



The GOOD NEWS Letter

Celebrating the families, volunteers, donors, and staff of
WinterNightsFamilyShelter, Inc
DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY - 2025



Thank you for everything you do for the families and individuals
at Winter Nights and for the hope that you inspire in them every day.

MORE

Help ▲ Families Home

Our 2024 Annual Appeal has raised

\$170,082 to date

85% of our goal of \$200,000

Our deepest thanks to the **200+** donors who made this possible.

We are so grateful for your generosity and support.

Yes, it's true. We are about **\$30,000 short** of our goal,
If you haven't donated, now is a good time.

What ever way you choose, for whatever amount,
YOU are helping us serve more families and individuals.

OUT OF ALL THE WAYS TO SPEND
 TIME, YOU CHOSE TO SPEND IT
 WITH US. WHETHER IT WAS COOKING,
 CLEANING, OR WATCHING, YOU
 GRACIOUSLY SPENT YOUR TIME
 HERE WITH US. WE LOVED THE
 FOOD, WE LOVED TO SEE THE
 CARE YOU TOOK OF US, WE
 FELT SAFE BEING HERE. I
 ESPECIALLY ENJOYED OUR EVENING
 CONVERSATIONS AT THE TABLE.
 THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING
 YOU ARE ALL TRULY REMARKABLE
 PEOPLE!
 THE GOOD FAMILY

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

Family Shelter



Thank you to the congregations who were Host Sites in December and January,
 and all the volunteers who served at the Family Shelter
We only list sites after clients have moved on to protect their privacy and safety.



St. Stephen Catholic Church - Walnut Creek
 Carmella Kowall, Coordinator

Cohost Groups

St. Stephen Catholic Church: Chris Lang

Hillcrest Congregational Church- Pleasant Hill: Carolyn MacKenzie and Susan Lapat

Grace Episcopal Church: Christina Castle-Barber

Pledge to Humanity: Hannah Takata

Walnut Creek Area Neighbors & Newcomers: Susan Morrow

Lamorinda National Charity League: Molly McNamee

	<p>St. Paul's Episcopal Church- Walnut Creek Sue Phalen and Bill King, Coordinators</p> <p><i>St. Paul's served without cohosts</i></p>
	<p>St. Timothy's Episcopal Church -Danville Joann Oliver, Coordinator</p> <p>Cohost Groups Beth Chaim Congregation-Danville: Naomi Ehrlich, Coordinator</p>

Family Shelter



The Family Shelter

January 31, 2025

7 families - 16 guests

8 adults & 8 children

1 to 15 years old)

★	<p style="text-align: center;">Families were at St. Paul's Episcopal Church-Walnut Creek for Christmas, Hannukah and New Years.</p> <p>Christmas morning was made very special because of gifts given to families by St. Paul's Episcopal Church.</p>	★
★	<p>Pajamas and socks for all the families were given by the Walnut Creek Area Neighbors and Newcomers.</p> <p>Kerry from Christ the King Catholic Church-Pleasant Hill held a new coat drive for Shelter families and new coats were also given by Gina Harlow and her son Jack from Impact Diablo Valley.</p> <p>Huge thanks to everyone who made the holidays brighter for Shelter families.</p>	★
★	<p>One of the children in the Shelter celebrated his birthday in December. Brian, a volunteer from Cake4Kids, went above and beyond and made cupcakes for the birthday boy.</p>	★



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church-Danville along with our partners from Beth Chaim Congregation -Danville hosted the family shelter in January. The St. Timothy's Stitchers group made fun pillowcases to welcome the families and The Comfort Cubs provided Special Teddy Bears to anyone in need of a hug. These therapeutic, weighted Teddy Bears provide healing comfort for people of all ages. – Joann Oliver



Beth Chaim Congregation's week was great. The families were so appreciative and kind. Parents, despite their situation, were so patient with their children and the week went very smoothly. ~ Naomi Ehrlich



Beth Chaim Volunteers

The Safe Parking Program



January 31, 2025

The Safe Parking Program in Pittsburg

7 clients - 5 cars

The Safe Parking Program in Antioch

7 clients - 5 cars



Safe Parking - Pittsburg

Christmas was celebrated at Safe Parking-Pittsburg with the opportunity to stay in place from Christmas Eve through the morning after Christmas. We thank our host congregation for providing this respite as well as a large ham for dinner. Our thanks to staff member Denice for fixing a Christmas dinner for all. Antioch Clients were invited to join them. Scrumptious!



★	<p>HOUSED! One client moved in to his brother's house in Amador County, CA.</p>	★
★	<p>Safe Parking - Antioch Clients of Safe Parking in Antioch had a special treat sponsored by St. Ignatius Catholic Church. For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day St. Ignatius put our clients into hotels for 2 nights. They were also invited to Pittsburg SPP for Christmas dinner.</p>	★
★	<p>Clients of both Antioch and Pittsburg were invited to a New Year's dinner at the Antioch site. St. Ignatius volunteers, Brian, Vicky and Pat made a wonderful tri-tip dinner with scalloped potatoes, fresh green beans, fruit salad and rolls, with apple pie and peach pie for dessert.</p>	★



Continued Success

★	<p>Housing Assistance: A former client at our Pittsburg Safe Parking Program found that his first housing situation was not ideal. He needed to move. We assisted him with a deposit and first month's rent to secure much better housing. He is very grateful. And we are too.</p>	★
★	<p>Seven birthdays were celebrated by children in Continued Success. Thanks again to our friends at Cake4Kids for your time and talent!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div>	★



Alumni Children and Families Receive Amazing Holiday Generosity












At the beginning of December, a young man contacted Winter Nights about doing a toy drive for us:

I am a Junior at Miramonte High School in Orinda (Students ages 14-18), and am also the president of my school's Jewish Student Union. I collaborated with the Christian F.A.I.T.H club and Muslim Student Association, and the entire drive was student run. We also received support from staff on campus, such as our teachers who serve as club advisors, and the staff who run our Wellness Center. If you have any other questions, I would be happy to answer them. Additionally, I am hoping to make this a school tradition, so hopefully you will hear from me again next winter. Thank you so much for helping me arrange and coordinate this drive."
Noah

Thank you, Noah, and your work with interfaith groups at Miramonte. You all put smiles on a whole lot of little faces.



Teri Lundvall and Noah

	<p>Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for twenty Christmas boxes complete with fresh fruits and vegetables, canned and boxed food items and a turkey! What a huge blessing this was for so many Continued Success families!</p> 	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Paying it Back</p> <p>A Continued Success mom applied for a special donation to Winter Nights from Target, her employer. She presented us with \$500 in Target gift cards to help Continued Success children with Christmas. Woohoo!</p>	
	<p>The Magical Miwoks, a group of elementary school girls and their fathers, have adopted Continued Success children for the past few years at Christmas. This year they adopted six children and provided a spectacular Christmas for each of them. We are so thankful for the generosity of the Magical Miwoks</p>	
	<p>We were also contacted by a Girl Scout troop leader about adopting Continued Success children for Christmas. They adopted several last year and wanted to do it again this year. Troop #30632 of third grade brownies generously adopted another five children this year.</p> <p>“When some of the girls and their parents came to drop off the Christmas gifts, Jessica, the troop leader, asked me to tell them about Winter Nights. We all sat on the floor and I told them about our Family Shelter, our Safe Parking Programs as well as our Continued Success Program as well as showing them photos. The kids listened intently and raised their hands with questions.</p> <p>Afterwards, they asked more questions in addition to asking what they could do to help. Since then, they have contacted me about wanting to do a monthly dinner at the shelter along with a birthday celebration for anyone with a birthday that month. I will be reaching out to coordinators to find out if they have an evening available for the Girl Scouts to come.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">~Teri Lundvall, Continued Success manager</p>	



Brownie Troop #30632 and family members delivered gifts for five children of Continued Success families.



Christmas morning smiles

Thank you all!
Teri Lundvall – Continued Success

Winter Nights in The Community





Sandy Inouye from St. Ignatius Church again donated her handmade Afghans and quilts. 30 Afghans and 10 quilts.

And The New Destiny Church of Pittsburg held their annual blanket drive. They delivered 100 blankets to us.

Winter Nights was also the recipients of St. Ignatius Church's giving tree. We were given gift cards for Walmart, Target, ARCO, Shell, Visa, Taco Bell, Subway, Panera, JCPenney, Safeway, and Burlington Coat Factory.

Mission Church of Walnut Creek made care bags for their service day. They delivered 115 bags to the office. They had gloves, hats, blankets, hand warmers, socks, deodorant, and a handwritten note.

"115 bags" is not a typo! They were given to clients in Safe parking, and others were given to the Hillcrest Church's Clothing Closet. Carmella and Teri also carry some in their cars to give out when they see someone that might need it.



MORE

Helping ▲ Families Home

Annual Appeal 2024

You are the key to funding so many life-changing transformations.

Our goal is to raise \$200,000

We have about \$30,000 to go to meet the goal

This season it takes \$2000 per day to fund Winter Nights

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*"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*

**DONATE ONLINE**

**Make Your Gift Go Farther**  
with a matching donation from your employer.  
Check here to see if your employer will match your donation, and apply online.  
**Many companies also match donations from retirees.**

**Employer Match ?**

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

**Does your employer have a Volunteer Incentive Program?**  
Some employers offer grants to nonprofits where their employees volunteer on a regular basis. And some offer PTO to volunteer. Check here to see if your employer does.

**Volunteer Hours Incentive ?**



**Whatever way you choose, for whatever amount,  
YOU are helping us serve more families and individuals.**

**DONATE ONLINE**

**Checks can be written to:**

Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.  
404 Gregory Lane #7  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

For questions or assistance please call the office 925-414-3883  
Or email Winter Nights at the link below

**CONTACT US**



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| <p><b>Our Contact Information</b><br/>Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc. 404<br/>Gregory Lane #7<br/>Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 925-<br/>414-3883<br/><a href="http://www.cccwinternights.org">http://www.cccwinternights.org</a></p> <p><a href="#">Unsubscribe</a>   <a href="#">Manage email preferences</a></p> |  | <p>Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc is a 501(c)(3) public benefit nonprofit.<br/>Tax ID # 84-4775540</p> <p>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</p> |
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