



The Alliance for Community Transformations provides responsive and preventative services to individuals and families, and works through partnerships and collective action to create truly safe, healthy and socially just communities where every member thrives. Based in Mariposa and Merced Counties, there are six programs that help us achieve our mission: Mountain Crisis Services, Valley Crisis Center, Ethos Youth Center, Mariposa Heritage House, CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) of Mariposa, and Connections Emergency Shelter.

The Alliance was founded in 1990 under the name of Mountain Crisis Services, an agency working with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Mariposa County. As the agency grew and expanded to include different programs, we decided that a new name would better fit the work of our programs and our vision for our communities. On the website you can find more information about each of our programs, our Board of Directors, and our Partnership program on our website (www.alliance4community.org).

Mountain Crisis Services was created by a small group of concerned citizens who shared their vision for the first time on June 20, 1990. By that autumn, they had established a 40-hour volunteer training program in Mariposa County. They proceeded to provide counseling, advocacy, and shelter in local motels to domestic violence victims. They continued this work on an unpaid basis for five years.

In the wake of the notorious Simpson murder trial in 1995, the California Department of Health Services provided a start-up grant. The first three salaried employees were hired in September of that year. They purchased a small shelter to protect endangered mothers and their children, and to keep the healthy parts of violence-torn families together until they could establish safe homes of their own.

In 2004, Mountain Crisis Services brought other community agencies and schools to the table to stop domestic violence before it begins. Together they established Project Respect and is widely recognized for its leadership in the field of prevention.

On July 1, 2008, Mountain Crisis Services opened Valley Crisis Center, a sister agency created to fill a void in domestic violence and sexual assault services in Merced County. Valley Crisis Center grew rapidly to meet the needs of Merced's wide array of diverse populations.

Valley Crisis Center soon joined forces in a partnership with UC Merced, the tenth campus of the University of California. Together, the two newly formed institutions developed a groundbreaking program that addresses the previously ignored problem of sexual assault on the college campus. Most recently, VCC was granted \$666k to support a new Human Trafficking program

The strangling economy severed two small Mariposa agencies from their fiscal sponsors in winter of 2011. Mountain Crisis Services, which had previously partnered with each for the benefit of our mutual clients, adopted them both.

The first, Ethos, describes itself as a revolution of youth that is a catalyst for justice and social change. It is the place Mariposa's young people turn to for social support, camaraderie, philosophical guidance and skill development.

The second, Heritage House, offers drug and alcohol recovery support services that inspire people to redirect their lives. Heritage House has expanded their services to include Housing Navigation, Healthcare Navigation, and MAT Navigation. They operate a Fixed Route transportation service in Mariposa to help people meet their healthcare needs and provide ambulatory medical transport outside of the County. They also offer court mandated classes such as Batterer's Intervention, Child Abuse Intervention, and Anger Management.

In July 2014, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Mariposa joined our team! CASA focuses on volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children. CASA trains volunteers to advocate for safe, permanent, and nurturing homes; address their educational, healthcare, and other urgent needs; and to help them to develop permanent connections in their community. More recently, CASA began offering support to families whose children have experienced abuse or neglect through the RECESS program, which provides short-term, regular respite care.

In 2015, the Alliance began the process of founding ACT Holding, Inc., a 501c3 corporation. The Alliance and ACT Holding are separate, but connected corporations. All property titles that the Alliance held were transferred to ACT Holding, which now manages these properties. Any profits resulting from these properties must be transferred back to the Alliance at the end of the fiscal year.

In September 2019, Connections was formed under the umbrella of the Alliance. Connections is the only homeless shelter in Mariposa County. Connections provides a respectful, responsible and safe low-barrier homeless shelter. With a housing first attitude and helpful services the way people want them, Connections will help the houseless of Mariposa County get back home.

Together, the programs of the Alliance are able to work with families and communities in a holistic way, addressing many of their needs within one organization.



Board Member Job Description

Role of the Board: The Alliance Board of Directors is the support structure upon which our organization is laid. The Board provides business leadership.

Term: The term for a board member is two years. Each board member is asked to serve a full term once elected to the board.

Responsibility: It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to identify organizational goals and to ensure that the programs move forward to their full potential. The Board assures that the mission of the Alliance is achieved.

Commitment: The primary qualification for anyone joining our Board is a deeply and passionately held commitment to the mission of our organization.

Donations: Directors are expected to contribute volunteer time, money and other resources to the Alliance according to individual abilities and resources. We request an amount of \$150 donation each year to contribute to any meals provided at board meetings and for our all staff appreciation events.

Attendance: Directors are expected to set aside time to attend board meetings regularly. Each board meeting requires a quorum, or a minimum number of directors present to make business decisions. When there is no quorum or minimum, no meeting can be held. Therefore, failure to attend meetings can bring business to a halt.

Participation: To be effective participants, Directors are expected to read the necessary documents ahead of time and be prepared to discuss the issues at hand. Directors are expected build courteous working relationships with other Directors that allow thorough examination of every question from every angle, and that contribute to building consensus.

Committees: In addition to attending board meetings, Directors volunteer for and participate fully on board committees. Committee meetings are the places where key issues are discussed, analyzed and resolved before bringing suggestions to the full Board for a vote. Committee members are expected to willingly accept assignments and complete them thoroughly and on time.

Advocacy: Directors also advocate on behalf of the Alliance. Directors should willingly contribute their expertise in areas such as marketing, lobbying, accounting, legal, etc., to further the aims of the organization.

Fundraising: We need to be able to say the Alliance is supported by 100 percent of the board when we ask for donations from other people and entities.

Therefore, directors should expect to contribute financial donations directly to the Alliance, or devote time to fundraisers that support the organization, or both.



The Three Duties

Directors of all nonprofits have the ethical obligations to conduct themselves according to the following three duties.

Duty of Care (*Avoiding negligence*) is the level of competence expected of directors; it is the same as the duty of care that an “ordinarily prudent person” would exercise in a similar business situation.

This involves your liability for actions taken—or not—by the Alliance Board. Your duty of care is your obligation to insist that the board exercise a level of reasonable care towards individuals to avoid injury to them or their property. Breach of duty of care, if resulting in an injury, may subject you to liability in tort.

A negligent act is an unintentional but careless act, which results in loss. It is based upon the relationship of the parties, who is looking out for whom, the negligent act or omission, and the reasonable predictability of loss to that individual.

Duty of Loyalty (*Avoiding conflict of interest*) involves avoiding a conflict of interest or self-dealing. When making decisions as a Board, directors must put the interest of the Alliance before their own personal interests.

A conflict of interest is when a director owes a duty of loyalty in some matter to act in the interests of the Alliance; and at the same time, the Director has a personal interest in the matter, or is loyal to the interests of family members, other people, different groups, or other organizations. A conflict of interest exists under this definition even if what’s best for the Alliance is also best for the director’s other interests.

If a subject comes up for discussion or vote that a director has a personal interest in, that board member should excuse him-herself from the discussion and vote, and possibly even leave the room until the action is completed.

Misconduct exists when a board member knowingly fails to inform the board of a situation that involves a conflict of interest; or fails to take steps to resolve conflicts of interest in a way that is fair to the Alliance. The agency comes first.

Duty of Obedience (*Follow the mission*) requires the Alliance board to act in accordance with its own rules and policies, and in furtherance of its goals as stated in the agency’s mission statement, articles of incorporation and bylaws. In addition, the board must comply with state and federal laws.

The duty of obedience forbids acts outside the scope of corporate powers. Directors must limit board decisions to promoting actions that have to do with the Alliance mission, and avoid using resources to address issues not related to the goals of the agency.



Alliance for Community Transformations Board Meeting Schedule 2025

The full board of directors will meet a minimum of 6 times per year- more often as necessary. Two of these meetings will be held face-to-face and the balance will be held through the use of technology and conference calling. The full board meetings will occur according to the following schedule in 2025:

- ❖ **February 27th**, 5:00-6:00pm
 - Zoom Meeting

- ❖ **April 24th**, 9:00am-5:00pm
 - In Person
 - ACT 9:00-11:00am
 - Alliance 11:00am-5:00pm

- ❖ **June 26th**, 5:00-6:00pm
 - Zoom Meeting

- ❖ **August 28th**, 5:00-6:00pm
 - Zoom Meeting

- ❖ **October 24th**, 9:00am-5:00pm
 - In Person
 - ACT 9:00-11:00am
 - Alliance 11:00am-5:00pm

- ❖ **December TBD**, 5:00-6:00pm
 - Zoom Meeting



ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATIONS

PO Box 2075, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 742-6456, www.alliance4community.org

Dear Community Member,

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Board of Directors for the Alliance for Community Transformations. Our organization is doing incredible work and this work would not be possible without the support of community volunteers who serve on our governing board.

Please take a few minutes to complete this board member application.

Once we receive your completed application, it will be forwarded to our board's Board Development Committee and a representative will be in contact with you regarding next steps.

Please be aware that your acceptance as a board member is contingent upon our organization's need and satisfactory results from a background clearance.

Again, thank you for considering a role in our organization and the work we do in our Mariposa and Merced communities. If you have any questions, please contact 209-742-6456 or Board@alliance4you.org.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Community Transformations Board of Directors

Please return completed application to [**Board@alliance4community.org**](mailto:Board@alliance4community.org)





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Application for Membership Alliance for Community Transformations Board of Directors

The information on this form will help us assess your qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Community Transformations. Please complete all sections of the application. Information provided by you will be kept confidential.

Community individuals shall be recruited and accepted to serve on the Alliance board without regard to age (21 years or older), race, ethnicity, national origin (ancestry), color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability or physical challenge, or any other prohibited basis in accordance with federal, state, and local laws. No question on this form is intended to secure information to be used for such discrimination.

Name _____ Date _____

Home Address _____

Phone Numbers: home _____ work _____ cell _____

E-mail address _____

Are you 21 years or older? Yes No

Employment

If employed, Employer's Name/Company Name _____

Job Title _____





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How did you first hear about the Alliance?

Explain why you wish to serve on the Board of Directors.

Have you served or are you presently serving on other nonprofit organization boards or committees? If so, please list them and any offices you held or currently hold:





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Requirements for Board Members

To be in compliance with multiple funders, we require board members to:

- Obtain a background check (DOJ, FBI, CACI)
- Provide social security number
- Notify the organization of potential conflicts of interest annually
- Sign Confidentiality document

I understand the requirements as a board member. All information gathered from a background check will be handled confidentially and knowledge will be limited to the Deputy Director, Executive Director, and Board Chair as necessary. Past justice involvement does not prohibit Board Membership.

Printed Full Name

Signature

Date

