



WINTER NIGHTS

Family Shelter

The GOOD NEWS Letter
Celebrating the families, volunteers and staff of
Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc

October - 2021

We are really up and running!



Happy Halloween

It has been a very busy month beginning with the September 27th opening of the 18th Shelter season and two moves already. The first move was between Walnut Creek Friends Church and St Anselm's Episcopal Church, and then on to The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. Well done families, staff and volunteers!



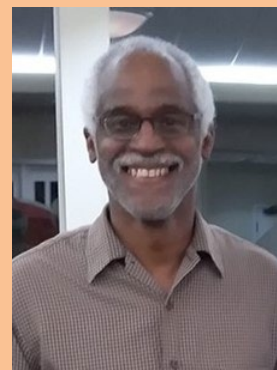
Thank you to The Bay Church for their portable showers at St. Anselm's



Packed up at St Anselm's and ready to move to Resurrection.
Thank you Bob Russel and team for your volunteer effort every two weeks to load and move the Shelter.

A Note from Bill

How times flies, we have now entered the 5th week of operation and are moving forward quickly to bring in 2 more families. The current families are doing well, working with their case managers to set goals and objectives to move forward into stable housing. This is always a lengthy process, but a welcomed step in the right direction.



A huge thanks to St Anselm's and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for their ongoing support of the Winter Nights programs. Winter Nights would not be successful if were not for the many wonderful Faith organization that support what we do.

Safe Parking Program

October has been a busy month for the Safe Parking Program. At the end of September, we transitioned 2 families from Safe Parking to the Shelter Program and had several participants move on from Safe Parking. This has

allowed Donna, SPP Manager, to bring in 4 more cars.

- We are continuing to grow with a current census of 12 cars and 17 participants, which includes a family of 4.
- One SPP participant received support from HOPE Solutions Housing Navigation and is now comfortably housed.
- We have been blessed with the opportunity to have 2 more SPP participants referred to a Rapid ReHousing program.

SPP staff was back on the homecooked meal train. Participants were offered sloppy joes, biscuits and gravy, and pasta donated by Church of the Resurrection. Fried potatoes were made for breakfast, to warm the body and soul, before the participants set out for the day. We also received microwavable meals from Starbucks. Thank you Starbucks.

The Family Shelter

Great news! A dad and his 2 daughters have been accepted and approved to a Rapid Rehousing Program through BACS (Bay Area Community Service). Wahoo!

Their Story: A Safe Parking staff member noticed a man with two young children parking overnight on the street beside the SPP site. She asked if he needed help, but he initially said no, thinking that his children would be taken from him. But a trust was built, and they were admitted to SPP immediately. His wife (the children's mother) passed away at the start of the year, which led to moving in with family. That was not a healthy situation, so they left and were sleeping in their vehicle. He says that SPP enabled him to truly sleep through the night, go to work each day, and take better care of his children's needs. A huge blessing. This family moved to the Family Shelter and is in line for housing in the next few weeks.

Happy 8th Birthday to a fantastic young lady at the Shelter! And big thanks to the volunteers who made her day so special.

Continued Success

The quarterly outreach to alumni of Winter Nights has been sent and we look forward to their stories of stable housing and family life.

Sheltering Families

The Shelter is currently being hosted by The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection - Pleasant Hill; Janelle Towles, Coordinator. The First Christian Church of Concord is co-hosting; Diane Maltester, coordinator.



It seems to be the season for awards.

Since Good News is meant to celebrate not only the families of Winter Nights, but also the Volunteers, Staff, and Programs, here is our brag list:



Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2021

NOVEMBER IS HOMELESS AWARENESS MONTH

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness has announced its **2021 HOMELESS AWARENESS MONTH AWARDS**. Winter Nights received two of them.

CONTINUED SUCCESS

The “INNOVATION AWARD” is given to recognize individuals and/or organizations that have enriched the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County using an innovative initiative/project/program. Winter Nights **Continued Success** program was among 5 honored.

CARMELLA KOWALL

The “THRIVING IN THE FACE OF HOMELESSNESS” award is given to recognize individuals who have experienced the crisis of homelessness and supported other people experiencing homelessness and/or moved out of homelessness themselves. **Carmella Kowall**, Board Member and Family Shelter alumni was among 18 honored.

To read more about each of these award winners, and the others honored, use the link below for the The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness web page:

Council on Homelessness
AWARDS



Last month we told you about being honored with the JustFaith Ministries' Gary and Mary Becker Social Justice Award.

This month, Maggie Chaffee, from Christ the King Catholic Church, presented the award and a check for \$4,000 to Gwen Watson, co-founder of Winter Nights and first Executive Director, Judy Stillman, our second Executive Director, and Bill Shaw our current Executive Director. These three individuals represent 18 years of leadership of this incredible program.

We are also delighted to let you know that receiving this award has led to several conversations with other groups who wish to help us, or that we can collaborate with.



Maggie Chaffee, Gwen Watson, Judy Stillman, Bill Shaw

sharethespirit2021

This month we received good news that Winter Nights was selected to receive a Bay Area News Group's 2021 **Share the Spirit** award and grant. The Share the Spirit campaign's purpose is to "illuminate the needs of residents in our community, generate interest and awareness of nonprofit service agencies, encourage civic philanthropy and provide funding for programs that serve East Bay children, individuals, and families." We were awarded \$15,000.

A reporter from the East Bay Times has already interviewed two former clients for an upcoming article on Winter Nights to be published sometime between Thanksgiving and New Year's.

Our Award letter said:

"Thank you for making the winter season brighter for so many in this community. We look forward to working with you to share your stories, to highlight the amazing work you do every day, and to keep building nonprofit visibility."

The Family Shelter

3 families - 10 guests
5 adults & 5 children
7 months - 15 years old

The Safe Parking Program

12 cars - 17 participants
Including a family with 2 children



Safe Parking Program at Winter Nights 2021

What is a Safe Parking Program? Who sleeps in their cars?

**Do the kids go to school? Where is the bathroom?
Good Questions.**

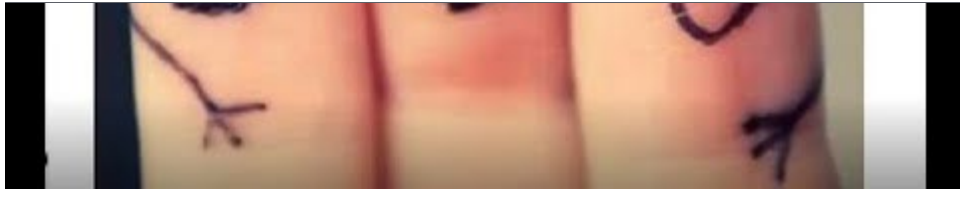
We were asked to make a simple 2-minute video to answer some of these questions for the kids of **IMPACT Diablo Valley**, Kindergarten - 5th grade. Gina Halow, co-founder, is quoted as saying "Unique to our non-profit organization is that we are getting kids involved. Impact Diablo Valley is about bringing philanthropy to the dinner table and starting conversations about the important work going on to help others in our local community."

We are excited to say that **IMPACT Diablo Valley** has selected our Safe Parking Program as one of the three finalists for their IMPACT 2021 grant. Thank you IMPACT Diablo Valley for the opportunity to share this with others.

So here it is. A child's eye view of Winter Nights Safe Parking Program.

Hope the link works!





MORE
Help ▲ Families Home

Helping homeless families and individuals is what we do. Every one is different, coming from different situations. We take the time to understand their journey, with a lot of incredible staff, volunteers and donors helping. - Bill Shaw

November is Homeless Awareness Month

It is also time for Winter Nights to reach out to our generous supporters to say **THANK YOU**, and to again ask for your help funding our growing programs.

**We want to help more families home, and
We need your help.**

In the next week you will be receiving a letter or email asking for your support to raise **\$100,000**. You are our heroes. The friends of Winter Nights who fund the successes for so many families and individuals.

Donating is as easy as mailing a check to:

Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.

404 Gregory Lane #7
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Donating ONLINE is easy, too.

Use the **DONATE ONLINE** link below

If you donate through a financial group or advisor, like a personal trust, charitable IRA, DAF or appreciated stock **remember, we are now Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.** an independent nonprofit
EIN 84-4775540

**Whatever way you choose, for whatever amount,
YOU are helping us serve more families and individuals.
You are the heroes who make Winter Nights possible.**

For questions or assistance please call the office **925-414-3883**
Or email Winter Nights at the **CONTACT US** link below

→ Forward

If you would like to share the Good News about Winter Nights with family, friends or colleagues, please forward it. PDF versions of past newsletters are available our website <https://cccwinternights.org/goodnews-archive/>

Offering Hope and Support One Winter Night at a time.

☺☺☺

Checks can be made out to
Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc
and mailed to the address below.

DONATE ONLINE

CONTACT US



Our Contact Information

Winter Nights Family
Shelter, Inc

404 Gregory Lane #7
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

925-414-3883

<https://cccwinternights.org/>

Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc
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Tax ID # 84-4775540

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