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Title: Hillcrest United Mutual Aid Network (HUMAN) Initiative

<u>Objective</u>: To establish a comprehensive, sustainable, and inclusive mutual aid network in Hillcrest, San Diego, to be led by the Hillcrest Town Council (HTC).

# I. Community Engagement and Awareness

- 1. Conduct a community needs assessment:
  - a. Distribute surveys to residents and local businesses.
  - b. Organize focus groups and town hall meetings.
  - c. Engage with community organizations and religious institutions.
- 2. Develop a strong social media presence and create a dedicated website for HUMAN:
  - a. Regularly share updates, success stories, and opportunities to get involved.
  - b. Provide a platform for residents to request and offer help.
- 3. Launch an awareness campaign:
  - a. Design posters, brochures, and informational materials.
  - b. Distribute materials to public spaces and local businesses.
  - c. Partner with local media outlets for coverage and promotion.

### II. Volunteer Recruitment and Training

- 1. Develop a volunteer registration process:
  - a. Create an online sign-up form.
  - b. Host in-person registration events at community centers and public spaces.
- 2. Organize volunteer orientation and training sessions:
  - a. Provide an overview of HUMAN and its objectives.
  - b. Train volunteers on effective communication, problem-solving, and conflict resolution.
- 3. Establish volunteer teams based on skills and interests:
  - a. Food and grocery assistance.
  - b. Childcare and tutoring.
  - c. Elderly care and companionship.
  - d. Transportation assistance.
  - e. Home maintenance and repair.

### III. Partnerships and Collaborations

- 1. Establish partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and religious institutions:
  - a. Solicit donations and resources to support HUMAN.
  - b. Share information about the network with their members and patrons.
  - c. Collaborate on events and initiatives to strengthen the community.
- 2. Work with local schools and universities to promote HUMAN:
  - a. Offer volunteer opportunities for students.



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- b. Partner with service-learning programs for academic credit.
- 3. Collaborate with city and county agencies to complement existing support programs:
  - a. Connect residents with public resources and services.
  - b. Advocate for policy changes to address community needs.

### IV. Resource Distribution and Program Implementation

- 1. Develop a centralized resource hub:
  - a. Collect and store donated items, such as food, clothing, and home supplies.
  - b. Coordinate with partner organizations to distribute resources.
- 2. Implement targeted programs and services based on community needs:
  - a. Establish a neighborhood food pantry.
  - b. Create a ride-share program for transportation assistance.
  - c. Organize neighborhood clean-up and beautification projects.
- 3. Monitor and evaluate the impact of HUMAN initiatives:
  - a. Collect data on volunteer participation, resource distribution, and program outcomes.
  - b. Conduct regular feedback sessions with volunteers and community members.
  - c. Make data-driven decisions to improve the effectiveness of HUMAN.

## V. Long-term Sustainability and Growth

- 1. Establish a dedicated HUMAN fund:
  - a. Seek grants and donations from local foundations and businesses.
  - b. Organize community fundraising events and campaigns.
- 2. Expand the network to surrounding neighborhoods:
  - a. Share best practices and resources with other communities.
  - b. Establish a regional mutual aid network for greater impact.
- 3. Institutionalize HUMAN within the Hillcrest Town Council structure:
  - a. Assign a dedicated staff member or team to oversee HUMAN operations.
  - b. Include HUMAN updates in regular HTC meetings and communication.