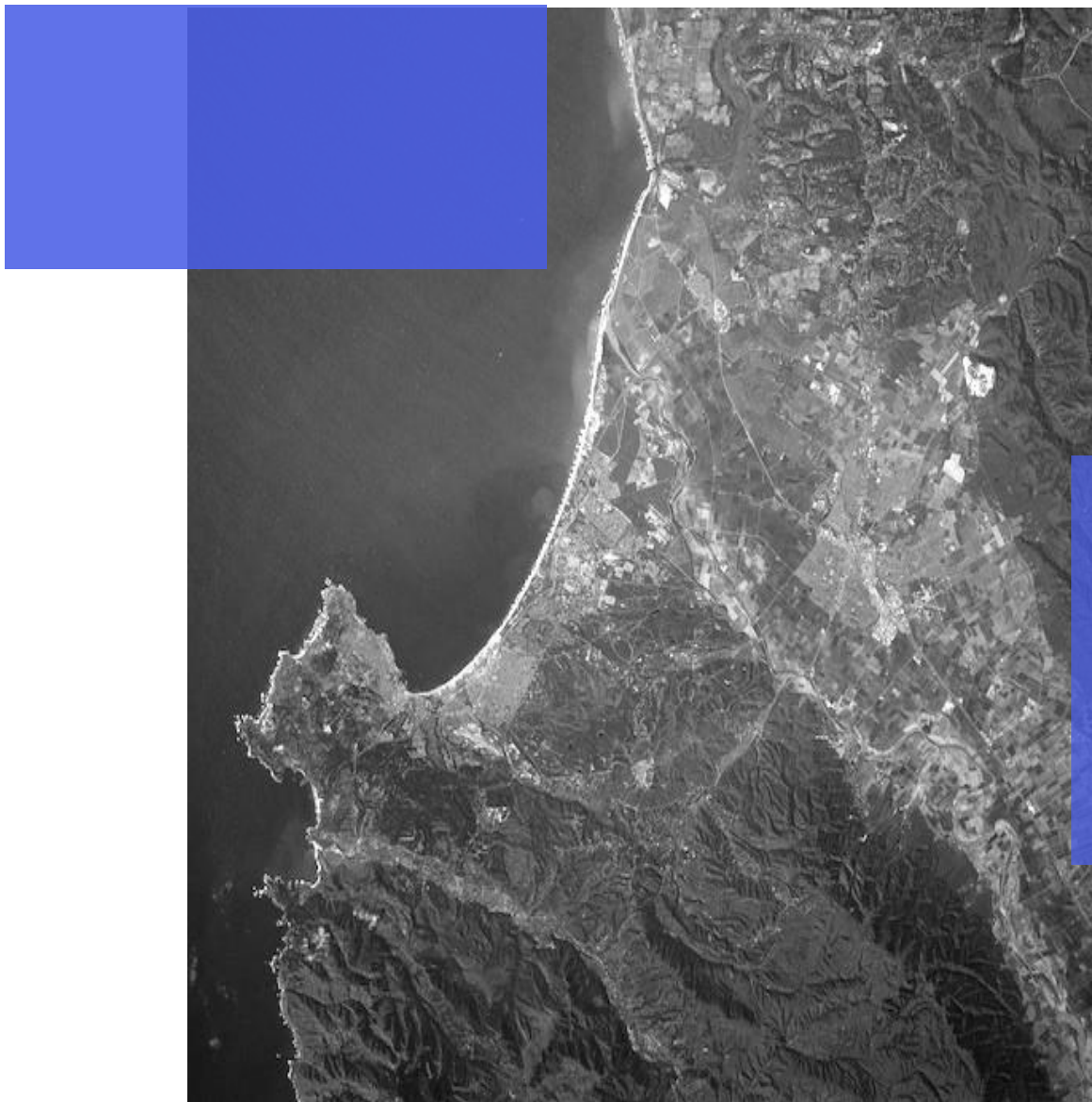


ONE STARFISH

**MONTEREY
COUNTY SAFE
PARKING
PROGRAM**





OVERVIEW

A BRIEF HISTORY

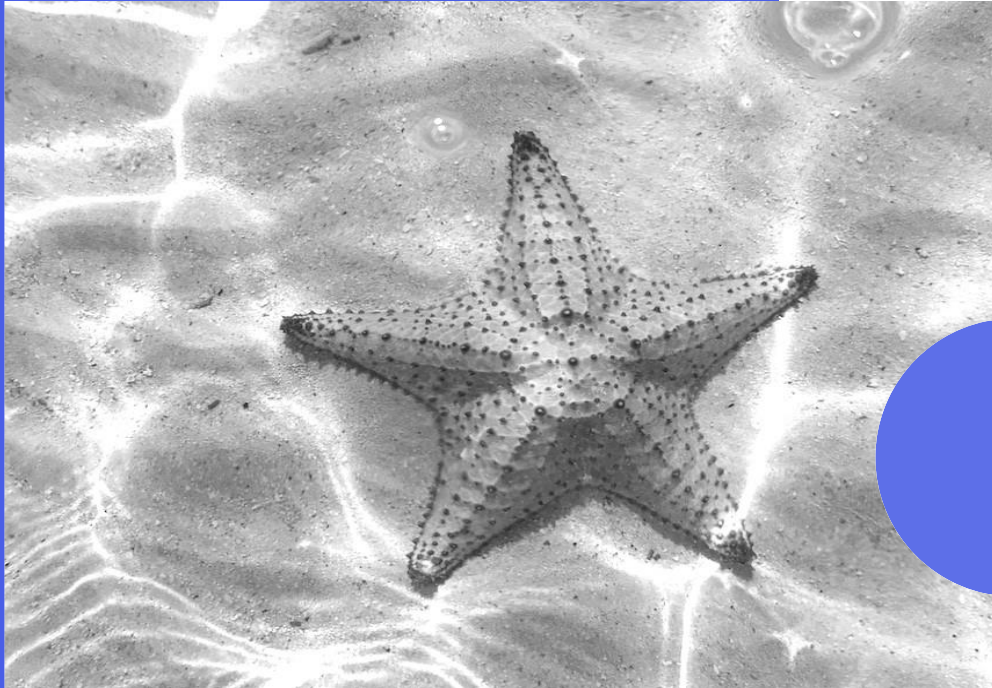
PROGRAM GOALS

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

PUBLIC PUSHBACK

SUMMARY

A BRIEF HISTORY

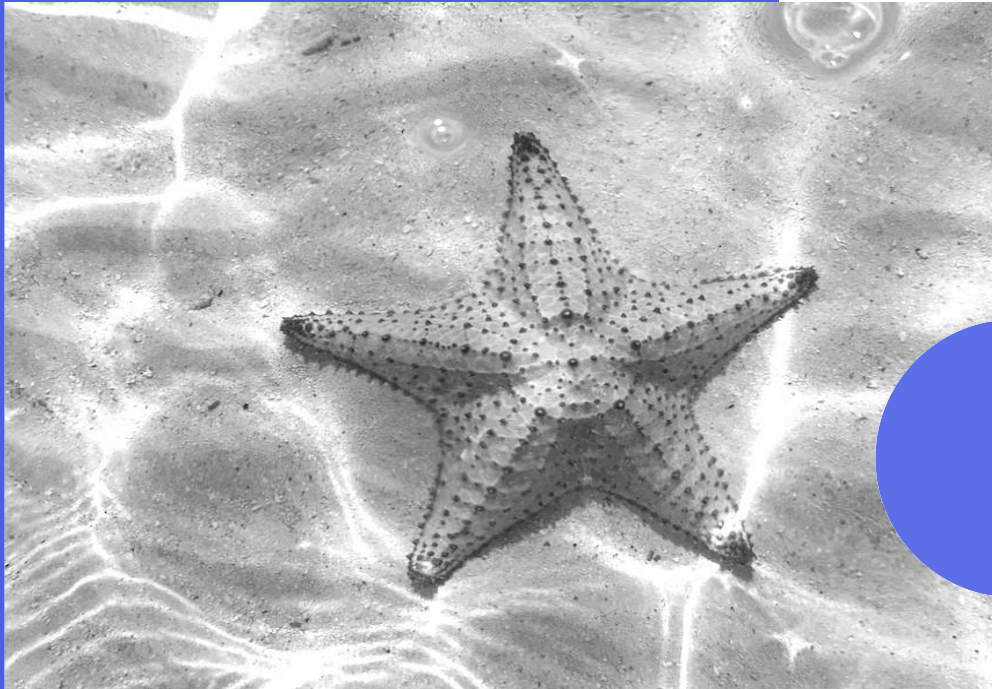


One Starfish was founded by Dr. Tia Fechter in 2014. It was founded out of a need observed by Dr. Fechter: women staying in their vehicles had no safe place to stay overnight. Partnering with local churches, the One Starfish Safe Parking Program was born.

Guests of the program were provided with a safe place to park overnight at one of the partnering churches, wrap-around case management, and financial assistance to help prevent a further spiral down the slippery slope of poverty.

It was founded on the belief that dignity, healthcare, and housing are all human rights.

A BRIEF HISTORY



In late 2017, the Monterey County Safe Parking Program opened as a collaboration between One Starfish (formerly Orphan Productions) and the Monterey County Department of Social Services Community Action Partnership.

One Starfish as an organization has been operating for 10 years, with the Monterey County Safe Parking Program now in its sixth year.

Today, the MCSPP is a Housing-First Initiative with a capacity of 30 cases (currently 40 individuals).

PROGRAM GOALS

HEALTHCARE, PROGRAM ACCESS, FINANCIAL STABILITY, AND HOUSING

Healthcare is a key tenet in our work. Ensuring that each Guest of the program is enrolled in appropriate healthcare is essential to cultivating financial independence and stability.

We also work with Guests to learn about their individual situation and needs to identify the gaps in their care, allowing us to refer Guests to outside organizations that could benefit them, and focus our specific services on filling those gaps.

We help Guests work toward financial stability by assisting in the creation of resumés and in searches for employment leads. For Guests unable to work, we can assist in SSDI applications, and applications for other services, such as CalFresh or Medi-Cal.

Housing searches look different for each case. Income, family size, employment location, Housing Choice Vouchers, these all greatly affect the breadth of our search, and we try to cater to these factors in helping Guests search for and apply for housing.

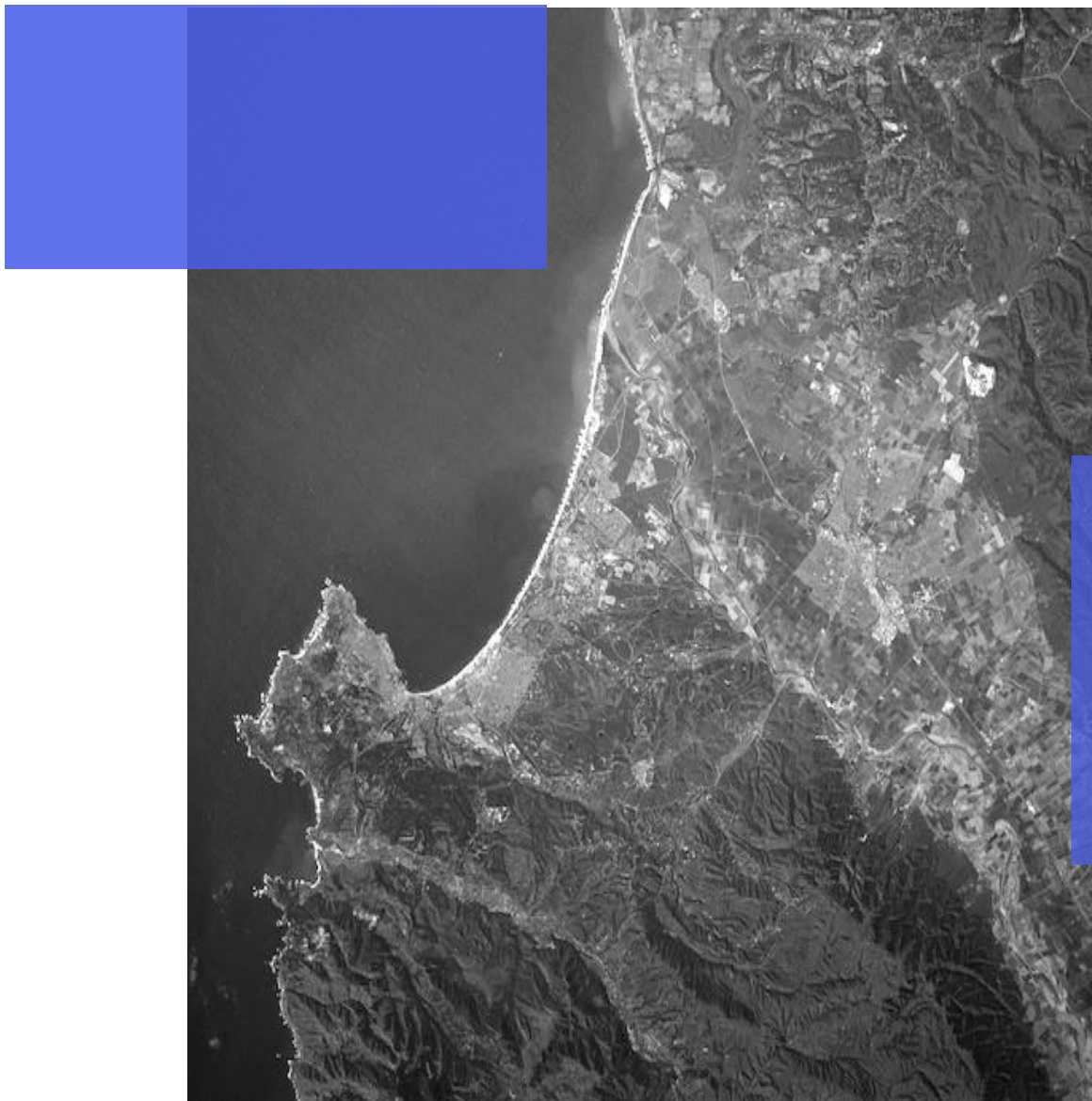


RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON SITE

Both sites managed by the Monterey County Safe Parking Program have the following:

- Restrooms
- Handwashing Stations
- Trash and recycling facilities
- Parking Lot Security





NIMBYISM? IN *MY* BACKYARD?

Throughout the existence of the MCSPP, we have received some pushback. There have been many misconceptions about what we do.

Historically, being able to explain the services we provide and that the Guests of the program are trying to return to traditional housing has helped reframe it and squash fears of nervous neighbors.

NIMBYism comes from the “othering” of unhoused individuals. Explaining that these folks are our neighbors, that they would be living in their vehicles whether there are programs in place to help them or not, allows us to reframe it from an issue of “the other” to a human issue, which is what it truly is.

We have much more to gain than lose by helping our fellow man.

SUMMARY

The Monterey County Safe Parking Program is in its sixth year of operation serving our unhoused neighbors who have been forced to sleep in their vehicles.

During this time, it has served 103 unique cases.

Of those 103 cases, 57 have increased their income, 98 have had health insurance, and 74 have been housed.



THANK YOU

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