Homeless Not Hopeless
(In The Happiest Place In America)

The documentary by local filmmakers Christina Bearce and Jason Reed entitled *"Homeless Not Hopeless (In The Happiest Place in America)"* debuted in March of 2012. The documentary explores the recent designation (by author Dan Buettner and showcased on the Oprah Winfrey Show in early 2011) of San Luis Obispo as the "happiest city in America". Shown through the perspective of current and formerly homeless individuals, the documentary showcases the resiliency of this population while exploring common challenges & barriers, helpful services and myths & misconceptions.

According to recent enumeration studies, the phenomenon of homelessness continues to increase in SLO County. A disproportionate number of vulnerable individuals (including women, children and those with special needs) are finding themselves without adequate shelter. Sadly, the economic recession that began in 2007 has further increased the number of formerly self-sufficient individuals who are now without gainful employment or housing.

The good news, however, is that there are a number of opportunities to "get involved" in alleviating homelessness. Whether it's by engaging homeless individuals directly, increasing community awareness, volunteering your time with local homeless service providers, or donating resources, each of us has an opportunity to be part of the solution.

For more information please visit www.homelessnothopeless.net