



WINTER NIGHTS Family Shelter

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

MAY - 2022



The Month of MAY at Winter Nights

Greeting to all,

There are less than 10 days before the end of the 18th Family Shelter season of Winter Nights (June 6th) and we are still assisting families with shelter needs. In May we welcomed into our community 3 families – a Mom with a 7-months old daughter, a mom and 11-year daughter and a mom with 2 boys: 5 and 11 yrs. old. We are proud to offer them a safe place to be and to begin the process to find them a stable home.

In such an uncommon year, the support of the Winter Nights staff for our families has been tremendous, and they continue to offer support and

resources as the season comes to a close. They are remaining steadfast in finding and securing long term shelter or housing for all our families.

In the last issue of the Good News letter, we open our hearts and wished a speedy recovery to Donna, our Safe Parking Manager, who was hospitalized with an ongoing medical issue. She is out of the hospital, recovering, and has to move to Texas to be with her children. Donna took a small Safe Parking Program and grew it beyond expectations to a year-round program. Her compassion and commitment in helping people who needed a caring and loving friend is unsurpassed. This is Donna, she will be missed deeply, and I wish her the best in her ongoing recovery and in sharing her heart with others. See her note to us all below in the SPP section of this newsletter.

Be assured, the Safe Parking Program continues to thrive, and will operate year-round. The current SPP staff, Heather, Denice, and Ginger, have stepped in and are assisting the clients with case management, resources, and compassion. One young man has moved to a program that offered him housing. One more participant has joined the SPP family. The SPP is currently supporting 16 participants and 13 cars.

Continued Success does what it does best: assist alumni families when things get tough. We were able to financially assist one family this month with rent and utilities.

If you would like to help the SPP: As we near the hot summer months we are looking for support of extra bottled water and cooling towels or gel filled neck bandanas to keep them cool during the warm days and nights that are coming.

Always grateful for your interest and support,
Bill Shaw
Executive Director



**Winter Nights' office at Hillcrest Community Church has a new sign.
Looks really nice.**

Sheltering Families

It's time to thank and celebrate the Host sites and Co-hosts who served the parents and children of the Family Shelter in April and May

Christ the King Catholic Church - Pleasant Hill

Jo Alonso, Host site coordinator.

Co-hosts: Impact Diablo Valley families

Walnut Creek United Methodist Church - Walnut Creek

Judith Hall, Host site coordinator.

Co-hosts:

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church, Pastor Hyesumg Lee, coordinator;

Contra Costa United Methodist Church - Walnut Creek, Pastor Youngrae Kim, coordinator;

St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception - Walnut Creek, Barb Erickson, coordinator;

First Christian Church of Concord. Diana Maltester, coordinator;



Family Shelter



Families celebrated Cinco de Mayo at Christ the King with music and dinner outdoors on the grass. It was wonderful! Thank you to the volunteers who made it happen.

Mother's Day was celebrated at CTK, too, with a box of chocolates for every mom. There was no dinner at the Shelter that night because every Shelter family spent the day celebrating with friends or family... as it should be!

Judith Hall, the coordinator at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church reported that her fantastic volunteers loved being with the families and playing with the kids. WCUMC set up a special couch and TV area for families to relax together.

Family and staff had a great time making dinner together one night: pot roast. Yum!

Judith also asked us to pass along her gratitude that their social hall, kitchen and bathrooms were left in "pristine condition" when families moved on to the next site.

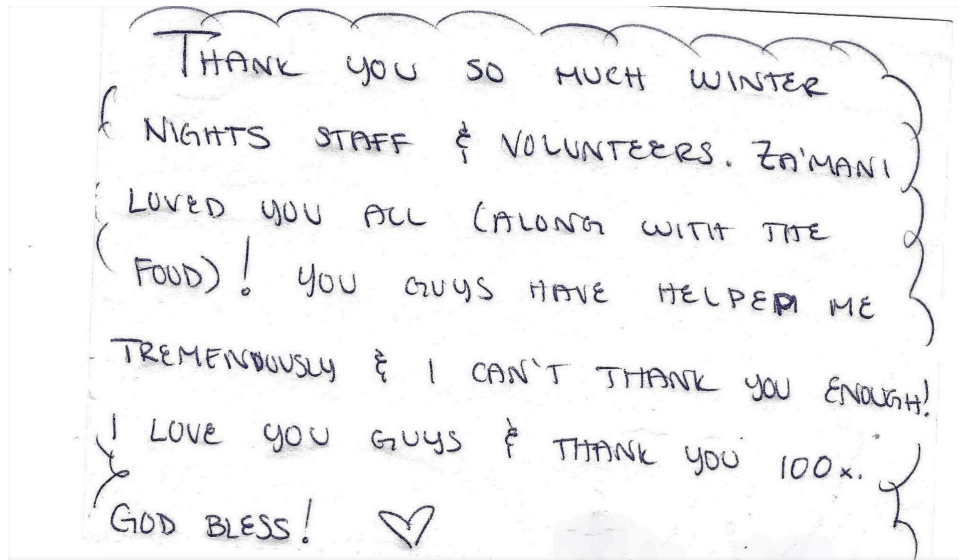
End-of-Season Placements

The Family Shelter operates for 36 weeks, which means there is an "end-of-season". June 6th is the end of the 18th Season of Winter Nights Family Shelter. It will reopen in October 2022.

Families who are at the Shelter in these last few days are working with staff to find homes or shelter that will continue to support their journey to sustainable housing. Continued Success will stay in touch to follow-up. Safe Parking will continue year-round.

One such end-of-season family at the Family Shelter, a mother and her 7 month old daughter, just moved to a long-term shelter in San Jose.

She left this note for Winter Nights:



VAN UPDATE



It's official. Winter Nights Chevy Express L5LT van is a "total loss", and will have to be replaced.

Teri Lundvall, office manager, and Carmella Kowall, board member are searching for a replacement used, low mileage, 15 passenger van. They have discovered that very few are available, and the cost is almost 50% more than what we bought our used van for 5 years ago. Our insurance settlement will help a lot, and we are applying for a grant to make up the difference.

The Family Shelter

Due to Covid restrictions the Shelter is limited to 4 families

4 families - 9 guests

4 adults & 5 children

2 yrs - 11 years old

The Safe Parking Program



The Safe Parking Program

12 cars - 14 participants

2 adult couples and 10 individuals

Wait-List of 4 cars

A Personal Note from Donna

In the last Good News letter we asked for your prayers for Donna Zukauckas, Safe Parking manager, who was hospitalized. She is out of the hospital and sent this note to everyone.

Greetings to Everyone,

As you may or may not know I was hospitalized at the end of April and intubated for 12 days to keep me "alive" until my kids could all make it to see me having been given only 4 or so days to live.

Well, no one bothered to tell me I was on my way out and anyone who knows me should know, just tell me I can't ... and I will show you I can.



Thanks to the love and prayers of many people, when I finally "came to" and saw my kids and many other "family" gathered around, it gave me the energy to fight to at least figure out what the heck was going on. Long story short - within 2 days I was moved from ICU to a regular room and discharged 2 days later. Not totally up to par but VERY much alive.

This put me in a vulnerable position. Without much choice or time to get my affairs in order, my kids had me packed up and moving to Texas so they could take care of me. It's a move they have been trying to get me to do for years and probably a smart choice.

Everything seemed to happen so fast, I felt like I was dropping the ball on Bill/everyone and the SPP itself, but I did manage to meet with Bill to give him my updates regarding the SPP.

I'm sure things weren't as easy as all that, but I hope the transition wasn't complete chaos and things were in place to help. I put a lot into my work in organizing, setting up and running the SPP and loved every second of it.

I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for putting your faith in me and giving me the opportunity to run the Safe Parking Program. I'm not sure all of you know how important that project was/is to me and the passion that I ran it with. I think I'm actually going through withdrawals having separated from it so quickly. LOL.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be a part of the WN-SPP family. Keep on doing all the great things you do. I hope our paths cross again.

Passionately,
Donna Zukauckas
SPP Manager - "retired"

Donna,

You are missed. I see and hear it when I speak to the SPP participants. You have done a tremendous job and have made it easy going forward.

I wish you all the love and prayers as you continue to heal and recover. You are loved and appreciated by many. May your journey continue to be full and rich as you move forward.

*Best wishes,
Bill Shaw*

Continued Success



Continued Success continues to work with Alumni of Winter Nights.

This month we helped one family pay both their overdue rent and utilities.

We also now have another family asking for rental assistance and a third asking for help with deposit money. If we cannot secure assistance for them through referrals to other provider agencies, we will step in and help.

It was High School graduation day for Mickaela this month! And it was her birthday, too! Cakes4Kids generously baked, decorated and delivered two beautiful cakes a week apart. Congratulations, Mickaela.

Thanks for all your support.

You are why we can both delight and lighten the load for former clients.

Teri - Continued Success manager



A Birthday AND a High School graduation cake for Mickaela by Cakes4Kids

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

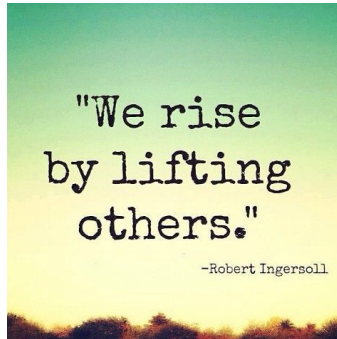
By donating

YOU are helping us serve more families and individuals.

Thank You for making Winter Nights possible.

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

DONATE ONLINE



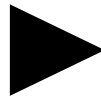
➔ Forward

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 **FACES** of HOMELESSNESS Video



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