



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

JULY/AUGUST- 2022

**The Winter Nights Family Shelter
Season 18 Comes to an End**

***A Summary of the Season
and a Big Thank You!***

One potato, two potato, three potato, four

The 2021-2022 Family Shelter season and the Safe Parking Program succeed beyond expectation. The shifting winds of COVID guidelines kept everyone on their toes. We smiled, laughed and marched ahead with purpose and strength.

Inviting back the many Family Shelter volunteers was a blessing. We missed you. It was wonderful to greet familiar faces and meet new volunteers. All the support received for the families and the program was deeply appreciated. Smiling faces,

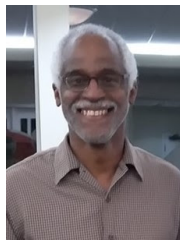
home cooked meals, and building a Shelter community that worked to move families forward.

Even though the number of families this season was small because of Covid capacity limits, the laughter, joyful energy and, yes, some crying of all the young children created an atmosphere of love and hope.

The Safe Parking Program (SPP) grew into its own community. Participants found a place to call 'home', to feel accepted and supported as they started to rebuild their lives. They settled into the ongoing process of looking for employment and housing. The SPP staff created an incredibly supportive and caring environment. Success flowed from all of their hard work. We were able to move 3 families from Safe Parking to the Family Shelter. Several of the SPP participants were able to find (scarce) housing or a long-term shelter program that met their needs.

Winter Nights continued to grow our commitment to alumni of the Family Shelter and Safe Parking programs with Continued Success. They remained a part of the Winter Nights family with encouragement and support. Small things like a call to check in, a birthday cake for a child, an anniversary card for the parents was so appreciated. Some families had rough patches and they were helped with rent and utilities, or a major car repair to keep them together and housed. We held a Christmas event in December with gifts for all members of the families. It was a reunion of sorts for both staff and families who had not seen each other in years. Shelter staff was overjoyed to see the ongoing success of these families and the maturing of the children and teens.

Looking back over the past 12 months, all I can say is: We Did It. Heartfelt thanks to you, our many volunteers and supporters. And deep appreciation to my staff, the Board of Directors, the many Good News readers and to the homeless families and individuals who hung in there, stayed together and moved forward at a difficult time. Thank you.



Bill Shaw
Executive Director



Housing is the cornerstone to provide families with the stability to end their

cycle of poverty . Stable housing provides the roots of a stable family.

We serve many families and individuals who are newly homeless but have solid work and life skills. Many more clients are part of a multi-generational pattern of poverty. It is all they know. Winter Nights helps to establish their sense of confidence and to build the skills and attitudes it takes to make the upward journey. Now we are able to help secure or retain housing by helping them out a bit financially.



Client & Alumni
Financial Assistance

Our **Client Financial Assistance** program has been a real success. It provides funds directly to “providers” on behalf of current or former clients who needed help with overdue rent, utilities, phone bills, storage unit fees, car repairs, and even funeral expenses. Clearing small debts makes securing housing more likely and help with bills in times of emergencies is a great way to support alumni staying housed.

	Total Financial Assistance	Total Households	Total # in the Households
Family Shelter Total	\$3,171	5	11
Safe Parking Total	\$2,570	8	8
Continued Success Total	\$11,586	8	30
Client Financial Assistance TOTAL	\$17,328	21	49

We spent over \$17,000 assisting 21 client and alumni households (49 individuals). Paying overdue rent helped 7 families, and they all remained stay housed. Assistance with a rental deposit helped one family move into their own home.

What a great idea! Housing Deposit Assistance.

Housing Deposit Assistance will now become part of this outreach, with an additional \$20,000 budgeted. The average apartment in Pittsburg rents for \$2160 (*RentCafe.com*) which could mean a deposit of \$3,000 - \$4,000

Imagine being a parent and finding a place for you and your children that you can actually afford. You have 48 hours to sign the lease and to provide the deposit. There have been lots of tears at the Winter Nights office when parents lose the opportunity to put a roof over the heads of their kids because they are short the deposit required.

In this time of scarce and increasingly expensive housing we felt this was an important way we could help house families and individuals who had the income for rent but not the savings for the deposit.

Consistent with our philosophy of personal responsibility and self-sufficiency, Winter Nights helps clients and alumni with employment and helps them to budget and save. Now, if needed, we will help “top up” their savings for rental deposits to secure housing they can support and sustain. This deposit support will be provided directly to landlords or renting organization in keeping with the practices already in place for Winter Nights Client Financial Assistance.

Family Shelter



Winter Nights Family Shelter served 18 families this season

There was a Covid-19 capacity limit of 4 families at a time

- 18 families, 49 clients, 26 children & 23 adults.
- The children ranged in age from toddlers to 17 years old. 6 children were 5-years old and under.
- There were 7 single-parent families, and 5 two-parent families. One family was a pregnant woman from Safe Parking about to give birth.
- 3 families moved from Safe Parking into the Family Shelter.
- The average stay of a family was 55 days. The longest stay was 158 days and the shortest was 4 days.
- If you take the number of people in each family, and the number of nights the family was at the shelter **Winter Nights provided a combined 2353 nights of client stays.**

Outcomes:

Rental housing remained scarce and very expensive. Staff and families worked so hard to find something suitable. But it was not always successful.

- Four families found affordable housing
- One mother moved in with family after her baby was born
- Four families found space at long term supportive shelters like Mountain View Shelter, GRIP and one in San Jose
- Four families left at the end of the season unhoused. Two of these families came into the program in the final weeks, and one has been housed with our help.
- Six families left the program on their own



♥ Our FABULOUS Faith Group & Community Partners ♥

BRAVO! KUDOS! THANK YOU!

**These 48 Faith Communities and Community Groups
were at the heart of Winter Nights last season.**

**Your generous donation of facilities, time and talent is at the core of
Winter Night's mission
We can't thank YOU enough!**

HOST Sites *

Beth Chaim Congregation – Danville
Brentwood Community United Methodist Church
Brentwood United Methodist Church
Christ the King Catholic Church - Pleasant Hill *
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints - Danville Stake
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints - Walnut Creek Stake
Church of Santa Maria, Catholic – Orinda
Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church
Concord United Methodist Church *
Contra Costa United Methodist Church - Walnut Creek
Danville Congregational Church
East County Shared Ministry – Pittsburg
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection – Pleasant Hill *
First Baptist Church – Pittsburg
First Christian Church of Concord
First Congregational Church of Martinez
First Presbyterian Church of Concord
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Concord
Grace Episcopal Church - Martinez
Hillcrest Congregational Church - Pleasant Hill
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church – Orinda
Impact Diablo Valley families
Lafayette Christian Church
Lafayette Juniors
Lafayette United Methodist Church *
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church *
Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church – Antioch
Mt Diablo Universal Unitarian Church- Walnut Creek *
Orinda Community Church *
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church- Alamo *
St Bonaventure's Catholic Church – Concord *
St John Vianney Catholic Church – Walnut Creek *
St Paul's Episcopal Church - Walnut Creek *
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church – Pleasant Hill *
St. Anselm's Episcopal Church – Lafayette *
St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church – Antioch
St. Isadore's Catholic Church - Danville
St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception, Catholic – Walnut Creek
St. Matthews's Lutheran Church - Walnut Creek *
St. Perpetua's Catholic Church - Lafayette
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Orinda
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church - Danville *
Temple Isaiah – Lafayette *
The Bay Church - Concord
Trinity Center – Walnut Creek
Walnut Creek Friends Church*
Walnut Creek United Methodist Church *
Ygnacio Valley Presbyterian Church – Walnut Creek



The Safe Parking Program



Safe Parking Program, for individuals and families living in their cars, provides staff-supervised overnight parking from 8 pm – 7 am, as well as restrooms, breakfast, snacks, hygiene supplies, and access to showers. Client services are offered as well as help funding things that will lead to employment and stable housing like car repair, vehicle registration and driver's license fees, and deposits on apartments.

Impact:

This was our first full year of operation. **We served 62 clients in 45 cars**, including **5 families** living in their cars. We always had a wait list.

Families : * Dad with 2 daughters * Mom, Dad with 2 children, a boy and girl *
Mom, Dad and 2 children * Mom and son * Mom and adult son

Three of these families joined the Family Shelter program and one was housed.

Client Financial Assistance for 8 participants helped with car repairs, DMV fees, storage fees, work tools and clothing etc.

Finding affordable housing or rooms to rent is an ongoing challenge and has kept our working clients living in their cars longer than we would like. We were able to help **6 individual clients find housing**.

Dear, Winter Nights Program

I [REDACTED] am truly humbled for this enormous help to bring my vehicle registration finally to current. Now being able to have a peace of mind is everything to me. This program truly is my BLESSINGS... I was able to structure my life back on the right path. To all the great staff, Donna, Heather, Denise, Eujan and last but definitely not the least Bill Shaw, You D-MAN. To all the members behind it all THANK YOU. I WILL NEVER FORGET THIS. I LOVE YOU ALL. THANK YOU [REDACTED]



Continued Success



Continued Success is now a year-round program to stay in touch with alumni of the Family Shelter and Safe Parking programs in ways that enable them to stay connected and to remain housed. We are there to listen and laugh, to provide advice and referrals, and in some cases actually help with overdue rent or utilities, car repairs, phone bills or just gas and store gift cards,

We have reached out to over 80 alumni households through our quarterly email to check in on how they are doing. Our Facebook page has also been sharing resources with them as we become aware of them.....sources for free diapers, free bus passes for kids things like that.

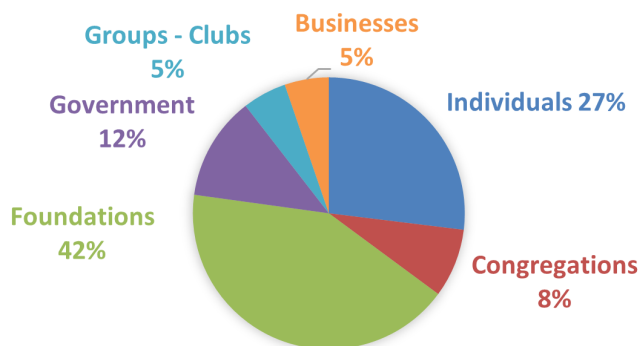
Impact:

Every alumni household we helped has remained housed !

- \$11,600 in Client Financial Assistance was given to help 8 alumni households with overdue rent, utilities, auto registration fees, school clothes, new tires, and one funeral
- \$875 in gift cards were given to alumni families for gas, groceries, Target
- 13 cakes were requested for children's birthdays and one for a graduation. All were provided by Cakes4Kids bakers. Great job!
- In December 2021, a Holiday Reunion Party was held. What a great day! Over a dozen families shared in the holiday cheer with Winter Nights staff and volunteers.



**WINTER NIGHTS DONORS
FY 2021-22
\$584,618**



Kindness in Action

Individual Donors



FY 21-22	
291 Individual Donors	
\$157,530	
\$20,000 - \$2,000	18
\$1,999 - \$1,000	25
\$999 - \$500	38
\$499 - \$100	154
Up to \$99	47

Congregations – Funding Donors 2021-22

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church
 Christ the King Catholic Church - Pleasant Hill
 Concord United Methodist Church
 Congregation B'nai Shalom - Walnut Creek
 Congregation B'nai Tikvah
 Danville Congregational Church
 First Baptist Church - Pittsburg
 First Church of Christ Scientist - Orinda
 First Congregational Church of Antioch
 First Congregational Church of Martinez
 First Presbyterian Church - Concord
 Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church - Orinda
 Lafayette United Methodist Church
 Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
 Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church – WC
 Orinda Community Church
 Shell Ridge Community Church - Walnut Creek
 St. Anselm's Episcopal Church - Lafayette
 St. Bonaventure's Catholic Church - Concord
 St. John Vianney Catholic Church - Walnut Creek
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church – Walnut Creek
 St. Perpetua's Catholic Church - Lafayette
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Orinda
 St. Vincent de Paul Society/Most Holy Rosary
 Walnut Creek Friends Church
 Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church



Foundations – Local Cities and the County – Businesses

Antioch Community Foundation
Charis Fund
Children's Support League of the East Bay
City of Antioch - CDBG
City of Concord - CDBG
City of Pittsburg - CDBG
Contra Costa County - CDBG
Contra Costa County - Keller Canyon
Crescent Porter Hale Foundation
Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation
Episcopal Impact Fund
Impact Diablo Valley Fund
John and Beverly Stauffer Foundation
JustFaith Ministries, Inc.
Lafayette Community Foundation
Lions Club of Rossmoor Foundation
Longo Family Charitable Fund
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Hobie Cats
Moraga Rotary Foundation
Morton Foundation
National Council of Jewish Women
Orinda Jazz Festival
Reuben B. Robertson Foundation
Rossmoor Rotary Foundation
Sereno 1% For Good
Sisters of the Holy Family
Sunlight Giving
Thomas A. Seeno Foundation
The Jazz Room's Puttin' on the Ritz
United Methodist Women
Wilcox Family Foundation
William A Kerr Foundation
Y and H Soda Foundation



Our thanks to so many for your In-Kind Donations
Local Individuals, Congregations, Community Groups, and Businesses

Gift cards for gas and stores, painting and remodeling, meals and snacks, sheets, towels, bedding, blankets, sleeping bags, cleaning supplies, art supplies, car seats, bicycles, baby & toddler supplies All appreciated!

*I know I have left someone off this list.
Please forgive me and know that you are also appreciated!*

Paula Ash	Moraga Lions Club
Suzan Bateson	Stacey Norman
Dr. Rosalyn Burke	Doreen Oberg
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Northgate First Ward	Old Navy
Creskide Elementary School	Orinda Community Church
Maria Coburn	Passion to the Streets
Concord United Methodist Church - Missions	Louis Presti
Lisa Connell	Quilters of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian
Brian deLapp	Susan Reckers
Linda Doran	San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
Gina Drakes	Sandy Inouye
Reid Edwards	Jessica Schmedding
First Christian Church of Concord	Scout Troop 810
Harry Fong	St. Ignatius of Antioch Church
Justin Gaumont	St. Isidore Catholic Church - Danville
Girl Scout Troop 33571	St. John Vianney Catholic Church - Walnut Creek
Judith Goff	St. Perpetua's Catholic Church - Lafayette
Gina Halow	St. Timothy's Episcopal Church - Danville
Gap Foundation	St. Stephen's Episcopal Youth Group
Cricket Hamilton	Lauren Michelle Stevens
William G Hamm	Julie Storm
Susan Henshaw	Wanita L. Terry
Hillcrest Congregational Church - Pleasant Hill	Marilyn Todacheene
Holy Rosary Catholic School - Antioch	Valhalla Elementary School
Impact Diablo Valley	Virginia Stuart
Ty Inocencio	Walnut Creek Neighbors & Newcomers
Karen Kalvass	Community Outreach Group
Vicki De Laurenti	Wendy Levich
Bob Lewis	Ygnacio Valley Presbyterian Church – Concord
Michelle McNeil	Lindsay Young



Thank you Board Members, Management and Staff

Board of Directors

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Ashley Day - Secretary
Ann Lawrence - Treasurer
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Alford Forney
Liz Haughey
Carmella Kowall
Catherine Mesgar Bruce
Smith

**Winter Nights
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Schynell Justin
—Program Director
Teri Lundvall
— Office Manager

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*Donor Development,
Good News, Financials*
Judy Stillman -*The Summit*
Jo Kerner - *Grant Writer*
Lani Shepp - *Grant Writer*
Harry Miller - *Traveling Tutors*
Bob Russell - *Moving Day*

Staff Supervisors

Family Shelter & Oasis

Stephanie
Elijah
Elaine
Randy
Nakiyah

Safe Parking

Heather
Denice
Ginger



Here are two very short videos that share the special qualities of the Family Shelter and its impact on real families.

Winter Nights
The Faces of Homelessness

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



Winter Nights
Family Shelter Stories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VISmkHuY55M>



Kindness in Action

DONATE ONLINE

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

CONTACT US



Our Contact Information

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<http://www.cccwinternights.org>

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Tax ID # 84-4775540

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Winter Nights respects and supports the privacy of all our clients. Any photos of clients are used only with their express permission.