



Silvercrest HUD Housing

A rural housing facility serving a highly vulnerable population, specifically low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities who face significant geographic and systemic barriers to care.

Issues Addressed

- **Rural Isolation:** Compounded by a lack of accessible public and medical transit options.
- **Food Insecurity:** Limited access to consistent, healthy nutrition.
- **Fragmented Safety Nets:** The overwhelming complexity of medical, housing, and bureaucratic paperwork prevents residents' basic physiological needs from being met.

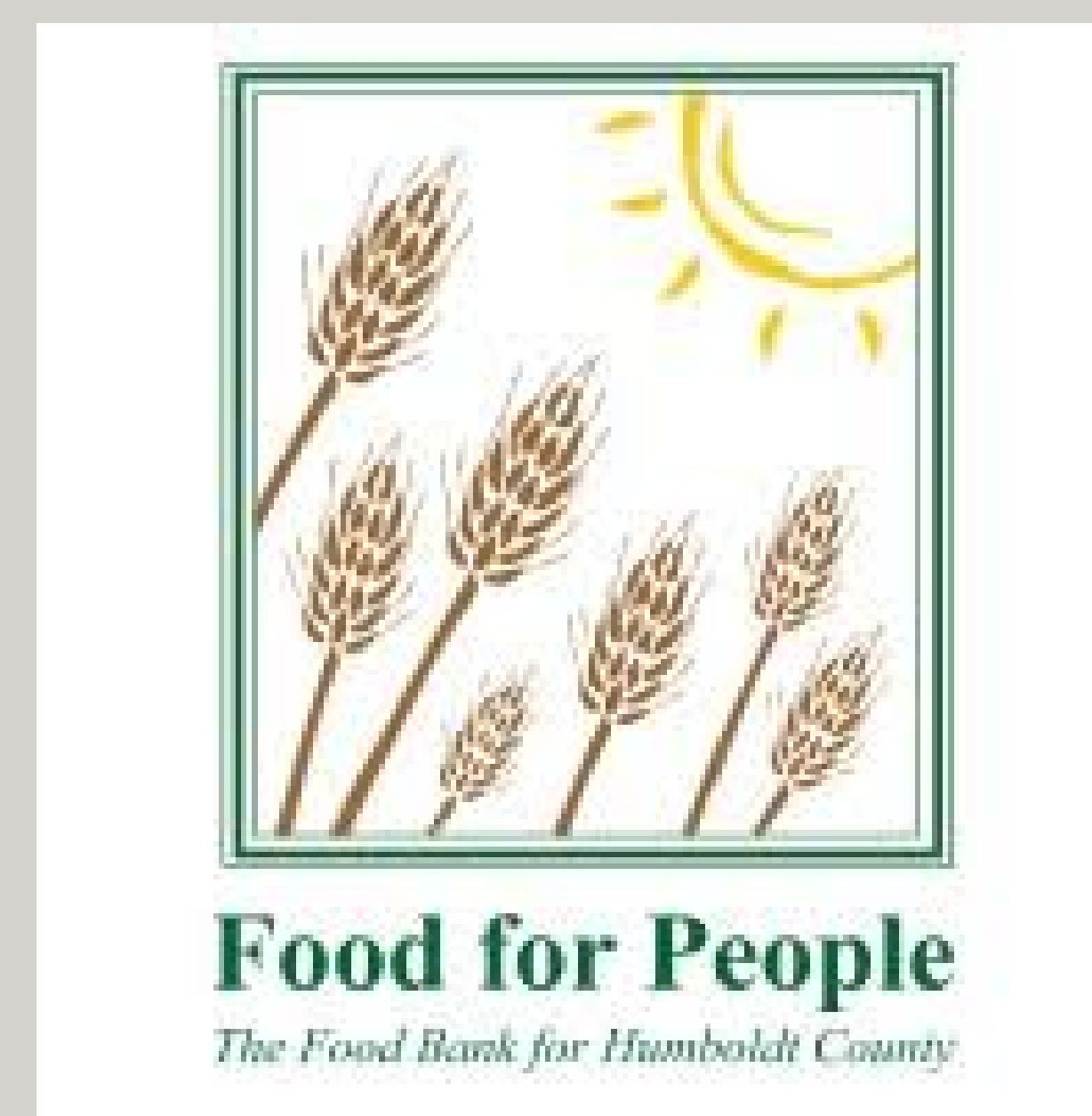
Your Service Role

- Provided direct service coordination to foster self-advocacy through:
- **Documentation & Transit Navigation:** Clarified complex medical/housing paperwork and coordinated rural transit options (Medi-Cal, Dial-A-Ride).
- **Resource Pipelines:** Centralized access to vital local agencies, directly connecting clients to Food for People, MOW, IHSS, MSSP, and A1AA.

Theory to Practice



- **Applied Service Coordination:** Bridged academic frameworks with real-world rural poverty, transforming Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) education into applied advocacy skills.
- **Systemic Analysis:** Utilized a logical, non-judgmental lens—rooted in my SUDRC-II background and the Biopsychosocial Model—to view trauma and systemic barriers not as moral failures, but as complex behavioral responses.
- **Empowerment:** Shifted the focus from merely "helping" to actively building clients' capacity for self-advocacy when interacting with aid agencies.



Observations

- Navigating aid and transit systems is profoundly isolating in resource-scarce rural areas.
- Without direct service coordination, basic physiological needs go unmet, which severely compounds underlying physical and mental health challenges.
- When bureaucratic systems are finally understood, clients demonstrate an immense capacity for resilience and self-advocacy.

Impacts

- **Community Impact:** Reduced severe isolation by integrating fragmented rural agencies, ensuring basic needs were met, and building long-term independence among elderly and disabled residents.
- **Professional Trajectory:** This College Corps fellowship solidified my professional identity, confirming my readiness to graduate with my BSW next month, enter an Advanced Standing MSW program, and pursue ultimate licensure as an LCSW.