

# OLIVE CREST®

Strong Families, Safe Kids

## Transforming Lives Campaign



## BUILDING RIVERSIDE'S NEW CREST COTTAGES





**Olive Crest is dedicated to preventing child abuse  
by strengthening, equipping, and restoring children  
and families in crisis... One Life at a Time®**





## OUR TEENS AND FAMILIES ARE IN CRISIS

Every day in Riverside County, hundreds of teens, young adults, and families in crisis struggle to find affordable housing and the support services necessary to move beyond the trauma and adversity they experience daily. Teens aging out of the child welfare system endure untold challenges before reaching adulthood and are trying to pick up the pieces from challenging childhoods. More must be done to help them find stable housing and get on track for productive and rewarding futures.

Every month, dozens of teens turn eighteen years old and emancipate or leave the child welfare system. History tells us that within six months of being “independent,” more than 60% of these teens become homeless or housing insecure and experience severe housing instability (couch surfing is not a stable home). When homeless and living on the streets, these teens experience even more traumatic mental health issues and often turn to substance abuse and other negative lifestyle issues. In addition to these young adults needing stable housing and supportive, holistic services, local families with young children experience similar challenges.

### WHAT THE HORRIFIC STATISTICS REVEAL

- 60% of children who are sex trafficked come from the child welfare system.
- 60% of teens who ‘age out’ of the system are homeless or housing insecure within six months to one year.
- 60% of children from the child welfare system will at some point become incarcerated.

## OUR SOLUTION

# AN INNOVATIVE CHURCH-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: CREST COTTAGES

Through our proven service model, we have seen firsthand the transformative effects of teens and struggling families living within a positive support system and stable housing. With safe housing and hope of a better future that includes independent living skills and stable positive relationships, individuals will begin to heal and continue these positive experiences into adulthood.

As we plan to meet the community's pressing needs for housing and support services, and the desire to help even more teens and young adults, we are raising funds to invest in this new community. **To meet teens, young adults, and vulnerable single-parent family's needs, we are building a new community called "Crest Cottages."**

We realize that strategic partnerships are crucial to helping make this dream a reality. Therefore, we have joined together with the compassionate Riverside-based **Crest Community Church** whose mission is to be a "house of mercy" that loves their neighbors unconditionally. We are building eleven homes for young adults aging out of the child welfare system and for young families experiencing temporary crisis to divert them from homelessness, domestic violence, medical, or other challenges that lead to child welfare intervention.



Rendering: Individual Crest Cottage

The church sits on a 1.75 acre campus it owns, which includes excess land to accommodate this new housing complex. The goal is to provide young adults and struggling families with housing and comprehensive support services by the Olive Crest staff. Simultaneously, Crest Community Church volunteers will provide basic and spiritual support, and build a community that creates a lifelong safety net for these children and families.

Crest Cottages will include:

- 11 homes
- Housing for 16-24 young adults and families
- Interactive play spaces
- A shared park area
- Classrooms for training and life skills
- Offices for counseling and essential support services and coordination
- A full-time manager (family) living on-site to oversee operations, ensure safety, and build relationships

*"True transformation comes from the healing power of God, family, and community. We provide highly skilled professionals and a proven model to facilitate healing — but **church, community, and neighbors** provide the lifelong relational connections necessary to sustain that. Crest Cottages offers both."*

**Tracy Fitzsimmons**

Executive Director, Inland and Desert Communities



# THE LIFE-CHANGING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Crest Cottages has already received significant philanthropic investments from forward-looking donors and friends looking to complete this transformative community for local youth, teens, and families. We invite you to join us in this life-changing initiative.



*Rendering: Crest Cottage Courtyard is where the community comes together for social events such as movie nights, barbecues, and games.*



*Rendering: The Training and Recreation Center will offer training and meeting rooms, a game room, and a fully equipped gym.*



*Rendering: Crest Cottage Site Plan*

## BUILDING UPON RIVERSIDE'S PAST HOUSING SUCCESS

The viability of this Olive Crest and Crest Community Church partnership model has already been proven effective by way of a similar project called "Grove Village" through The Grove Community Church in Riverside.

Four homes were built for multi-family use, spearheaded by former Mayor Rusty Bailey, and local Emeritus Pastor Tom Lance. Today, the program continues to see success, with the average participant being a part of the program for 12-18 months before moving into their own independent housing.

Serving children and families has been at the heart of Olive Crest's mission for over 50 years. We have learned the greatest common factors among children, young adults, and families in the child welfare system are social isolation, low socioeconomic status, and housing instability. **Crest Cottages exists to bridge this gap.** Together, we can help children and families in crisis move from isolation to a healthy level of interdependence, resilience, and success.



**We humbly invite you to join us in the campaign to make Crest Cottages a reality.**

**Will you consider becoming a part of this innovative solution and help us prepare teens, young adults, and families for productive lives?**

**Together we can transform the lives of struggling Riverside teens and families.**



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