

# Shar-On Is All About People & Community

We are always growing; you always find a new program rolling out and exciting new energy on the campus.

We are always open to new ways to engage and support the expansion of the members of the Shar-On community and the larger community of Taft.

## Shar-On is a 501(C)3 Non-Profit Organization

We have grown throughout the years without government funding and without a paid staff. All our income comes from individuals who like what they see and want to help us.

We operate on a campus owned by St. Andrews Episcopal Church at 703 5th Street in Taft, California. Shar-On has no religious affiliations; however, St. Andrews has associated with us for several years and we are eternally grateful for the opportunity to operate from this location. The partnership with St. Andrews has brought a foundation of stability and consistency to the program. The rent we pay is minuscule and this has been essential because the monthly income of Shar-On rarely exceeds more than \$500-600.

## Our Location is Ideal

We have a commercial kitchen and a meeting hall that allows us to serve meals, conduct meetings, hold workshops, and even give dancing lessons!

# Our Main Program is the Sandwich Social

We did start out by serving sandwiches but we now offer several other programs and more programs are always being considered.

## Our other programs include:

- **Community Center**
- **Doin' Good for Nothin'**
- **Support Groups/Self Discovery**
- **Classes/Education**
- **Shower & Shaves**
- **Court Cabs**

# Uniquely Shar-On

There is an old saying that goes,

**“Give a man a fish and feed him for a day.  
Teach him to fish and feed him for a lifetime.”**

At Shar-On we do both. The simple truth is that when people are hungry, they are not interested in learning long term skills or giving back to the community. So every day, 365 days a year, we feed between 40-60+ people a day. That is somewhere between 1200 and 2000+ meals per month. Each dinner is homecooked, delicious and nutritious. We have a unique philosophy. We don't see anyone as unable, broken down or hopeless. Indeed, we have found that when people are fed, appreciated, respected, and loved that they change. They start to ask what they can give; they want to raise up and be a contribution first to the Shar-On community and then to the larger community. Shar-On is a total volunteer organization. No one is on the payroll. When you visit Shar-On you'll notice the people cooking, serving, and cleaning up. These are the same people who used to be on the other side of the line receiving dinner. But this committed group of volunteers changed. They went through food handlers permit training to earn certification and now give as they once received.

**Shar-On is not a homeless shelter,  
a food bank, or a soup kitchen.**

We are a place where people, who are often on the margins of society, come to eat and through fellowship and an environment of love start to believe that something bigger is possible for their lives. We empower them to discover the truth of their own worth.

# Programs:

## SANDWICH SOCIAL

Our flagship program is Sandwich Social which we have described above. We do want to mention that virtually all of the food we serve is given to us by The Golden Empire Gleaners. They give us food each week that keeps this program going and we are so thankful for their on-going generosity.

## COMMUNITY CENTER

Because St. Andrews has allowed us to stay at the same address for so many years, we have been able to expand our programs to offer homeless people and people with challenging living conditions some stability that mainstream individuals may take for granted. Shar-On has become a stable and predictable place in an otherwise transient lifestyle.

## Here is what we offer:

### DOCUMENT SAFE

Important documents such as ID's, birth certificates, or social security information can be safely stored at the facility.

### DOCUMENT ASSISTANCE

We help members of the community apply for essential documents if they ask for the help.

### MAIL SERVICE

Yes, people still receive mail. And if you do not have a permanent address this can result in real complications. We provide a secure, safe and confidential address for members of the community.

### MEDICATION SAFE

Those people who have prescriptions can safely store their medications at our facility.

### SUPPORT ASSISTANCE

Provide information on community resources including food, shelter, rehab and other community-based programs.

## **DOIN' GOOD FOR NOTHIN' (DG4N)**

This is a community outreach program that looks for projects around the community of Taft where our group can make a difference. We have cleaned up alley ways and streets in Taft. Keep your eyes open for our team wearing bright green shirts making a difference around town.

## **SUPPORT GROUPS/SELF DISCOVERY**

We host AA and NA support groups on the St. Andrew's campus. These are weekly meetings and open to the community. We also offer gatherings where we discuss the power of choice. We explore the choices participants have made, the consequences, and discuss the opportunity to make more positive and productive choices.

## **CLASSES/EDUCATION**

In the right environment people flourish. We offer a variety of classes from art to dance, to music and more. All classes are free to the public and taught by people within the Taft community and from our own homegrown talent pool.

## **SHOWERS & SHAVES**

A local Taft organization called Hell Fighters has partnered with Shar-On to offer showers and haircuts to our community. Hell Fighters brings in the portable showers and local hair dressers volunteer to shave and cut hair at the St. Andrews campus. Clean clothes and hygiene kits are also distributed at the time. This program is offered twice a month.

## **COURT CABS (Pending)**

This innovative program was brought to Shar-On by the Taft Police Department. We noticed that far too often people issued tickets for minor violations didn't make the court date. That is because the court is in Lamont 46 miles away and transportation can be a barrier to appearing on the court date. When that happens a bench-warrant is issued. Now a simple infraction has turned into a much bigger problem. The solution is that the local police will assign court dates only on certain days of the month and then Shar-On can facilitate transportation for the people who cannot get to court any other way. With Court Cab, everyone wins.

## **LEADERSHIP**

Shari Rightmer is the Executive Director and creator of Shar-On. She is the spark that keeps the flame of passion alive through all the ups and downs of operating a non-profit.

She is supported by a Board of Directors and members of the Shar-On community participate in leadership decisions after a period of time working with the community. This is a community that is inclusive, that encourages people to step up and show their greatness. Our team of volunteers is the foundation, the back bone, the only way that this organization continues to grow and touch lives in a very intimate and positive way.

# What's Next?

We intend to keep growing and developing programs that enhance the lives of the Shar-On community and the community where we live. We are at an important decision point. We operate with a total volunteer team. And that model has served us well but is not sustainable in the long term. We are looking for financial assistance so we can grow and pay for needed services.

We can assure you, your tax deductible contribution will be put to good use.

We have learned much over the years... making a dollar work hard is one of those lessons. If you like what you see,  
**please give.**



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