

The San Bernardino Democratic Central Committee is hosting a virtual fundraising event to recognize community activists throughout the county for their volunteerism, Saturday, April 10, 2021. Susan V. Walker has been chosen for her public service and community involvement with the mountain communities from Crestline to Arrowbear and Big Bear.

Sue Walker and her husband relocated as retirees to Lake Arrowhead. But Sue immediately began searching for opportunities to meet the locals, join organizations, and get involved in activities that are goal oriented: For example, Soroptimists of Rim of the World, '06 -' 21, VP '20 – '21, Mountain Regional Council on Aging, Chair '08 - '11, San Bernardino Senior Affairs Commission '08 - '11, and Senior Senator, CA Senior Legislature, '16 - '17.

While being a part of a group working together towards a common goal, Sue also has the capacity to look around and notice other issues in need of attention, like homelessness. She participated in the first “5 Point In Time Counts” of the homeless beginning in January of 2016.

On October 18 of the same year, members of the Lake Arrowhead Presbyterian Church and St. Richard’s Episcopal Church formed the **Mountain Homeless Coalition (MHC)**. Although the county had a Homeless Partnership program, it didn’t include the mountain communities. When the county was apprised of this, their Homeless Provider Networks were restructured and the Mountain Homeless Provider Network was born. MHC now has a seat at the table of the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) to express the needs of the mountain and seek support services from Continuum of Care vendors.

In July of 2017, MHC applied for and received their nonprofit status from the IRS. They seek funding from individuals, community groups, foundations, and successfully write grant proposals. In 2020 they received \$1.1 million from the CA Homekey program to purchase six cabins and two manufactured homes in Big Bear. In the fall of 2019, the ICH created five Regional Steering Committees one of which is exclusively for the mountain communities. The Mountain Regional Steering Committee reviewed the Homeless Housing & Assistance Program funding application and MHC will receive the full amount of this year’s mountain allocation of \$236,000.

As a result of increased demand for services, MHC has recently had to hire two new employees, one to serve the needs of clients in the Crestline and Lake Arrowhead areas, the other to oversee the development of infrastructure to ensure sustainability and continued growth.

Sue Walker has been Vice President of the Mountain Homeless Coalition from 2017 to the present.