

Present: Kyle Lee, Dylan Johnson, Michele Meisch, Cari Salwasser, Gabrielle Rapport (Operation Tiny Home)

Start: 9:04am

Gabrielle - Operation Tiny Home

INFO ON OPERATION TINY HOME

started in 2014 to support a combat wounded vet friend. He brought up the idea of a tiny home, which she had never heard of. Through the process they realized that it's very difficult for people who are in a bad situation to ask for help or receive it. They got together the funds and made his dream come true of a tiny home. She started getting more calls for people who needed assistance/tiny home. Most of all veterans. They wanted to find another vet home. A large corp wanted to help with 5 more. Tiny house nation contacted her and wanted to partner to allow for a larger level. They go into communities and assist with carpentry and other trade skills (education), partnership with Milwaukee tools to provide tools. Downpayment assistance grant program for those priced out of the housing market but are working (they give the downpayment). Pathways to tiny housing to allow for a shift because of Covid. Now in Portland Oregon. Allows for building \$70k + homes and sell them for \$40k. They typically work with non profits that are providing other services to address why the person is homeless.

NATURAL DISASTER

*Kyle - "have you ever been involved in a natural disaster?" Gabrielle - "Yes, for the people involved in the Camp Fire in Paradise. And a couple people hit with hurricanes."

PARTNERING WITH OTHER NON PROFITS LIKE US

*Michele - "have you partnered with a non profit like us?" Gabrielle - "With paradise we worked with the Hope Center and other groups in the area. In Florida and Texas, those were through the down payment assistance grant program. We have builder partners that refer customers to them and they go through the application process. The builder vets the client and then gets passed onto Operation Tiny Home if they're a good fit. The builders are nationwide."

DISCUSSION OF UTILITY REPAIRS TO MAKE PERMANENT

*Kyle - "as of now the county has permitted usage of tiny homes and rvs as temporary housing as a response to the Creek Fire. After a year, it has to be connected to utilities. The problem we will run into here is that a lot of people are on septic and those systems have been damaged." Michele - "a lot of folks need wells repaired. It's interesting that you mentioned tools. A lot of people mentioned they need tools."

TOOL DONATION

*Gabriele - "How many people do you have that need tools? Do you have a centralized location where we send tools and you distribute them?" Kyle - "yes, when there's not 4 feet of snow on the ground." Gabrielle - "let me know when you are ready and we'll start sending you tools. We don't have any funding available for freight but we have a partnership with a freight company that gives us an amazing deal. You would pay them directly. Each pallet is about \$15-20k worth of tools and shipping is about \$500. 7-10 families could be a pallet of tools." Kyle - "how many pallets could we possibly get?" Gabrielle - "these are refurbished tools. I like to double up and give everyone two of everything. We could give you two pallets for sure."

DISCUSSION OF SMALL FOOTPRINT HOMES AND LOOKING AT INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

*Gabrielle - "tiny homes on wheels may not be the best thing. Maybe we should look at this on an individual basis. Would it be more effective to build cottages for some on a foundation? We could look at having builders building smaller footprint homes. We could provide a downpayment to help with the process." Kyle - "I think the cottages/tiny footprint is more achievable. They don't know what rebuilding looks like yet but they just want to be back on their property. We'd like to utilize as much of our logs as possible in these builds." Dylan - "for the people that it does work for, it's quicker and Fresno county are in support of tiny homes. If you have ever dealt with climate specific homes?" Gabrielle - "We have worked on a build in Alaska working with the university of Alaska. Our homes are structurally sound intended to be permanent housing. They are well insulated and have HVAC units." Dylan - "It sounds like you have a potential target for Fresno but would it help for us to get ahold of other tiny home builders in the area?" Gabrielle - "Absolutely. If we're working with the builder in any way, it would be part of our down payment assistance program. If Operation Tiny home is building the homes in Oregon, that would be us building and selling them to us at a discounted price. Normally we would be on site building but because of Covid, they do not mobilize anymore. We only build tiny homes on wheels. We would be willing to provide a downpayment for small footprint homes instead of homes on wheels. A small footprint home on a foundation would be better for an older population as well."

MARKETING

*Dylan - "Can we leverage this story to benefit both of our organizations to the media? Like our log deck utilizing local resources." Gabrielle - "Zack would absolutely be involved in this. There's no way he wouldn't. It probably wouldn't be on the show because they don't cross over with the nonprofit. We can utilize their celebrity for this project though. It's our mission to shine a national spotlight on what's happening and with the tiny home movement as well as getting people into a home they can afford." Kyle - "this could change the way we respond to natural disasters if we do this right."

WHAT WE DO NEXT

*Michele - "what would you suggest are our next steps?" Gabrielle - "what is the best angle to approach these people? The vet is the best for fundraising. Highlight the story of Lonnie because he's already used to tiny home living. I could start reaching out to donors and generating content. We can start working with this man and create a beautiful home for him. If this is just a transitional home, then we make it simple which makes it cheaper too. We need the clarity of what would be best for each family or person. Need clarity on who and what kind of home. I'm open to collaborate and be outside the box - be creative."