



## City of San Jose **HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM**

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### Organizational Profile

The Homeless Outreach program is a program out of the City of San Jose Housing Department. It involves teams of Housing staff and volunteers who perform weekly outreach in the Guadalupe River Park and in downtown San Jose to the homeless population. The folks that the teams encounter are provided comfort items, as well as friendly conversation. Each team is accompanied by an Outreach Team Leader. The program is available to support the homeless/unhoused individual who is interested in receiving services and helping them in that transitional process. The Leaders can connect interested persons with proper service providers.

### SCU Students' Role

SCU students will be part of a weekly team and must be available on a consistent basis to build trust and relationships with the homeless in the community. Students will spend their placement time interacting socially with individuals one-to-one. Outreach consists of indoor and outdoor options. The outdoor options of this program will take students outdoors through the downtown streets of San Jose or along the bike paths of the Guadalupe River Park. These visits occur early in the morning (begins at 7 am), so interested students must be fully functioning at that hour and willing to make a consistent commitment in order to develop relationships with the people. The indoor option consists of meeting with individuals during afternoon mealtimes at First Christian Church. Outreach at First Christian Church is also of a social nature and do not involve preparing or serving meals. **Both outdoor and indoor options are fairly unstructured placements where students must be comfortable in being proactive in engaging in conversation.**

All students must complete the CSJ Volunteer Agreement, as well as sign a Code of Ethics before they start outreach. This will be done at orientation.

### To Do Before Orientation

- Visit organization's website to learn more about their work.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.