



## WINTER NIGHTS Family Shelter

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

December - 2021

### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



This fanciful tree was made by an alumni of Winter Nights.  
She brought it to the Continued Success party as her holiday gift to all.  
Many thanks, Lea !!!

**Season Greetings,**

**Here we are, in the midst of the Holiday Season. The families are doing well and looking forward to Christmas. They had a fantastic Thanksgiving dinner and are now looking ahead to**

**Christmas. Winter Nights Family Shelter is so blessed to have the support of such a caring and generous community.**

**This support made it possible for us to hold our first Continued Success Christmas Alumni Reunion party. Former clients were invited to this magical day of reconnecting and sharing, complete with apple cider, hot chocolate, and delicious holiday treats for all. We were also able to support our alumni families with gifts for the children, and for parents there were gift cards, personal and home care supplies, plus new and used clothing donated by our wonderful community. Forty two Alumni attended, plus WN Staff and Program Volunteers.**

**The sound of children running around and laughing with each other warmed all our hearts. Other “children” were now in high school. Oh, time flies. We loved watching parents connecting with each other for the first time in many years. There was a grand sense of gratitude, with lots of tears and hugs.**

**I want to express my own grand sense of gratitude to the many gracious and generous supporters of Winter Nights Family Shelter. Our Annual Appeal is winding up, and we have almost reached our goal. Thank You.**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

**Bill Shaw  
Executive Director**

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Happy Holidays,  
On behalf of the Winter Nights' Board of Directors, I want to offer thanks to our dedicated staff, our host and cohost faith communities, and countless community volunteers. Thanks as well to the foundations, congregations and hundreds of individuals and businesses whose donations make Winter Nights possible. Without you we would not be able to do what we do!  
I would also like to extend our best to the alumni of Winter Nights and the families and individuals currently in the programs.

Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dan Swander  
Board President



Bill and Dan

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## Family Shelter



### Sheltering Families

Thank you to the Host sites and volunteers who sheltered and fed families, and supported staff from late November through late December:

**Saint John Vianney Catholic Church - Walnut Creek;**  
**Liz Rogers, coordinator. Cohost Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church - Orinda; Ann Lawrence.**

**Lafayette United Methodist Church - Lafayette;**  
**Judy Stillman, coordinator. Cohosts**  
**Saint Perpetua Catholic Church-Lafayette; Karen Kalvass and**  
**Ygnacio Valley Presbyterian Church-Walnut Creek; Paula Ash.**

### Thank You!

I want to thank you for inviting me to help out in the kitchen. I have missed being of service to others – *Caroline Woods, Saint Stephen's*



Saint John Vianney Catholic Church -  
Walnut Creek



Lafayette United Methodist Church -  
Lafayette

**There was a HAPPY BIRTHDAY at the Family Shelter  
for a father of two.**

His favorite: a banana and strawberry cake.



### **Wreath Making at Winter Nights**

The first week in December, Gayle Taylor and 4 young ladies from Girl Scout Cadet Troop 30382, Stanley Middle School, Lafayette came and made Advent Wreaths for each family's dinner table. They were just beautiful. We really appreciate their time and talent to make the season a bit brighter for the families.



### **“Today’s libraries are not just about books, but what they do for people.”**

Lynne Noone, the Deputy County Librarian of Contra Costa, and a long time Winter Nights Volunteer, brought her dinner team AND the library to the Family Shelter in early December.

In addition to a great meal prepared by her team of St Stephen's volunteers, she offered library cards to all, showed us how to access online books, movies, newspapers and other resources, and let everyone pick out books to keep. It was a great evening. I think as many volunteers got library cards and learned how to access free audio books and e-books as shelter families.





### **The Family Shelter**

5 families      12 guests  
6 adults      6 children  
Girls - 2 (7 and 15 years old)  
Boys – 4 (4, 6, 12 and 15 years old)

**A mother is expecting a baby boy between Christmas and the New Year. Love and Joy abounds.**



### **The Safe Parking Program**



#### **Christmas at the Safe Parking Program**

Right now the Safe Parking Program is serving 12 clients in 10 cars. There should be a couple of new clients next week.

Christmas is a time for family visits, and it is the same for those living in their cars. There is a mother with her youngster in the program who will have two of her other children visit for the Christmas and New Year Holiday. Getting creative, we will be doing a "Sleep Over Movie Night." Everyone can sleep inside and watch a movie and have popcorn. Just a little something to to make the season special.

With the help of community volunteers, we have put together Christmas Goodie Bags for each of the adults and a Christmas gift or two for each of the children. Another group is collecting holiday treats for the family pets.



Donna, manager of Safe Parking (2nd from right) with her family

and Randy, Shelter Staff (far right)

**The Safe Parking Program**  
**10 cars and 12 clients**  
*More on the waitlist*



*Continued Success*

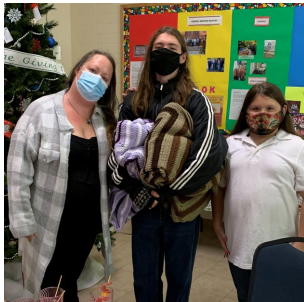


**Alumni Reunion Christmas Party**  
*See party description in Bill's letter at the top of the newsletter*

"Myself and my son were clients in 2009 and I have had my own spot for almost 10 years. I would have never gotten this far without this program to give me the boost I needed"

- Posted to our Facebook page by Cathleen Tarango-Ludewig







sharethespirit2021



**Did you see the Paper?**

Winter Nights Family Shelter alumni, Ametiszt and her daughter were featured in an article by the

**Bay Area News Group's "Share the Spirit 2021".**

**A link to the article is below.**

Share the Spirit

Article

**MORE**  
**Help ▲ Families Home**

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

**With your help, we can help more families home.**

**You are the friends of Winter Nights who fund the successes for  
so many families and individuals.**

**We are almost to our Goal of \$100,000.**



**With your generosity we might even exceed it.**



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



## End-of-Year Donations

**We found this bit of advice in a recent St Vincent de Paul newsletter. SVdP is a long-time partner of Winter Nights serving homeless families and individuals. Our Oasis Day Center is located at their facility in Pittsburg.**

**Lightly edited, to add Winter Nights as another worthy recipient, here it is:**

*Usually taxpayers who take the standard deduction cannot deduct their charitable contributions. This year taxpayers can claim a limited deduction on their 2021 federal income tax returns for contributions they make to charitable organizations by December 31st.*

*Individuals can deduct up to \$300 and couples up to \$600 for donations made to qualifying charitable organizations, like St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, or WINTER NIGHTS FAMILY SHELTER. It's a win-win situation where you can receive a tax deduction while helping your neighbors in need!*

[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  
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.