

# mesa

*Mesa* advocates for innovative upstream approaches to preventing youth homelessness. This is accomplished through a holistic approach to the individual, the building of strong relationships within the community, and the therapeutic potential of regenerative agriculture.



- The current approach to youth homelessness **is not working**
- Transition Age Youth face unique challenges
- Mesa has an innovative and evidence based approach to preventing homelessness

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**FACT:** When you experience homelessness or housing insecurity as a kid, your chances of living a stable life as an adult largely vanish.

- 3,600 youth will age out of foster care in California in 2022
- Over **50%** of those who age out of the foster system experience homelessness within 2 years.
- And, without intervention, **22% of those young people will see their own children enter the same broken system**---a multi-generational issue that **MUST** change.

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# Instilling and Restoring Resilience & Inner Strength

We are moving upstream from the symptoms of homelessness, incarceration and dependence on social programs to intervene during a critical crossroads – the transition toward an adulthood characterized by **resilience** and **strength** through **relationship**.

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# Whole Person Approach to Wellness

**FACT:** An integrative and comprehensive approach leads to better outcomes.

- Safe and Stable Housing
- Personalized Wellness Plan
- Therapeutic Interventions
- Educational Opportunities
- Vocational Training
- Community-Based Work
- Environmental Sustainability

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# Programming

Mesa is built on a **foundation of trauma informed program design.**

Mesa utilizes a highly personalized approach that allows participants to pursue their passions and create their own future.

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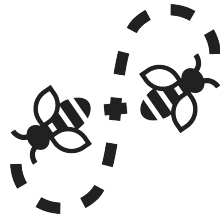
Wellness

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Personalization

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Community

Core Belief: Environmental health and personal wellness go hand in hand.

**Through the process of restoring the health of the soil and creating a sustainable food forest on our 10 acre farm, our residents will also restore their own mental and physical health.**

This will all be done while growing the best food possible for themselves and their community.

### **Strategic Partnerships:**

- American Horticultural Therapy Association
- 1% For The Planet
- The C.R.E.W./Ojai Trees
- Food Forward
- Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
- Watershed Progressive
- Local Permaculture Experts

# MESA Ojai

400 Gorham Rd, Ojai, CA

**What:** 10-acre orange grove; 4 bedroom home and 8 one bedrooms ; 2 two bedrooms

**Where:** East End of the Ojai Valley

**When:** Spring/Summer 2023

**Who:** 12 TAY who are either experiencing or at risk of homelessness



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# MESA Ojai

400 Gorham Rd, Ojai, CA

**This property provides the perfect sanctuary for TAY to establish stability and community and to acquire the skills and education necessary to transition into independent living.**

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# MESA Ojai

400 Gorham Rd, Ojai, CA

## Tiny Homes

- **8 one bedroom**
  - 160 sf units
  - Single occupancy
- **2 two bedroom**
  - 220 sf units
  - Designed for a parent and young child.

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# MESA Ojai

400 Gorham Rd, Ojai, CA



## What is a Tiny Home???



# MESA Ojai

400 Gorham Rd, Ojai, CA

## 1 Bedroom Model 160 SF

**A private modular home meant for one young adult.**

**Provides security, dignity and a sense of place.**

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# MESA Ojai

400 Gorham Rd, Ojai, CA

## 2 Bedroom Model 220 SF

**Designed  
specifically for the  
unique needs of a  
young parent  
experiencing  
homelessness.**

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# MESA Ojai

400 Gorham Rd, Ojai, CA

## Our Tiny Home Community



# MESA Ojai

400 Gorham Rd, Ojai, CA



# MESA – Return On Investment

Mesa's approach is 30% cheaper than the cost of inaction.

- Annually, California spends approximately \$100,000 per person experiencing homelessness and over \$100,000 on each incarcerated person
- Homeless Management Information System in VC: Currently **208 TAY (18–24 years old) experiencing homelessness** in Ventura County right now.

Mesa's work costs roughly \$70,000 per person per year and these costs will go down as we expand. As opposed to current costs which amount to simply keeping people alive on the street or in prison, Mesa's holistic programming will provide a launching pad for the rest of their lives.

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The only ethical decision is to take responsibility for our own existence and that of our children. –Bill Mollison



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# Connect with Us

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