



WINTER NIGHTS
Family Shelter

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

SEPTEMBER - 2022



SEPTEMBER 2022
at Winter Nights

Family Shelter



There is a lot going on at Winter Nights
We are getting ready for the 19th Family Shelter season.

The Family Shelter will open October 10th and run through June 12, 2023. We don't announce the Host Site locations in advance to protect the privacy and security of families, but we want to thank all the volunteers and staff who are working so hard to make everything ready on day one.

The Shelter will return to an almost pre-pandemic routine, but will be serving a maximum of 25 individuals at a time instead of a maximum of 30. That is still 6 or 7 families.

One family who was unhoused at the end of last season will return to the Shelter to continue the work they started to secure stable affordable housing.

There have been many inquiries and referrals of homeless families wanting help. This is a busy time now screening families and completing the intake documentation required before entry. We are also hiring supervisors for this season so there are lots of interviews for candidates going on.

We have a new van! See the story below



Very Good News

Two Families from Last Season Are Now Housed

They were unhoused at the end of last season have found a home and have moved in to their new places.

We want to thank the Hope Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul for working with us to share financial assistance for one family's rental deposit.

VAN UPDATE



Remember this photo of our 15-passenger van after the accident in February? Well, Winter Nights finally has a new van.

We bought a new 2023 Honda Odyssey SV 8-passenger van from Winter Honda, Pittsburg

It is now ready to provide transportation to families in the Shelter who do not have their own vehicle. Thank you Sandy for all the help!

Every weekday morning the van will take parents and children from the Shelter to school, BART, the Oasis Day Center, and appointments. It also picks up families in the afternoon at Oasis, to make sure they get back to the Shelter each evening.

Just a note: Ordering a new van took awhile because we learned that California now requires a California Commercial Driver's license Class B with a passenger endorsement for every driver of a "commercial" van over 8-passengers. We tried very hard to find a way around this, but the rule is the rule. The cost of the required training for the license is about \$2,000 to \$3,000 per driver at a certified truck driving program plus annual DMV fees for each license. So we down-sized our expectations from a 15-passenger van to a new 8-passenger van that allows our staff to drive with a standard Class A license. Onward!



Sandy from Winter Honda with Bill Shaw



Bill Shaw and Teri Lundvall



Sandy with Dan Swander and Bill Shaw signing the paperwork

The Safe Parking Program



The Safe Parking Program

9 cars - 12 participants

1 Family

Wait-List of 5 cars

Visiting the Safe Parking Program

Dan Swander, Board President

Bill Shaw, Executive Director and I spent some time on Monday night at the Safe Parking Program site in Pittsburg. Heather, the site supervisor on-duty, greeted us and she gave me a brief tour of the parking area and the community room with its well-equipped kitchen, extensive storage facilities, and the spacious, well-lighted, handicapped-accessible restroom.

There were twelve vehicles and thirteen clients that night, plus one adorable 17-year-old rescue dog who belonged to a client. What was immediately obvious to me was the overall sense of calm, comfort, and community that exists.

As clients arrived for the evening many warmly greeted us and we had great conversations. It was good to see people taking advantage of evening snacks and beverage, then gathering around the central table to talk with us and each

other. A teenager settled in to do some homework and several clients took up an art project organized by Heather. I wish I'd taken a picture of their creations.

By 10:00 pm most of the clients had retired for the night and everything was quiet. Thanks for the opportunity to visit and to get to know some of the participants in Safe Parking.

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In September one client was helped with an overdue storage unit bill so they would not lose their personal items before finding housing.

Continued Success



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.

925-414-388 office@cccwinternights.org

Rental Deposit Assistance helps house a Family

In partnership with Hope Conference, we were able to help a Shelter family who remained unhoused after the season ended in June with the Rental Deposit on their new apartment. Sometimes when a family has the resources to pay the rent they are a bit short of the amount needed to cover first/last/security deposit. We are so glad to be able to provide the small amount needed to see this family stably housed.

An August Birthday Girl

The pictures below tell the story of another alumni child surprised by her own special birthday cake provided by Cakes4Kids volunteer bakers (artist, really).

Teri - Continued Success manager



Oh, to be SIX!
Thank you Cake4Kids for delighting a little girl on her birthday
with her dream unicorn cake!

CAKES For Kids
Your Unicorn CAKE
WAS Amazing AND Yummy!
Thank You Sooo Much!

**Winter Nights is Hiring
Part-Time and Part-Time Seasonal Staff**

Come join a fantastic team of caring individuals looking to make a difference.

For more information or to submit a resume, please email us at
office@cccwinternights.org.



SERENO
1% For Good
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Sharing a Bit of Fun and Gratitude!

In September, the realtors of *Sereno 1% For Good Community Impact Fund-East Bay* invited Bill Shaw, Executive Director, Dan Swander, Board President and Ashley Day, Board Member to a celebration and presentation of a very large check - both physically and financially.

They clearly had a good time getting together!

Sereno 1% For Good donated \$7,500 to Winter Nights to fund services to homeless families and individuals.

Thank you so much!

"We believe in giving back to the places we live and love. For every dollar we make from the business of buying and selling homes, we are able to invest a portion with local partners and organizations who are working to create positive change in our communities." Sereno 1% For Good

ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW September 10th



Russ Taft and Hayden Haughey
with little green 1968 MGB



Catherine Mesgar, Board Member

Did you see us at the car show?

Winter Nights had a booth at the Orinda Classic Car Show. We wanted to increase community awareness, give credit to our many Lamorinda congregations and volunteers and maybe generate a donation or two.

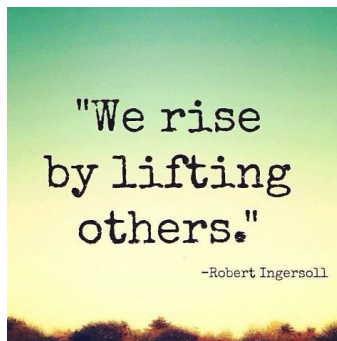
Just our luck. Our booth was positioned right next to Clark Pest Control which gave us a bit of concern before the show started.



But it actually was a great spot. The gregarious Clark team spent four hours handing out rubber spiders and other fake insects to kids as they walked by and that caused most families to stop. We were able to hand out our flyer about Winter Nights while the kids squirmed, and engage their parents on our recent growth and the challenges we overcame operating through the pandemic.

On the other side of our booth a good friend of Winter Nights, Russ Taft of the Last Chance Garage, was able to park his prize-winning 1968, British Racing Green, MGB. This classic car turned out to be a real car-show magnet and we were again able to share our information and story with numerous car buffs.

Participating in the show was fun for those who staffed the booth. The weather was "mild", not 100'. Time will tell if we made new friends and supporters of Winter Nights.



DONATE ONLINE

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

Your Donations help us serve more homeless 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.

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://ccwinternights.org/goodnews-archive/>

CONTACT US



Faces of Homelessness Video



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