

# RSCP Overview

August 30, 2022

## **Participation in God's Work**

At PBCC, one of our core family values is “participation in God’s work.” As the people of God, our aim is to find where God is working in the world, then join him in his work. One of the ways of joining him is providing hospitality to others, especially strangers. Jesus attaches supreme significance to hospitality, especially in the sobering parable of the sheep and goats in Matt 25 (Matt 25:31-46). In that parable, he speaks of himself as the Son of Man, who, when he returns, will separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep are invited to be with him forever. The goats on the other hand, are removed from his presence. What’s the deciding factor? Jesus says this, *“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”* The deciding factor is hospitality. Whoa. To be clear, trust in Jesus determines one’s destiny, but a primary demonstration of trust in Jesus is hospitality, especially to strangers. This leads the writer of Hebrews to encourage us to *“not neglect showing hospitality to strangers”* (13:2).

In the west, we sometimes view hospitality as entertaining our friends. However, Biblically speaking, hospitality is always enlarging and extending our hands and our tables to strangers. Even more, biblical hospitality is enlarging and extending our hearts to strangers. It is a supreme act of love, which *is* participating in God’s work. Participating in RSCP is a way of extending our hearts to strangers who are in need. In this ministry, we aim to extend our hearts by building relationships of love. The ultimate goal is to help participants get off the streets and into housing, but if it never happens, so be it. God is in charge of the results. He calls us to see those in need and offer hospitality to them.

## **What is the Rotating Safe Car Park (RSCP)?**

The RSCP's mission is to create safe and welcoming spaces where guests who are living in their cars can sleep, stabilize, recover, and gain access to social services. This care for our neighbors who are home insecure is accomplished through the collaboration of faith-based communities, local city governments, and other service organizations. This framework not only assists in meeting the needs of the home insecure within our community, but also allows members of the community to participate in meeting those needs. This RSCP has a maximum of 20 cars.

The city of Cupertino explains it well on their [website](#):

*The City of Cupertino has partnered with the West Valley Rotating Safe Car Park (RSCP) Program, which is a collaboration of faith-based communities, local city governments, and other service organizations. The RSCP is an emergency homeless program made up of a network of volunteer sites that host overnight guests for up to 2 months on an annual rotating basis. RSCP allows for temporary overnight parking for homeless individuals or families living out of their cars as a safe alternative to sleeping on the streets or in a homeless shelter. The program connects homeless individuals and families with hospitality and case*

*management services. RSCP participants are required to undergo an assessment and screening, own a functioning vehicle, and be enrolled in a case management program.*

### ***What are the Benefits of an RSCP?***

*RSCP programs offer many benefits to participants and the host community.*

- RSCP sites provide a safe and welcome space for unhoused individuals and families who are currently living in vehicles to sleep, stabilize, and recover.*
- RSCP programs are a new approach in response to the region's rising housing crisis. Unlike traditional homeless shelters, RSCP programs have relatively low impact on the community by not requiring permanent infrastructure on site.*
- RSCP programs prioritize safety for participants and the community. RSCP participants undergo an assessment and screening prior to joining the program. Furthermore, the West Valley RSCP Program partners with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department.*

### **Who Leads RSCP?**

This Rotating SCP was begun and is being led by five members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Saratoga (the pastor and four members). We were made aware of RSCP through West Valley Community Services, an organization we have had a relationship with for close to a decade. This RSCP has four main partners:

1. **West Valley Community Services:** Comprehensive programs are offered under one roof free of charge to low income and homeless families in the west valley region of Santa Clara County. They also provide helpful information and referrals in collaboration with other service agencies in the community. Their services fall into four categories: food, housing, support and mobile services.
2. **Amigos de Guadalupe:** Amigos connects agencies and resources to people. For RSCP, Amigos provides the case management services. In other words, every guest is interviewed and screened first by Amigos.
3. **Cities:** Currently, [Saratoga](#) and [Cupertino](#) have become partners of this RSCP.
4. **Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department:** The sheriff department is fully behind this program because it provides safety to homeless people and keeps homeless people from parking along city streets. They routinely drive through the RSCP parking lots to check on the guests.

Of course, the other partners are host sites. A schedule of sites and volunteers is maintained by the members of the Prince of Peace church.

## **Current PBCC Plan**

PBCC will provide the facility and the volunteers to host guests during the month of October of each year.

### **Leadership**

Pastor: Shawn Reese

Leadership Team

1. Hospitality hour food
2. Meal Coordinator (1 meal/week)
3. Operations
4. Operations
5. Operations

### **Weekly Plan**

- See map.
- Every morning: 6:30-7:00 AM: Hospitality “hour” (Cupertino requires that guests leave the property by 7:00 AM.)
  - Coffee and snacks
- Every evening: 7:00-8:00 PM: Hospitality hour
  - Snacks
  - Microwave available
  - Hot water available (tea?)
- Dinner every Thursday: 7:00-8:00 PM
  - Provided by a different group each week.

### **Facilities**

- Everything stored in the white trailer for the month.
- Outdoor power strips on the light poles.
- Tables and chairs in the corridor can stay for the month.

### **Welcome Letter**

- This will outline PBCC rules and regulations for the guests.



\* Primary bathrooms (2 single-person bathrooms)

\* RSCP check-in and hospitality



RSCP guests may park in areas bounded by yellow.



WIFI Connectivity Area