

lavamaeX

Annual Report
2020



2020 quickly turned into a year that greatly tested the resilience and emotional fortitude of LavaMae^x

In March, we made the difficult decision to suspend our mobile shower and Pop-Up Care Village programs for the safety of our guests and team.

This decision came at a heavy emotional cost. We weren't trained to deliver shower service in a pandemic, and couldn't secure the appropriate PPE gear. We felt defeated, unmoored, and fearful. But we all agreed on one single premise: we would not leave the people we serve—our guests—behind.

We teamed up with the UCSF Street Nursing Team and other partners to deliver critical medical services, hygiene kits, facemasks, sanitizer, food and water to our unhoused neighbors. We also saw an opportunity to educate our guests on COVID-19 and began placing public health pamphlets in the kits long with notes of love and support.

At the same time, we continued consulting with people who wanted to launch and sustain programs like ours and building our community of replicators.

We also launched our DIY handwashing station and toolkit to help communities provide a low-cost solution for handwashing.

And after months of researching the virus, having an increased amount of PPE, and updating our service protocols, we prepared ourselves to safely operate throughout the remainder of the pandemic.

We've relaunched shower services in San Francisco and Los Angeles, with plans to relaunch Oakland shower service and "mini" versions of our Pop-Up Care Villages.

As we enter this new year, I want to personally thank all of our supporters for your unwavering support and belief in our work.

The fight is not over—there's still a breathtaking amount of work to do. And with your support, we'll ensure that communities everywhere bring our programs and services to their unhoused neighbors.



With gratitude,
Kris Kepler,
CEO

What We Do

LavaMaex teaches people anywhere to bring mobile showers and other essential care services to the street.

Our Mission

To change the way the world sees and serves our unhoused neighbors.

How It Works

We provide do-it-yourself toolkits, free and fee-based in-depth training, and ongoing support to help people and organizations around the world launch and sustain LavaMaex-designed programs.

We develop and model programs—including mobile showers, Pop-Up Care Villages, and DIY handwashing stations—with our on-street services in San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles.



Our approach is grounded in Radical Hospitality®—an ethos of meeting people wherever they are with extraordinary care.



2020 At a Glance

- 8,322** COVID-19 Care Kits Distributed
- 617** DIY Handwashing Stations Deployed
- 15** Replication Programs Launched
- 92** Replication Programs In Development
- 9,569** Guests Served

COVID-19 First Response

We teamed up with the UCSF Street Nursing Team and other partners to deliver critical medical services, and 8,322 COVID-19 care kits with hygiene items, facemasks, sanitizer, food and water to our guests.

"If it wasn't for you all,
nobody would be here to
help us. These hygiene kits
are a representation of love,
it's people like you who keep
us afloat." ~ LavaMaeX Guest



UCSF Street Nursing Team

Every week in San Francisco and Oakland, a team of two or three nurses walked the streets alongside LavaMaex, providing wound care, vitals assessments and specialist referrals to our guests.

[Read more](#)





COVID-19 Second Response

Unhoused people everywhere desperately need a way to wash their hands. That's why we designed a DIY handwashing station and toolkit for anyone, anywhere to build and deploy for their neighbors in need.



A total of **617** of our DIY handwashing stations have been built and deployed by communities across the country, providing over **one million handwashes**.

Red Feather Development

The Navajo & Hopi Nations struggled with some of the highest COVID-19 infection rates. In response, Red Feather built our DIY handwashing stations for hundreds of Indigenous American families. [Read more](#)



Program Replication

LavaMaex's DIY toolkits, in-depth training (free in most cases), and strategic partnerships empower people worldwide to deliver mobile showers and other care services to their unhoused neighbors using our dignity-restoring Radical Hospitality approach.

We're currently working with **92** social entrepreneurs and community organizations bringing our programs to their communities.

In 2020, we were instrumental to the launch of **15** new programs. Together, we brought showers and other care services to **9,569** guests.



GoBanyo

Hamburg, Germany

With the help of the LavaMaex, a four-person team created the nonprofit GoBanyo, converting a bus to build Hamburg's first mobile shower program. [Read more](#)



SHARE Community

Antioch, CA

"LavaMaex was instrumental in launching our program. They helped us with everything from training, to supply lists, to building strategic partnerships, and everything in between."

~ Ricka Davis-Sheard, Founder

[Read more](#)



Urban Alchemy

San Francisco Bay Area
Los Angeles

"LavaMaex inspired us. Then, they offered us resources and training to get started; to know that we could call LavaMaex for the hard questions made a huge difference."

~ Bayron Wilson, Operations
Director [Read more](#)



Corporate Partnership:
The Right To Shower

Unilever's The Right to Shower is a social enterprise donating profits to LavaMaex and other mobile shower organizations across the United States.

We draw on our expertise to advise the brand, identifying and recommending organizations for The Right to Shower to fund with community grants.

In 2020, The Right To Shower worked with LavaMae^x to fund **17** partners serving **31** communities, providing showers to over **15,000** guests.



In response to COVID-19, The Right To Shower donated **10,000** units of hygiene items to **20** of our partners across the U.S.



Press

We made headlines in 2020, from local news to national coverage, inspiring the world with our work and thought leadership.



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We launched LavaMae^x Connect— our free global community of service providers bringing mobile showers and other care services to the street.

Members can access online training, toolkits, community discussions, and troubleshooting to connect with other service providers for support.

[Learn More](#)



Pop-Up Care Village Toolkit

We released our fourth DIY toolkit that will teach people anywhere how to host their own Pop-Up Care Village.

As we begin to relaunch "COVID-safe" mini Pop-Up Care Villages, we'll teach service providers in our network how to do the same.

Our Pop-Up Care Village Toolkit will teach anyone how to mobilize partners and bring services such as clothing, case management, healthcare, haircuts, and more to the street.

[Learn more](#)



2021—The Year Ahead

2020 was unprecedented, and 2021 will be no different. As we look ahead, our work remains critical—and thanks to our supporters, we can bring clean water, hot showers, and other essential care services to our guests while teaching others how to do the same.



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