

PRESENTED BY : The Community
Commons Collaborative

PRESENTED TO : Merced Parks
and Recreation

APRIL 27, 2026

American Red Cross • The Micah Project • Plig Merced • Freedom Oasis • LGBTQ Merced • Robert Rojas Foundation Worldwide • CA C.V. Journey for Justice

COMMUNITY COMMONS

WHY COMMUNITY COMMONS?



A RESOURCE AND COLLABORATION HUB

Merced lacks a **community center** where folks of all ages are encouraged to gather for diverse programming. We propose a community center that goes one step further and commits to being a true Community Commons: a place where all are **welcome** to gather, share stories, and connect to local resources free of charge.

A PLACE TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Merced has community and cultural events, but almost all of these involve some pressure to purchase something—whether that be a ticket, meal, drink, souvenir, membership, or sponsorship. Community Commons invites cultural leaders to share **generational knowledge and create connections** of invaluable cultural importance.

MUTUAL AID AND VOLUNTEERING

Merced doesn't have a central and secular space for mutual aid distribution and volunteerism. Uniting **many organizations under one roof with the goal of serving the entire community** is not only strategic but will be transformative for the Merced CBO community.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Major community service gaps that we are prepared to address with and for Merced

NARCAN DISTRIBUTION

A location for free narcan to **prevent opioid overdose** accessible on evenings and weekends

SUPPORT GROUPS

Current peer support groups exist in silos; this space offers and centers **community growth** and in-person connection

BLOOD DRIVES

Space for the American Red Cross to perform **donation-based blood drives**

CENTRAL RESOURCE CENTER

Weekend and evening access to skill-sharing and **volunteer opportunities**, and linkages to community resources — accessible and open to all

SAFETY TRAINING

Disaster preparedness, overdose prevention, and general health **training and education**

SECULAR FREE MEALS

Non-membership, non-residential **meal support** for folks who need more immediate access to **mutual community aid**

MEET OUR TEAM

Proudly serving Merced with a diversity of programming



American Red Cross

American Red Cross

Disaster preparedness, response and recovery, free smoke alarm installation, and blood services

THE MICAH PROJECT

The Micah Project

Support group and resources for foster and adoptive youth since 2022



Plig Merced

Hmong cultural group providing healing spaces and community connectedness



Robert Rojas Foundation Worldwide

Narcan sourcing and distribution since 2021



LGBTQ Merced

Free lunches, arts and crafts, board game meetups, community events since 2023



Freedom Oasis

Victim services group providing group counseling and restraining order support



CA C. V. Journey For Justice

20 years of connecting immigrant families to support and resources

PROGRAMMING OFFERED

Our agencies are poised to begin offering a huge variety of programming starting day one, since we are already doing this work in the community

SKILL SHARING

1. Civic engagement training
2. Restraining order workshops
3. **Disaster preparedness education**

SUPPORT GROUPS

1. **Foster and adoptive youth & family support groups**
2. Victim group counseling

FAMILY-ORIENTED FUN

1. **Santa Claus, Easter Bunny**
2. Halloween Haunted House
3. Cinco de Mayo, Juneteenth celebrations

MUTUAL AID

1. Monthly meals
2. Community closet
3. **Free haircuts for youth**

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

1. Book clubs and healing circles
2. **Craft and creative nights**
3. Pinata making

RESOURCE HUB

1. Personalized referrals
2. Centralized Narcan distribution
3. **Services in English, Spanish, and Hmong**

OUR COMMITMENT

SEVEN DIVERSE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

1. Between our seven organizations, we project easily being able to cover the cost of utilities and upkeep of the **Stephen Leonard Youth Center** for a 5 year lease and beyond.

MAXIMUM PROGRAMMING AND OPEN HOURS

2. Our team is committed to opening a resource hub that is accessible to working families, open days, evenings, and **all weekends**, and providing a **full calendar of family-oriented activities** throughout the year

OPEN TO ADDING MORE PARTNERSHIPS

3. Our Community Commons commits to **continuous community engagement**, including working with other CBO who want to offer innovative and inclusive programming at the Commons

OUR EXPERIENCE

Our coalition brings decades of community-serving experience to this project



Disaster relief and blood services since 1881

More than 10 years facilitating peer-led support groups

5 years of free Narcan sourcing and distribution

10 years of victim services in Merced

20 years human rights advocacy in Spanish and English

Creation of the Merced Pride Center in the MAC

2 years of free monthly meals

100s of free community events open to all

QUESTIONS?

Please find out more about our projects on the web

[Micah Project](#)



[American Red Cross](#)



[LGBTQ Merced](#)



[Freedom Oasis, Inc](#)



[Journey for Justice](#)



[Robert Rojas Foundation Worldwide](#)



[Plig Merced](#)



**THANK
YOU**

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