

---

---

Tue, Jul 12, 2022 at 4:51 PM



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

JUNE - 2022



**Quick Note from the Good News Team-**

Apologies that the "monthly" news is so late for June. We have been in the midst of "life happens". A few cases of mild COVID for volunteers and staff, one surgery for knee-replacement, vacations, family visits and graduations. But here it is! Thanks for your patience.

Ann, et al.

**Season #18 at Winter Nights**

Summer is here, and the 18th season of Winter Nights Family Shelter has come to a bittersweet end.

I am grateful that we were able to support and assist 18 families over the 9 months/36 weeks that the **Family Shelter** was open. COVID continues to change the way we operate and how we see the changing world. But, these are not insurmountable challenges.

I am blessed to say that 3 Shelter families found affordable and sustainable housing. And I'm also happy to report that there are 3 more

families very close to finding housing. Winter Nights will continue to support these families in their quest to secure safe place to live.

The **Safe Parking Program** is open and full. It will continue to operate on a year-round schedule. And **Continued Success** had a busy June.

As you may know, toward the end of the year there were we lost some Staff Managers. Melissa Washburn, Program Manager, left to take a job that better fit the demands of working and raising a family, and Donna Zukauckas, SPP Manager, had to resign because of serious health issues.

Losing two key managers was tough but everyone pulled together and we have Good News:

**I want to introduce Schynell Justin.**

Schynell joined Winter Nights as our Program Director in June. She is responsible for the operation of the Family Shelter, Oasis, Safe Parking Program and Continued Success. She comes well prepared, with fresh ideas, a BA in Human Services and 25 years of experience working in the social service sector including case management. She has worked with various homeless programs and in the juvenile justice system. Schynell has a passion for helping others to succeed.

Let's welcome Schynell to the Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc. family



Schynell Justin  
Winter Nights' new Program Director

The work of Winter Nights now enters its 19th year of serving homeless families at the Family Shelter. We are proud of our expanded services to individuals and families living in their cars (Safe Parking Program) and staying in touch with our alumni to let them know that they are an ongoing part of the Winter Nights family (Continued Success).

Our work will never end as long as there is one homeless family and individuals living in their cars.

**Bill Shaw**  
Executive Director



**End of Year BBQ**  
**Celebrating Staff, Board and Volunteers**



On June 11th we celebrated and honored the Winter Nights staff, volunteers and board members with a BBQ at Pleasant Hill Park. It was a Winter Nights family affair with spouses and kids, too.

The day was an electrifying success. Office Manager, Teri Lundvall planned and organized this wonderful event. Teri and Stephanie prepped and did setup. Staff members Elijah and Randy took care of the grills. Yum.

The work of Winter Nights would not be the success that it is without the support and dedication of our staff, Board of Directors and the many, many congregations and community volunteers who dedicate their time and energy in supporting us.

Thank you all! ~ Bill



## Sheltering Families Season #18 Comes to an End

Once again, we want to thank the faith communities who hosted and cohosted the Family Shelter in June.

### St Andrew's Presbyterian Church - Pleasant Hill

Decky Thornton, Host site coordinator.

*Co-hosts:*

**First Congregational Church of Martinez**, Nancy Holbert, coordinator;

**Lafayette Christian Church**, Jan Warren, coordinator;

**First Presbyterian Church of Concord**, Mauren Stanczak, coordinator



St Andrew's Presbyterian Church - Pleasant Hill

### YOU ARE THE BEST!

This season 18 faith communities hosted the Family Shelter of Winter Nights and an additional 30+ congregations and community groups cohosted by bringing meals, having activities, helping with homework, cleaning and just being present.

You give generously and you are the hope and joy for so many parents and children at the Shelter. We love you ♥

Winter Nights' 19th Season begins October 3, 2022. See you then!

---

### Family Shelter



### End-of-Season Placements

The Family Shelter operates for 36 weeks each year, which means there is an "end-of-season". June 6th was the end of the 18th Season of Winter Nights Family Shelter. It will reopen in October 2022.

We are happy to report that 3 Shelter families found affordable and sustainable housing this month. We are also glad that 3 more families are very close to finding housing. Winter Nights will continue to support these families this summer in their quest to secure safe place to live.

---

### The Safe Parking Program



**The Safe Parking Program**  
11 cars - 14 participants  
2 adult couples and 10 individuals  
Wait-List of 3 cars \* One is a family

This month has been all about pulling together after losing Donna and welcoming Schynell. We have 11 cars and 14 people staying at SPP right now. Our max with COVID limits. Three more cars are on the waiting list, one being a family. We are really working to get this family into the program.

We are always looking ways to best help meet the needs of the clients and to help them meet their goals.

» Six of our clients currently searching for housing with our help, and another client is so proud of getting a job working in the city. Two clients have been given mental health referrals.

» We were able to assist everyone with gas cards this month due to the cost of gasoline and we helped one client get an ID from the DMV.

» One couple received help from Winter Nights to get caught up paying for their storage unit.

» For Father's Day I made cupcakes for everyone and we gave the fathers a rose. I BBQed for the clients a couple times this month which clients enjoyed and we are getting ready for the 4th of July.

» We also had a client who had to put their dog down due to old-age. They are so sad right now.

The cooling rags that you provided were awesome and the clients who got them really loved them . **We could use more for sure. thank you again .**

Thanks to everyone for keeping our SPP clients in your thoughts, and for all your support.

**Heather Aguilar**  
**Staff Supervisor, SPP**

**It's getting HOT out there.**

As Heather said in her note above, a simple kindness that we can offer to help clients living in their cars are "cooling" bandanas and towels. If you would like to help them too, we could use the items below.

*(I ordered from Amazon and had them sent directly to the Winter Nights office: [404 Gregory Lane, #7, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523](#)):*



**Cooling Neck Wraps**

about \$16 for 8 wraps or \$10 for 5



**Cooling Towel 4 Pack**  
*about \$12 for 4 towels*

---

### Continued Success



### Continued Success

June has been a busy (needy) month for Continued Success clients. Gas prices and the price of basic groceries are affecting everyone.

We gave out one gas card to a family. More people asked for them but, sadly, we were out of them. We gave grocery cards to two families. We helped another family with a month's rent to get them through a tough patch.

In the works:

We are working with a client to help her with move-in costs, another family with late rent, and a third family we are completing paperwork to refer him to the Hope Conference for new tires.

We have other clients that we are working with as well but their paperwork isn't quite as far along.

Thanks for all your support of our work to support alumni households.

**Teri Lundvall**  
**Office Manager**

---

### Community Support for Winter Nights



**A huge THANK YOU to Lafayette Community Foundation for naming Winter Nights as a 2022 Excellence Grants awardee!**

On June 28th Bill Shaw and Ann Lawrence attended the Lafayette Community Foundation's 2022 Excellence Grants ceremony for 35 amazing nonprofit recipients they are funding.

We were one of them!

We received \$5,000 to help fund the update and revision of our website to better reflect the expanded programs and services of Winter Nights and to make it a better portal for those in need to contact us for help.

Thank You, Lafayette Community Foundation.

LCF's mission is to connect generous donors with local nonprofits that enhance the civic, cultural, educational, and general wellbeing of Lafayette and surrounding communities.



We would also like to thank a friend and long time supporter, **Patty Battersby**, for letting us know about this funding opportunity. She knows how hard we work to fund the programs and how much the program means to the many families and individuals we serve. Thanks, Patty.

If you know of other grant/funding opportunities, please let us know.  
Donor Development: [ann@cccwinternights.org](mailto:ann@cccwinternights.org)

---

## **MORE** **Help ▲ Families Home**

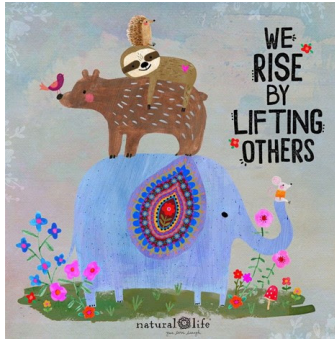
Helping homeless families and individuals is what we do. Every one is different, coming from different situations. We take the time to understand their journey, with a lot of incredible staff, volunteers and donors helping. - Bill Shaw

**By donating YOU are helping us serve more 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.

DONATE ONLINE

---



→ 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/>

CONTACT US



Winter Nights Video



#### Our Contact Information

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

925-414-3883  
<http://www.cccwinternights.org>

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.