



City of Stockton and San Joaquin County Officials joined Ready To Work Board Members, Program Participants and staff to tour our campus.

Leading the Way!

Leadership can come in all kinds of shapes, forms and sizes, looking different to everyone. Typically, one might think of a leader as a CEO running a large company. For some, they might even think of their teacher, their boss or an honor student who is setting an example for their classmates. We interact with leaders on a daily basis, some of us are even leaders ourselves – begging the question, what is a leader? At Ready To Work (RTW), we think of a leader as someone with the keen ability to guide others down the right path. Leaders are people who help others that have fallen on bad times, pull them up and aid them in doing and being better. RTW wants to do more than just give our program participants what they need to get through the day, we want to teach people how to make smarter choices which they can use throughout their future to help aid in them becoming self-sufficient.

Throughout the months of March and April, Ready To Work hosted a Leadership series which included bringing in key leaders to inspire and encourage our program participants

to leave the life they once knew in exchange for a greater future. Among the officials that blessed us with their time were Mayor of Stockton Kevin Lincoln, San Joaquin County Supervisors Tom Patti & Miguel Villapudua, Lodi Councilman Doug Kuehne, Councilmember & Vice Mayor Christina Fugazi, District Attorney Tori Verber-Salazar, and Councilman Dan Wright. Each of whom all brought a unique perspective and were able to connect with our program participants on a deeper level.

Mayor Kevin Lincoln toured our campus and later listened to three Ready To Work client stories. He was truly impacted by the three men who bravely spoke in front of the group and told their stories that led each of them to Ready To Work. The Mayor commented that each participant was incredibly strong, courageous, and definitely on a path to a better life.

The following week Lodi Councilman Doug Kuehne stopped by the campus to take a tour and speak to our men. Having previously experienced the troubles of homelessness himself,

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Anthony Barkett
President

Brenna Butler Garcia
Vice President

William Trezza
Chief Financial Officer

David Rishwain
Secretary

Rupert Hall
Voting Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Ready To Work seeks to reduce the number of homeless people in San Joaquin County by helping men with a history of homelessness or involvement in the criminal justice system rebuild their lives and the lives of their families.

Ready To Work will help its clients achieve self-sufficiency through cost-effective employment and housing programs that incorporate case management, counseling, treatment, financial planning, work training, paid work, job placement, and assistance in obtaining permanent housing. These programs will enable clients to develop a strong work ethic, commit to personal responsibility, and establish financial stability.

MAIN ADDRESS

119 E Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95202-2704

HOUSING CAMPUS

999 W. Matthews Road
French Camp, CA 95231
Phone Number 209-392-9096

LEADERSHIP CONTACT

Martin Ross, *Executive Director*
mross@readytoworksjc.org
(209) 518-6275 *Business Cell*

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



MARTIN ROSS
Executive Director

Ready To Work (RTW) has a growing and impactful mission to help incarcerated and homeless men transform their lives through workforce development. In late 2020, RTW has made it a goal to dramatically increase our community partnerships and outreach. To achieve this goal, we have opened our facility doors to give tours to elected officials, increasing our digital presence by rebuilding our website, creating social media profiles and upgrading our distribution of our quarterly newsletter.

In 2021, not only are we committed to increase our reach publicly, but we are wanting to increase the level of mentorship in the men that enter and then ultimately leave our program. By doing so, we are not only teaching them how to survive in the workforce but teaching them how to live a prosperous life outside of crime, drugs, and incarceration. As part of this training, we have created many workshops for the men to attend in their free time. These include, Budgeting, 12 Steps for Recovery, Men's Small Groups, etc. In conjunction with these classes, we have also begun a Leadership Series which consists of local City and County officials speaking and encouraging our clients to leave homeless and incarceration in their past. We invited Stockton Mayor Kevin Lincoln, Former Mayor of Lodi Doug Kuehne, and San Joaquin County Supervisor Tom Patti to guide and inspire. Both Doug Kuehne and Tom Patti shared with the program participant personal stories from their pasts, obstacles that they overcame, their careers, and how they became elected officials. We are so thankful for the wonderful accolades and support we received from our visitors during their time on campus and for taking time out of their busy schedules to share their inspirational stories.

To add to our Community Connectivity goal, I had the honor of being selected as 1 of 10 participants of the inaugural Nonprofit Leadership Certificate Program, presented by the Community Foundation of San Joaquin and University of the Pacific, Bernerd College. This program is designed to assist in the growing professional development needs of the nonprofit community within San Joaquin County. Through this program, myself and nine other participants, increased our understanding of what it means to run an effective nonprofit within our county. I was excited to have completed this program and to bring enhanced knowledge back to our incredible organization. Ready To Work as already seen immense growth in 2021, but I am most excited about the work we will continue to do in this community, collectively with individuals like you, and truly change the lives of the people we serve.



Martin Ross



San Joaquin County Supervisor Tom Patti, inspiring and engaging with some RTW clients during his speech.

Continued from front page

he knew first-hand what the men at our facility are thinking and feeling. Pulling yourself back up onto your feet after being on hard times is never easy, but Doug shared with these men that, if they work for it, there is always hope and light on the other side of dark times.

Finally, our Ready To Work clients heard from San Joaquin County Supervisor Tom Patti who, like Doug Kuehne, knew what it was like being in their shoes. Having experienced hard times in his youth, he shared with these men that with enough drive, hard work and the right leadership, they can truly accomplish anything.

Strong leadership is important because it teaches today’s youth the difference between right and wrong while also being critical for instilling a sense of aspiration for adults, especially the men in our program. Our mission is to instill as much positivity and stability into our program participants as we can, but also to make sure they know they are not alone on their path to a better life.



Lodi Councilman Doug Kuehne with RTW Executive Director Martin Ross & Facilities Monitor Specialist Sam Banks before Doug’s presentation to the RTW clients.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



TALIJA DOUGLAS

Favorite quote:

“A dream written down with a date becomes a goal. A goal broken down into steps becomes a plan. A plan backed with action becomes reality” - Unknown

Favorite food:

Nachos

Why I like working at RTW:

I started working for RTW July of 2018. I enjoy working at RTW because I see the good it has been doing for the men in our community.

What other staff say about Talija

“I have really enjoyed working with Talija. She is always in an upbeat mood, she is easy to work with and when I filled in for a few Facility Monitor shifts she has been a good teacher. Talija is a wealth of knowledge and willing to share her knowledge with others who need her assistance. Ready To Work is lucky to have such a valuable asset in Talija.”

At Ready To Work, we believe in highlighting our employees who go above and beyond to enrich the lives of our clients everyday.



Dinner ON THE FARM

FOR 45 CLIENTS

Sponsor Dinner on the Farm for \$250 **OR** You bring in restaurant or purchased dinners

To schedule your Dinner Night at the RTW Campus, (located on the Sheriff’s Honor Farm) contact **(209) 392-9096**



119 E Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95202-2704
readytoworksjc.org



We are so excited for RTW's newly branded dump trailer and Chevy Express van! Thank you to Carol S. for dramatically enhancing our positioning for municipal and private contracts by sponsoring our dump trailer!



Julio Perez (shower operator) standing in front of the new showers, in his new employment role in partnership with the Downtown Stockton Alliance who operates the showers at St. John's Church.