



WINTER NIGHTS
Family Shelter

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

November - 2021

**With a BIG Attitude of Gratitude!
Happy Thanksgiving
and
Happy Hanukkah!**



Greetings,

The shelter has now been open for 2 months. We have been able to maintain a COVID-safe environment, all the while welcoming back the many volunteers that support the program with direct service hours. The season opened with 5 new staff members. They are fantastic and a shout out to the great job they are doing to make this a great and successful year.

Our shelter numbers are beginning to grow. We have five families equaling 16 clients. We have two children 9-months and under. Their morning squeals are joy to wake up to. As the season progresses, I am looking to maximize our space by bringing in another family so we can continue our work toward finding housing.

The appeal letter is out. Responses of generosity are coming in. Great job to Teri Lundvall and Ann Lawrence, our Appeal Team! Thank you to all the volunteers and supporters of Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.

Bill Shaw
Executive Director

Family Shelter



Sheltering Families

For the last two weeks in November the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church hosted the shelter; Robin Freeberg, coordinator.

LOPC hosts without co- hosts.
Amazing work, LOPC.
Thank You!



Prior to LOPC, the shelter was hosted by The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Pleasant Hill, but in last month's Good News I did not correctly list ALL the wonderful co-host who gave their time to prepared meals, provide activities and help out.

So, a belated THANK YOU to these Congregations and Community Groups

and their Coordinators:

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Janelle Towles

First Baptist – Pittsburg , Eron McGee

Most Holy Rosary - Antioch, Linda Castro

Lafayette Juniors, Ashley Battersby

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church, Bob Clark

**Congregation B'nai Shalom - Walnut Creek, Margie Goldware
Our Saviors Lutheran - Lafayette, Dan Senter**

Now I feel better.



Riley and Melissa

Looking for Mars

Melissa, the Family Shelter program manager, sends this great story of a young woman and her telescope:

Riley is a high school senior who has a love for astronomy. In fact she's planning to attend college in the fall to study it on a different level.

Riley reached out to me just before the season began. She told me that she wanted to share her love for the stars with our homeless families. She and her mom Linda have come to the shelter twice with her high powered telescope and edible arts and crafts for everyone to enjoy.

Their first visit was at the Church of the Resurrection where she pointed out Mars. All of the families thoroughly enjoyed this activity and couldn't wait for her to come out again. In fact one of our families, who has a love for science, thought this was a huge treat.

Their last visit was at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church where she was actually able to show everyone the craters of the moon in detail. Afterwards she gave the families goodie bags filled with hot cocoa mix, moonpies, and a candy cane. I invited them to come out again if it fit into her college schedule.

Melissa also says:

The children, 12 years and older, are all vaccinated and families are beginning to vaccinate their younger children who are 5 - 11 years old as well.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone from all of us at the Family Shelter

The Family Shelter

5 families - 16 guests

8 adults & 8 children

3 Girls: (8 months, 8 and 14 years old)

5 Boys: (3 months, 6, 6, 12, and 15 years old)



Here is another great story to celebrate this amazing community: Tyler, a scout from Troop 302, Walnut Creek, completed his Eagle Scout project this month. He delivered a trailer full of items to Winter Nights Family Shelter after circulating a flyer advertising for camp gear, flip flops, and male clothing, socks and games.

We are so impressed, and so grateful for the time and work that Tyler put into this project. He is very much deserving of his Eagle Scout award.



The Safe Parking Program



Heather, a Safe Parking Program staff member, was busy in November baking and baking for clients. She baked a fun SPP 2021 spice cake (above) and a November Birthday cake with raspberry filling.

They look terrific and made for special evenings at SPP.
Thanks so much, Heather.

Thanksgiving is coming to Safe Parking, too.

Turkey dinners with all the fixings will be delivered by volunteers from the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church (MDUUC).

We are so thankful for all our volunteers!

The Safe Parking Program is at maximum capacity

13 cars - 18 participants

Including a family with 2 children

5 cars on the waitlist

Continued Success



Our quarterly email to Continued Success alumni families has been sent, and we received several requests.

We are now assisting two alumni with furniture, another with bedding and three others with cakes. In the near future, we will also be helping an alumni mom with clothes for her two boys.

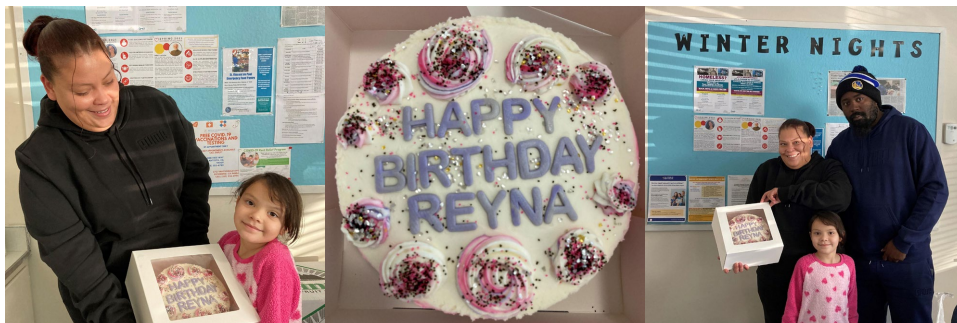
Sometimes It's the Little Things

Ursula, an alum from our 2016-2017 season, emailed us about the Cake4Kids program we've mentioned in our Continued Success emails. Ursula asked about getting a cake for her daughter, Reyna's, 15th birthday this month.

Ursula, her youngest daughter Olivia, and friend Troy, stopped by the office to pick up the cake and catch up.

The family continues to be stably housed and is doing well. Ursula is interested in volunteering at Winter Nights and would also like to talk with and encourage current clients.

Two other Continued Success families have ordered cakes this month! We are grateful for our partnership with Cake4Kids.



sharethespirit2021



Did you see the Sunday Paper?

Winter Nights Family Shelter alumni, Ametiszt and Addy, on the cover of the November 21st, special insert for the **East Bay Times, Bay Area News Group's "Share the Spirit 2021"**. They are also featured in a short article on the last pages of the insert.

**The complete article will be featured on Thanksgiving Day
in the East Bay Times
Be sure to pick up a copy!**

"These days they have a place to call home in Pleasant Hill. 'All of this is possible because I was at Winter Nights shelter and they helped me get my car fixed, they helped me keep up with my job. I cannot put into words what they have done for us'" - Ametiszt Hajdu

~ from the Sunday article by Jim Harrington, Bay Area News Group
Photos by Jose Carlos Fajardo - Staff Photographer, BANG

Winter Nights Family Shelter

GIVING HOMELESS FAMILIES A HAND UP



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JOSE CARLOS FAJARD - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Adelynn Island, 4, leaps into the air while playing at Matteo's Dream Playground in Concord. She and her mother, Ametiszt Hajdu, received daily living expenses from Winter Nights Family Shelter until Hajdu could get back on her feet. "I cannot put it in words what they have done for us," Hajdu said.

MORE Help ▲ Families Home

It is so important to keep families together,
especially at this time of year.

We lived in the car from September to the end of January. I didn't tell my friends and still haven't told most of them. There is a new kind of homelessness today -- people like me who have jobs, who have children with activities. I refuse to break down behind it. I have my dignity, my integrity. I've met so many beautiful people here -- the volunteers -- I'm getting teary about it. My grandma used to say, "There's storms and rain sometimes, but eventually it clears up!"

- Single mother of a teenager

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

Our goal is to raise **\$100,000** before December 31st.
You are the friends of Winter Nights who fund the successes

for so many families and individuals.

We are on our way with \$26,000 raised so far.



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.

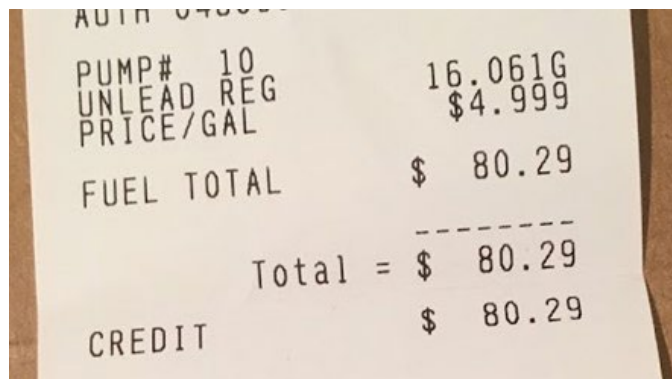
an independent nonprofit

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



Reality Check

To cost \$80 to fill a car's 16 gallon gas tank on November 17th

More Good News

Want to get out and have some fun?

Eve Shahoian is an incredible local jazz singer and she is organizing an evening of Jazz, Swing and Holiday Classics at the Auburn Lounge, 321 Hartz Ave, Danville.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th

6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

All proceeds are a donation to Winter Nights Family Shelter.

For more information:

510-828-0371, or

the_jazz_room@comcast.net

See you there.



PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ!

Join us for a Roaring Holiday Concert & Red Carpet Fundraising Event
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18TH 6 TO 9:30PM
Hosted by Auburn Lounge

FEATURING: **Vocalist Eve Marie Shahoian**
with trio Frank Martin on keys, Marc Levine on Bass
and Mike Williams on Guitar.
Special Guest Flutists Carol Alban and Nancy Tyler.



JAZZ • SWING • HOLIDAY CLASSICS

Come as a flapper or come as you are
Dress as a gangster or silent screen star
It's going to be fun no matter the dress
Walk the red carpet under the stars
and twinkling lights.
Together we will raise money for
The Winter Nights Family Shelter while
enjoying live music and holiday cheer!
No Host Bar
Signature drinks to order & delicious food menus
Auburn Lounge | 321 Hartz Avenue Danville
For questions or donation inquiries call
510-828-0371 or email The Jazz Room
@ The_Jazz_Room@comcast.net

**\$10 - \$20 Suggested Donation to
Winter Nights Family Shelter**
Silent Auction begins at 6 and ends at 9pm!
• Red Carpet Photo 6 to 7pm
• Outdoor canopy seating on first come basis
• Concert begins at 7pm
Thank you to our generous sponsors!
Danville Chamber of Commerce, Auburn Lounge, Blackhawk Living Magazine,
Danville Living Magazine, Cottage Jewel, Crumbs Breakfast, Lunch & Bar,
The Orinda Jazz Festival, Jacob Blei Photography, Maggie Kinstle,
Carol Alban & The Jazz Room!



→ 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.

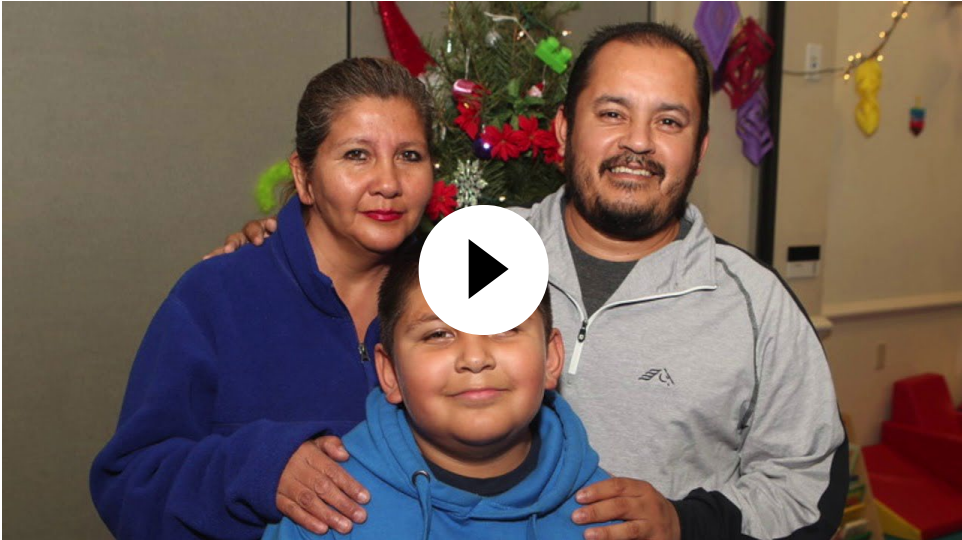
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Checks can be made out to
Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc
and mailed to the address below.

[DONATE ONLINE](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

A child's eye view of Winter Nights Safe Parking Program





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
is a 501(c)(3) public benefit nonprofit.

Tax ID # 84-4775540

Donations are tax deductible to the
extent allowed by law, and no goods or
services are provided in exchange for a
donation. Winter Nights respects and
supports the privacy of all our clients. Any
photos of clients are used only with their
express permission.