



ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT:

The Echo Chamber Project, Stockton, CA

The Echo Chamber Project works to service marginalized populations and empower the youth, homeless, and the formerly incarcerated through community-based projects and collaborations. The nonprofit, started in 2020, is led by Executive Director Anthony Robinson Jr. After experiencing a difficult childhood and two decades of incarceration, he returned to Stockton and now serves as a community leader where his own life experiences encouraged him to, “be part of the solution.”

The Echo Chamber prides itself on being transformative to the people. In other words, it heavily relies on community voices and experiences to lead its movement and guide its future endeavors. At its start, the Echo Chamber team visited various homeless encampments to partake in dialogue, distribute supplies, and to find the answer to a critical question — “what does sustainability mean for the homeless?” A partial answer to this lies in one of the Echo Chamber’s biggest programs — the “We Can Project,” where “Unsheltered Ambassadors” are trained, supported, and paid to engage in recycling efforts and advocacy.

According to the 2022 Point-In-Time Count, 1,355 individuals are unsheltered in SJC alone. Among these individuals are the youth, which make up one of the groups the Echo Chamber works hardest to serve. After all, Anthony asks, “how can the youth expect to graduate high school when they experience with struggles such as homelessness?” Thus, the Echo Chamber distributes necessities such as food and clothing on a bi-weekly basis and provide youth the opportunity to become Ambassadors in the We Can Project. Additionally, they lead the Stockton Youth Self-Determination Project, which focuses on bringing, “healing and culturally responsive wraparound care to youth through peer-to-peer support and community organizing activities.”

No matter the program or project, the Echo Chamber continues to be an unwavering force in their mission to, “build capacity amongst the most marginalized populations” for years to come.

Photos from: <https://www.theechochamberproject.org/copy-of-about-us>

