

Esplanade House Celebrates 20 Years



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This year marks a big milestone for "The Esplanade House" in Chico. Supporters are celebrating 20 years of helping families break the cycle of homelessness.

Hundreds of lives have been changed on the campus of the program in North Chico where families receive shelter, and the help they need to overcome challenges that lead to homelessness. Like generations of poverty and drug addiction.

Students featured in a new documentary that will be unveiled at Friday's anniversary celebration say, "My biggest goal is to be a good father" and "The parenting group ... I totally admire."

Greg Webb is in the building industry and played a key role in helping to get the unique program off the ground. He says, "homelessness is very difficult to overcome. It takes more than 90 days, often two years or more."

The Esplanade House supplies a clean and sober environment, help with employment and education, family counseling, rehabilitation and child care.

It's operated by the Community Action Agency of Butte County, and is supported by the community through The Esplanade House Children's Fund.

Tom Tenorio is Executive Director of CAA, "Local folks sought out how we could do this in a collaborative partnership and we've carried that forward to this day."

Gloria Rodgers is the Program Director at The Esplanade House. She says there are more than 50 families currently receiving help here, with 60 to 70 more on a waiting list. "Currently there is an increased need with the economy, and families never exposed to homelessness before. So I'm hoping we can continue to provide services that are needed so children have the opportunity for a better life and families have the chance to get their lives back."

The Anniversary Open House will include tours and refreshments from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. The campus is located at 181 East Shasta Avenue, off of the Esplanade.