



WINTER NIGHTS Family Shelter

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

March - 2022



Spring FORWARD!

A Note from Bill

As we enter the last few months of this 2021-2022 season we are springing forward with renewed energy. Our moms are busy working hard and looking for affordable apartments. Staff are right beside them ensuring that they are once again ready to take the leap into a home. One more family has signed their new lease and is moving in to a new home. We are so happy for them, and with larger host sites, we are springing forward to bring on several new families.

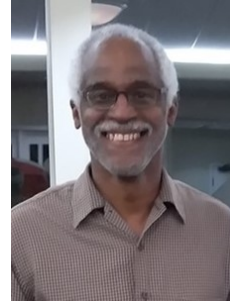
I am looking forward to seeing the younger children outside in the warm weather, laughing and playing with each other. Chalk drawings and bubble play always brings laughter and giggles from the younger

ones. And yes, the parents also enjoy the activities. The smile on their faces as their children run and laugh brings a joy to me knowing that we can support them on their journey.

This all happens because of the many contributions that we receive from our volunteers, faith organizations and community foundations.

Springing forward, I send my heart felt thanks to all,

Bill Shaw, Executive Director



Sheltering Families

Our thanks to the Host sites and Co-hosts who took such great care of the parents and children of the Family Shelter in March.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church-Walnut Creek at Trinity Center.

We want to thank Trinity Center for their support of St Paul's and Winter Nights. The 2-weeks you provided were great. Families especially loved the laundry and shower facilities.

Sue, you were masterful coordinating it all!

Sue Phalen, Host site coordinator.

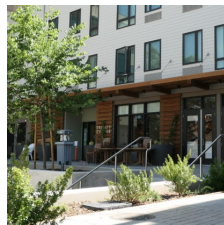
Co-host: Hillcrest Community Church - Pleasant Hill. Angie Beal, coordinator

Concord United Methodist Church.

Delores Loague, Host site coordinator.

Co-hosts: Good Shepard Lutheran-Concord. Sue Hertless, coordinator

The Bay Church-Concord. Carey Gregg, coordinator



Family Shelter



Housing Success: The mother of two little ones, ages 2 and 6, found an apartment, signed her lease and they have moved into their new home. Thank you to HOPE Solutions housing navigators for supporting them! Extended Family will be helping with furnishings.

Happy 6th birthday to a very smart and witty young lady at the Shelter! And big thanks to the volunteers and staff who made her day so special. Stephanie, staff supervisor, said that they gave all the kids goodie bags and a bunch of balloons for the birthday-girl. There was a very happy and excited 6 yr old for several days. Note: she and her family are the ones housed - above. Best birthday present we could give her.



The Family Shelter

4 families - 10 guests
4 adults & 6 children
2 years - 15 years old



Too Good Not to Share

In the *East Bay Times*:

"Cameron Brink was 8 years old when she whispered in the ear of Stephen Curry, a star college basketball player at the time and a close family friend she considers a godbrother. In Detroit, Cameron Brink sidled up to Steph Curry before his game and whispered:

"If you believe in yourself, you can be somebody."

Talent and lots of hard work helps too.

But look how young Steph is in this photo

The Safe Parking Program



The Safe Parking Program

13 cars - 16 participants

Waitlist of 5-6 adults

An Update from Donna

WOW! Shelter, Inc has offered gas cards for all clients in Safe Parking. This is a wonderful response to soaring gas prices and we are grateful for their partnership.

We have a client who has been here for about 2 months. She is employed but was out sick for a time and was unable to make her payment for a storage unit. Safe Parking helped her out and she is so thankful to have "one less issue to face this month."

Another client finally got a part-time job to supplement her SSR income so she could afford a place on her own. All was going well, then she got Covid, had to isolate for 10 days, and then her car broke down. She lost her job. Argh. She kept a positive attitude (ok, she got a little depressed) and worked through all the emotions that come while living in one's car and began looking for other work.

Guess what? Hope Conference helped with the car repair and the General Manager at the company she was working for called and said there had been some changes, and "would she come back to work?"

She is a champ to have faced so many hurtles back to back.

Let's celebrate her success!

Housing:

We have submitted all the paperwork for one couple to get their move-in assistance. They are waiting for the final wrinkles to be worked out to move into a place that has been promised. Everything is a process with housing.

Thanks for all of your support,

Donna, SPP Manager



It was a "quiet" month at Continued Success,
and maybe that's the Good News.

The quarterly outreach email has been sent to 66 alumni of Winter Nights and we look forward to hearing their replies. Hopefully stories of family life and stable housing.

Two kids with March birthdays were treated to cakes by Cakes4Kids.
They loved it!

Here is a 9-year old celebrating with his "Venom" themed cake



Update: Since we started Continued Success in July 2021 we have helped **12 families** with some kind of assistance: Referrals to other nonprofits or agencies, Gas cards, DMV fees, groceries gift cards, car repair. **Six of these families** were given financial help to pay rent or utilities. They are all still housed!

Teri - Continued Success manager

In the news:

From the East Bay Times: "*On Thursday, California lawmakers overwhelmingly approved a fourth extension of an eviction moratorium, granting a reprieve to renters awaiting relief from the state's beleaguered and backlogged assistance program. The law — approved the day before existing protections were set to expire — extends an eviction moratorium through June 30 for more than 100,000 California tenants who have applied to the emergency rental assistance program but who have yet to receive aid.*" It is an important time for us to stay in touch to make sure all is well with our alumni families.

This month we received MORE good news from Bay Area News Group's **Share the Spirit**. In the fall of 2021, we were awarded \$15,000. This month they told us that they raised more money than they expected and awarded us an additional **\$4,000**. We are so grateful!

A note from
Impact Diablo Valley



And a donation from
their kids

Bill, Ann, Lani + Dan,
IMPACT Diablo Valley families loved learning about the important work you are all doing to help those in need. Thank you for taking the time to teach our kids. Enclosed is a check for \$115 and represents all the "\$1" votes the kids brought to our event last fall. You touched our kiddos deeply and W.N. won the kid vote!

We look forward to planning a family service day and continuing to support Winter Nights.

Best,
Yara Halew + Mindy Longo

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

By donating

YOU are helping us serve more families and individuals.

You are the heroes who make Winter Nights possible.

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

→ 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/>

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/>

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