



WINTER NIGHTS
Family Shelter

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

OCTOBER - 2024

Fall Has Arrived
And The Family Shelter
Starts its 21st Year



The Family Shelter Is Off To A Smooth Start

Three terrific families with 4 terrific children started our 21st season of the Family Shelter. St Anselm's Episcopal Church-Lafayette started the season off with joy and energy, followed by the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church who was equally enthusiastic and supportive. You will love the stories that volunteers have shared about working with the families.

The van is already filled to capacity, taking the children of two families without a car to school. This also means that the Shelter had to turn away 5 families without cars in the first month we were open. Heart breaking. Buying and operating a 2nd van is being evaluated to make sure we have funds to both buy a 2nd van and secure year-over-year funds to hire a driver and pay the operating costs. Working on it, as they say.

Our two Safe Parking Programs in both Antioch and Pittsburg have been helping clients all year. Since July 1 they have provided a total of 47 adults and children living in their cars with safe overnight parking as well as services to help them move forward.

The Oasis Day Center is busy too. Clients come in to plan their journey forward with resources provided by Ramona, our case manager, and to use the shower.

The 2024 Annual Appeal is NOW!
We need to raise \$200,000 by December 31.

MORE
Help ▲ Families Home

Double The Donation, a way to check if your employer matches your donation, is up and running. There is more information at the end of this newsletter.

Read on to hear about what's happening at the Shelter, Safe Parking, Continued Success and with our wonderful community.

Gratefully,
Ann Lawrence - your Good News writer/editor
ann@cccwinternights.org

Family Shelter



**These generous congregations, and all their volunteers,
served at the Family Shelter for the first four weeks.**

We only list sites after clients have moved on to protect their privacy and safety.



**St. Anselm's Episcopal Church-
Lafayette**



**Walnut Creek United Methodist
Church**

**St. Anselm's Episcopal
Church-Lafayette**

**Joni Pierce, Anne Brown -
coordinators**

**Co-Host:
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints-San Ramon Dan Jones -
coordinator**

**Walnut Creek United Methodist
Church**

Judith Hall - coordinator

**Co-Hosts:
St. Mary's Church of Immaculate
Conception
Barbara Erickson -coordinator
First Christian Church of Concord
Diane Maltester -coordinator
Contra Costa Korean UMC
Reverend Yongrae Kim -coordinator
Ygnacio Valley Presbyterian Church
-Concord Paula Ash - Coordinator**

The Family Shelter

October 26, 2024

3 families - 8 guests

4 adults & 4 children

(9 to 15 years old)

From Judith Hall

Host Site Coordinator for Walnut Creek United Methodist Church

I appreciate all my co-host churches and my own church chefs, who brought sumptuous meals to WCUMC each night.

Watching Barb Erickson from St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception swing a long jump rope with the children jumping in and out while she sang songs from childhood was really sweet.

Two of our volunteers were from the Senior Food Bank, that meets at our church. They helped on two different nights. One of them also gave us gift bags of toiletries for the two mothers and a teenage daughter.

I spent some time hanging with the two younger boys and one volunteer in our play yard. I'd forgotten, and maybe taken for granted, how wonderful it is to swing for children. We finished off our hour of playing with hula-hoops, which the young boys weren't familiar with. But just watching them attempting to do the wiggle to keep the hoop up had me in stitches. And they were laughing along with me.

After we played with the two young boys we took them into the Children's Creation Chapel at WCUMC, where a church member had painted every wall as if it was the garden of Eden. They got to pick out a shell or a stone to keep. Those few hours were very special.



Happy Halloween from the Kids at the Family Shelter



Are they Ghosts? or Mummies?

Whatever they are, they tasted fantastic! Thank you WCUMC bakers.

The Safe Parking Program



October 26, 2024

The Safe Parking Program in Pittsburg

4 cars - 4 clients

The Safe Parking Program in Antioch

5 cars - 6 clients



HOUSED!

A client from SPP-Antioch is now housed. She moved into her new place the first week in October. We are so happy for her!



HOUSED!

A couple who had been at SPP-Pittsburg for about 4 months moved into their new place through a Rapid Rehousing program of the **Lao Foundation**. Thank you so much to the Lao Family and their generous work. And good luck to our new alumni!



Help with a Car Repair

Needing a costly car repair can be overwhelming to our clients in Safe Parking. Their car makes it possible to work, and it is their temporarily home.

We are happy to report that this month we could help a client at SPP-Pittsburg pay for his needed car repair and he's back on the road, moving forward.



Continued Success



Help with Back Rent for an Alumni Family

This month Winter Nights worked with Saint Vincent de Paul to assist an alumni family get caught up with some back rent. We were happy to have this mom and 2 kids stay housed! And special thanks to SVdP.



Winter Nights in The Community



Winter Nights was invited to speak at the **School-Based Mental Health Collaborative of the Contra Costa Office of Education**



Hello Collaborative Members!

Thank you so much for participating in last week's School-Based Mental Health Collaborative. The Wellness in Schools Program appreciates your attendance and contributions.

We extend a huge thank you to our presenters:

Carmella Kowall, Executive Director, Winter Nights Family Shelter
Kaitlyn Coughran, Volunteer & Training Manager, Contra Costa Crisis Center
and
Mike Callahan, Program Manager, and
Alexander Martinez, Program Coordinator, C.O.R.E.

Winter Nights Family Shelter

Winter Family Nights protects homeless families by providing shelter in clean, safe, and warm environments, and help them break the cycle of homelessness by assisting them toward self-sufficiency and into stable housing.

Please visit their website to learn more about their wrap-around services and personalized care they provide to families and the impact they are having.

The Dublin-San Ramon Women's Club

This energetic and generous group of women donated 30 sleeping bags and pillows for Family Shelter clients. Carmella Kowall, Winter Nights Executive Director, was pleased to receive them. Thank you so much!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Presentation to "Winter Nights" of the DSRWC contribution of 30 sleeping bags & 30 pillows for their organization



Winter Nights Community Fundraisers

Party With A Purpose Fundraiser

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection - Pleasant Hill

The totals are in! The Party With A Purpose Fundraiser raised \$16,828 for a 2nd van's operating costs.

Fantastic!

Very special thanks to Liz Tichenor, Rector; Janelle Towels, Event Coordinator; and the entire Resurrection Community and their guests for a wonderful evening and a spectacularly successful Party with a Purpose.



Pizza At Mountain Mikes Fundraiser

Monday, October 28th was the night to order pizza and support Winter Nights. Hanish Kumar, the owner of Mountain Mikes/Golf Rd., Pleasant Hill was terrific. He greeted WN customers warmly and enthusiastically. We appreciate his support and generosity.

I can report that when Dan Swander (Board of Directors) entered the shop he held the door for Decky Thornton, coordinator of St. Andrew's, and stood in line behind Teri Lundvall, our office manager. A real "meet & greet" moment.

Mountain Mikes is donating 30% of their sales for the day. We will report the final total when it is tallied.



2nd Annual Succulent-Topped Pumpkins Fundraiser



It's been busy! Over 200 pumpkins have been topped, distributed and donations have been pouring in. \$3,300 has been raised so far, but we do not have final numbers because we are still selling them.

This is your last chance to make a \$25 donation and take a pumpkin home for Thanksgiving. Email Teri in the Office at teri@cccwinternights.org or Ann at ann@cccwinternights.org

Photo is of pumpkins on display at Orinda Books. Thank you Pat Rudebusch!

MORE Help ▲ Families Home

Winter Nights Annual Appeal 2024 Has Begun!

You are such a critical part of the extraordinary team that makes Winter Nights possible.

Your support helps transform countless lives as homeless families and individuals work to find their way home.

In the next week or so, you will receive a letter or an email from us asking for your support.

Our goal is to raise **\$200,000** before December 31st.

"We, as a family, have worked very hard and have a new life ahead of us.

We don't know what we would have done without Winter Nights"

~ Mother and Father with one child

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 ONLINE](#)

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION?

Don't forget to check if your employer has a Matching Fund.

**Winter Nights is now using Double the Donation.
Check here to see if your employer will match your donation, and apply
online. Many companies also match donations from retirees.**

Employer Matching Donations have been received from:
Abbott Laboratories, Chevron, Genentech, Google, Levi Strauss,
Lawrence Livermore Labs, Nike, Sherwin Williams, Target, Wells Fargo

[Employer Match?](#)

Does your employer have a Volunteer Incentive Program?

Some employers offer grants to nonprofits when an employee volunteers on a regular basis. And some offer PTO to volunteers for charitable or community service activities.

Check here to see if your employer does.

[Volunteer Hours Incentive?](#)

**Whatever way you choose, for whatever amount,
*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

For questions or assistance please call the office 925-414-3883

Or email Winter Nights at info@cccwinternights.org

or the **CONTACT US** link below

[CONTACT US](#)

Wish List

*Gas cards, Wal-Mart cards, Target cards,
Twin-size fitted bottom sheets, pillows, sleeping bags, Lysol
spray, Lysol disinfecting wipes,
Diapers (size 2, 4 and 5) and baby wipes.*

➔ **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/>



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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