

OCTOBER - 2022

The GOOD NEWS Letter



WINTER NIGHTS

Family Shelter

**Celebrating the families, volunteers and staff of
Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc**

OCTOBER - 2022

Here We Go !

**The Family Shelter Opened October 10th
for its 19th Season.**



The Family Shelter is up and running.

We are off to a smooth start.

Walnut Creek Friends Church was our first site, and our gratitude goes out to Maria Coburn and her co-hosts for a wonderful job. We began with two families that had been waiting for several weeks for the Family Shelter to open. A third family, a mother with two children, was added at the end of the second week and all three families have settled in nicely.

Our season's line-up of host sites, co-hosts, and countless volunteers is tremendous. We are so grateful. And, with the ongoing support of our

many partner agencies we anticipate being able to help many more families this season. By working with CORE Outreach, Coordinated Entry, Hope Solutions and other agencies we hope to find potential housing solutions for as many families as possible this year.

We love the new van! It is smaller than our old van, but we are learning to work with that. Two of our three families are without cars and they are using the van to get to Oasis, school and appointments.

We welcomed four new staff members in October: At the Shelter there is Ursula, a Shelter alumna from six years ago, plus Jasmine and Ramona. At Safe Parking Tiffany has joined the team. She is also a Shelter alumna from six years ago. So glad you are all here!

Behind the scenes we are working on grants, organizing Appeal 2022, planning Thanksgiving Food Boxes for alumni, filing our tax forms and making some progress on the revision of the Winter Nights website to better reflect all three Winter Nights programs.

I hope you read on and see what's happening at the Safe Parking Program and with Continued Success.

Oh, one more thing. The kickoff of our Annual Appeal 2022 is November 1st. Our goal is to raise \$150,000 by December 30th to fund these amazing programs.

Onward!
Bill

Family Shelter



SEASON'S FIRST HOST SITE

Walnut Creek Friends Church
Host Coordinator, Maria Coburn

Co-hosts & Coordinators:
Grace Episcopal Church, Christina Reich
WC Presbyterian, Heather Ramamurthy
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Walnut Creek stake, Kimber Blatter

From Maria Coburn

Host Site Coordinator for Walnut Creek Friends Church

Again, it was our pleasure and privilege to open a new WN season. On opening day we were blessed with two families (2 moms and 3 children). Another family (a mother and two children) joined us for the last weekend.

I couldn't have asked for better co-hosts; Grace Episcopal Church from Martinez, WC Presbyterian Church and the WC Stake of the LDS Church. At some point I was asked how things were going so far. My answer was: "If no news is good news then everything is going well, my phone is not ringing."

The families seemed to adjust well to their new home and the children were a joy to watch and play with. We spent Saturday afternoon at the Lindsay Wildlife Experience enjoying exhibits and learning about wildlife.

As the families move on we pray that their lives will be changed for better by caring and dedicated volunteers. It leaves us with warm and happy feelings. So much good is being done by the organization. Let's hope for another great season. ~Maria



Shelter Volunteers from Grace Episcopal Church, Martinez
Back row- Christina Reich, Chandra Damele
Front row- Debora Martin and Carmella Kowall, WN Board Member

The Family Shelter

3 families - 8 guests

3 adults & 5 children

3 Girls & 2 Boys: (10 months to 7 years old)

The Safe Parking Program



The Safe Parking Program

11 cars - 14 participants

Wait-List of 5 cars

A mother and child from SPP found housing in October!

Safe Parking continues its mission to serve families and individuals who are living in their cars and have a bit of fun in the process.

Two birthdays of participants were celebrated this October.
Happy Birthday to Bonnie and Dee!

Safe Parking welcomed Tiffany, a new staff member.
We wish her the very best.

It's almost Halloween!

Heather, a Safe Parking staff member, LOVES to decorate and bake with the clients.

Enjoy the photos she sent to share with you:



Continued Success



Helping School Age Children with Back-To School Items

In the past two months 14 children from alumni families have received school supplies and 2 families were helped with new school clothes.

More Birthdays

Five alumni children received birthday cakes in October from Cakes4Kids.

Thanksgiving Food Boxes Planned

Continued Success is planning Thanksgiving Food Boxes for as many as 20 of our alumni households. We have reached out to faith communities who volunteer with the program to provide the gift of a "kit" to make a lovely meal: Ham or Turkey & stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, rolls, and a dessert. The Works!

If you would like more information or would like to donate supplies or a complete food box please call the office or email us. 925-414-3883
office@cccwinternights.org

Teri - for Continued Success



**Delores Loague "Retires"
Concord United Methodist Church**

Much of Winter Nights success is because of volunteers. One special volunteer just retired – if volunteers ever do that. Delores Loague has been the Shelter coordinator for Concord United Methodist Church for all the time Winter Nights has existed. That would be for more than 18 years.

Delores hasn't limited her volunteering to Winter Nights. She has been chair of Church and Society of CUMC, and helped organize and walked in the CROP Walk. She is still a member of the Multifaith Action Coalition Housing and Shelter task force and reports about progress with the Concord Naval Weapons Station. She has been part of the Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council and she continues to deliver bags of food for Meals on Wheels.

In her retirement she will have more time for her three sons and their families with six grandchildren. She was able to attend a family reunion this past summer and visit family and friends in Missouri and South Dakota. She and her husband missed out on a vacation to Washington D.C. and New York City because of COVID, but they still have that on their wish list. We know that even though she will be doing some travelling, she will still be a wonderful volunteer.
~ Judy Stillman



MORE
Help ▲ Families Home

November is Homeless Awareness Month

It is also time for Winter Nights to reach out to **You** to say Thank You, and to again ask for your help funding our growing programs.

**November is the start of Winter Nights
Annual Appeal 2022**

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

In the next week you will receive a letter or an email asking for your support.

Our goal is to raise **\$150,000** before December 31st.

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

"We, as a family, have worked very hard and have a new life ahead of us. We don't know what we would have done without Winter Nights"

~ Mother and Father with one child

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

*"I'm very grateful for the program. It gives me somewhere to sleep
that's safe and that's so important for me."
~ A gentleman in the Safe Parking Program*

Don't forget to check if your employer has a Matching Fund.
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.**

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

DONATE ONLINE

Kindness in Action

→ Forward

If you would like to share the Good News about Winter Nights with family,
friends or colleagues, please forward it.

Past newsletters are available on our website
<https://cccwinternights.org/goodnews-archive/>

CONTACT US



Winter Nights - The Faces of Homelessness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbFjzOgGOTc>



Our Contact Information

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info@cccwinternights.org

<http://www.cccwinternights.org>

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Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc is a 501(c)(3) public benefit nonprofit.

Tax ID # 84-4775540

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Any photos of clients are used only with their express permission.