

Buena Park opts for housing, not handouts



**YVETTE
CABRERA**
REGISTER
COLUMNIST

When it came to helping the homeless, Buena Park Mayor Jim Dow and his fellow council members have done what many in Orange County do: They brought homeless families food, clothing and toys for their children. But in the back of Dow's mind he had a nagging feeling that he wasn't helping these families in the long term.

Like other cities in Orange County, Buena Park has faced a spike in its homeless population in recent years. Dow gets complaints every day about the homeless. Families are squeezed into tiny rooms at three Buena Park motels and another three motels within a half-mile radius of the city's boundaries.

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Once
homeless,
Julia Smit
Lozano
unpacks
her kitch-
en wares
at Hope
Family
Housing.

CHRISTINA HOUSE, FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER