



**The GOOD NEWS Letter  
Celebrating the Families, Volunteers, Donors and  
Staff of  
Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc  
November - 2023**



***With an Attitude of Gratitude Towards All***

**We want to thank everyone who hosts and serves at Winter Nights during this busy holiday season.** Thanksgiving, Diwali, Advent, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa... As if you didn't have enough to do already... Your giving spirit is so appreciated. Wishing Hope, Love, Joy, Peace and Light to everyone.

Our **2023 Annual Appeal** started November 1st with a goal to raise **\$175,000** by December 31st. Thank you to those who have already

donated. **\$77,800** has been raised to date. **You make Winter Nights possible.** More information on donating to the 2023 Appeal is below.

**Since the start of our year in July we have had a total of 105 people in our programs:** 27 at the Family Shelter, 30 at Safe Parking-Antioch, 48 at Safe Parking-Pittsburg. Continued Success has also been busy staying in touch with alumni households and providing assistance when needed to help keep them housed.

**November was Homelessness Awareness Month.** In recognition of Winter Nights service to homeless families and individuals, we received proclamations from both the City of Concord and the City of Antioch.

**Read on!** There's lots to tell you about what's happening at the Shelter, Safe Parking and Continued Success.

Gratefully,  
Ann Lawrence - your Good News writer/editor  
[ann@cccwinternights.org](mailto:ann@cccwinternights.org)

## Family Shelter



These generous congregations and all their volunteers served homeless families from mid-October through mid-November. *We do not list where the Shelter is now to protect the security and privacy of clients.*



**Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church**  
**Coordinators:**  
Robin Freeberg, Lauren Gulley,  
Rick Silvani & Jim Reitler

**St. Perpetua's Catholic Church - Lafayette**  
**Coordinators:**  
Trina Audley & Karen Kalvass

The congregations of LOPC and St. Perpetua's did all the meals, activities and homework help themselves without Cohosts.

We send our sincere thanks to everyone in your parishes who served so generously.

While at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian (LOPC) there were 19 clients in the Shelter: 6 adults and 13 children ages 5 months to 18 years.

Halloween is always a fun time at the Shelter. LOPC volunteers organized pumpkin painting, trick-or-treating and a dance party.

And at another host site, there was Thanksgiving. We are happy to report that all clients went to family or friends for Thanksgiving.



Shelter Volunteers from Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church  
Back row: Dana, Steve, John, Marcie & Jan. Front row: Veronica & Staci

### **Oh Dear. Car Trouble for a Shelter Family**

Winter Nights was able to help a family at the Shelter when the starter in her car failed. Without her car she couldn't drive her children to school and she couldn't get to her job. We helped tow the car and get the car repaired. Our thanks to D&B Towing for a speedy response (they were so nice) and to Vlad Goldman, Eugene, and Nicholas at the Lafayette 76 Station for getting her back on the road the next day. Thanks Vlad!



D&B Towing's heroes, Juan and Ron, with Ursula from Winter Nights.

### **The Family Shelter**

November 28, 2023

**4 families - 16 guests**

4 adults & 12 children

(children are 19 months to 17 years old)

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## The Safe Parking Program



### The Safe Parking Program in Pittsburg

7 cars - 9 participants

2 men & 5 women

One family with 2 children ages 12 & 16

### The Safe Parking Program in Antioch

5 cars - 6 participants

2 men & 4 women

One couple

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Continued Success



**Many thanks to everyone!**  
**Sending you our Attitude of Gratitude.**

### Continued Success's Thanksgiving Food Bags

We did it again! Thirteen alumni families picked up Thanksgiving Food Bags filled through the generosity of ICare, a program of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. Each bag contained mashed potatoes and gravy mix, a stuffing mix, cornbread mix, cranberry sauce and vegetables. Congregations, faith groups and individuals contributed \$25 gift cards to Safeway, Target and Grocery Outlet for each household to buy a turkey to go with the "fixings" and a desert.

It has been wonderful to have them stop by to pick their bags up and to have a chance to see them. They are excited about the upcoming Christmas party"

### Christmas Party for Alumni

Our Continued Success Christmas Party for alumni households is scheduled for December 2nd. So far we have over 39 RSVP's. It looks like it will be another wonderful time to connect, support and share.

### Christmas Boxes being planned.

Knights of Columbus will be blessing us again with Christmas Food Boxes with a turkey for Winter Nights alumni families. How great is that!

~ Teri Lundvall, Continued Success coordinator.

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## Winter Nights in The Community

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### November was Homelessness Awareness Month.

In recognition of Winter Nights service to homeless families and individuals, we received proclamations from both the City of Concord and the City of Antioch. What nice feedback from two cities where we serve. Thank you.



Council Member Michael Barbanica, Mayor Pro Tem Tamisha Torres-Walker, Carmella Kowall, Stephanie, Chantel (holding the proclamation), Woody, Mayor Lamar Thorpe and Council Member Monica Wilson.



### Celebrating our 20th year and those who made it possible

#### *Winter Nights Shelters Families to Nurture Success*

Jody Morgan, of the Alamo Today and Danville Today News, spent last month interviewing many of the people originally involved with the start of Winter Nights and with its 20 years of service and growth. I won't spoil it for you. You can read it at the (improved) link below.

[Article Link](#)



**Giving Tuesday and “Bite Size Learning”  
at the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District**

Dan Swander, our board president, presented the Winter Nights story to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District as part of their “Bite Size Learning” program and their Annual Giving Campaign.

Velisa Parks, CCCSD’s Senior Administrative Assistant, discovered Winter Nights when she noticed that an employee donated last year. She reached out and extended an invitation to make a remote presentation on Giving Tuesday. Over twenty individuals attended the 30-minute session and asked thoughtful questions. The presentation was recorded and will be made available to all CCCSD employees. Individual donations will be made directly or by payroll deductions through CCCSD.

Our thanks to Velisa and to everyone at CCCSD for the opportunity to make more members of the community aware of who we are and what we do.

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**MORE**  
**Help ▲ Families Home**

**Annual Appeal 2023**

**November is the start of Winter Nights**

**Annual Appeal 2023**

**We want to help more families home with Your help.**

**[DONATE](#)**

**Our goal is to raise \$175,000 before December 31st.**

**\$75,500 has been donated to date.**

**Help us reach our goal to fund Winter Nights support of local  
homeless families and individuals**

*“My mom and I were frequently homeless when I was growing up  
because of financial insecurity and mental health struggles.*

*It is truly a sacred thing to be able to show up for people at the  
most vulnerable and hardest times of their lives.*

*I’m honored to support your work and thank you for all that you  
do!*

*~Winter Nights donor, 2023*

**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.**

**DONATE**

***You are the heroes behind the success  
of countless families and individuals.***

***"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.**

***Employee Donations have been received through***

***The Benevity Community Impact Fund, YourCause, United Way Bay Area,  
Community Health Charities, Genentech, CyberGrants, Lawrence Livermore  
Labs, Target, Sherwin Williams***

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.**

**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 [info@cccwinternights.org](mailto:info@cccwinternights.org)

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## *Wish List*

*Gift Cards: Gas cards, Wal-Mart cards, Target cards,  
Hand Warmers*

*Twin-size fitted bottom sheets, pillows, sleeping bags, Lysol spray, Lysol  
disinfecting wipes,  
Diapers (size5) and baby wipes.*

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➔ 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/>



## Faces of Homelessness



### **Our Contact Information**

Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.  
404 Gregory Lane #7  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
925-414-3883  
<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

Donations are tax deductible to the extent  
allowed by law, and no goods or services  
are provided in exchange for a donation.  
Winter Nights respects and supports the  
privacy of all our clients. Any photos of  
clients are used only with their express  
permission.