in the County.

MOC calls upon the County of Marin to partner with us to assure that a housing-ready shelter is in place by November 2018.