



# The GOOD NEWS Letter

*Celebrating the families, volunteers and staff of*  
**Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc**

OCTOBER 2020

## Winter Nights “Re-Imagined” Begins November 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Ready. Set. Go.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Winter Nights Family Shelter will begin Season #17, “COVID-Style”.

This season will be 32 weeks long. Nov 2, 2020 through June 14, 2021. Fingers crossed.

There are now eight congregations ready to take four-weeks at a time as a shelter host site, as is required by the County. Thank you so much!

There are more than 40 congregations and community groups who have volunteered to purchase and deliver dinners to shelter host sites (prepared in commercial kitchens - restaurants, groceries, delis). They will also provide groceries and supplies for breakfast, lunch, and snacks. All is no-contact delivery. Additional congregations are raising money for the effort. Your help and support are so appreciated!

The Program Director is beginning the process of interviewing homeless families referred to the program.

The Shelter Program Manager is hiring shelter staff and putting the finish touches on plans, protocols, and supplies

County COVID-19 protocols will still not let Winter Nights admit ANY volunteers inside the shelter. We understand, but we will miss the energy and enthusiasm of our many volunteer friends, and all the tangible and intangible benefits you provide. We're very hopeful that we can welcome them everyone back next season.

In the meantime, wash your hands, wear your mask, social distance, get a flu shot, stay well, and stay in touch.



Community Impact Lab of San Leandro offered Gift Boxes for Babies First Year, and items for older siblings too. Over 100 mothers-to-be registered for this event, including Winter Nights.

Winter Nights' Continued Success program registered three alumni families who are expecting new babies.



**Look what our families received.  
Thank you, Community Impact Lab!**



## Celebrating the Service of Lee Cruise Winter Nights Scheduler (retired)

**Lee Cruise**, a long-time member of the Winter Nights family has retired. Lee served as the Shelter's scheduler for Winter Nights for 5 years, 2016 – 2020. Before that, she served as both a coordinator and volunteer for her congregation, Orinda Community Church. Lee is also an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ (retired). A busy and accomplished woman!

She enjoyed getting to know so many people and congregations through her work contacting each one and putting the schedule puzzle together each year, piece by piece.

Lee finished this year's schedule in the spring. Then everything changed. We took on the task of rescheduling the 2020-2021 season, COVID-style, without her. Many of us now more fully appreciate the work she has done for Winter Nights all these years.

However, for Lee, it was more than a volunteer job. It was part of her spiritual mission: the theology of serving the poorest of the poor. And you did, Lee, setting a fine example for us all.

Lee, we thank you for your service to Winter Nights; coordinating the 40+ congregations who make up one season's schedule, and most importantly, your service to homeless parents and children who are at the heart of all our efforts.

## Continued Success A Family's Covid Story

While reaching out to stay in touch, a mother of two told Program Manager, Teri Lundvall, that she had not felt well and went to get tested for COVID-19. (False alarm- it was negative. Yay!) While she did this, her employer took her off the work schedule completely, and did not reinstate her.

At the same time, her husband's work hours, at the same firm, were reduced to one day a week. What a terrible situation for a family of four.

We are glad to report that both parents have since found new jobs and are fully employed. But, while she was sheltered waiting for her test results and he was working one day a week and then both were looking for new jobs, the rent was due, and then overdue. Their landlord served them the California "3-day Notice to Pay Rent or Quit", the first step in the eviction process.

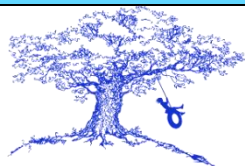
Well, that is what Continued Success is for: to help keep alumni families housed, rather than repeat the cycle of homelessness and returning them to housing.

After verifying the eviction notice, our Continued Success team went to work, and so did they. Mom and Dad contacted all the resources we gave them but were repeatedly told that the agency was out of funding. So, Winter Nights Continued Success offered to pay their back rent, and the current month's rent too giving them the breathing room they need.

They are so very, very grateful. When Mom came to pick up the rent check, with one of her sons, there were tears all around.



**THANK YOU! ♥ THANK YOU!**



**DANVILLE  
Children's Guild**  
- since 1977 -

Danville Children's Guild just announced that Winter Nights will be the beneficiary of their fall fundraising this year. We are so grateful for their support for homeless families and their confidence in the Winter Nights program to truly change lives.

Just like most charitable organizations, they are holding a virtual fundraiser ... with a goal of \$50,000.

Which means, from November 16-20, we can all participate to support Winter Nights.

Here is the Link:  
[SHOP Nov 16-20](#)

Remember to enter this code so 20% of your purchase will benefit Winter Nights Family Shelter.



**DCG2020**

**OPEN YOUR HEARTS**

DANVILLE  
Children's Guild  
since 1977

**TO OPEN UP HOMES**

In lieu of our annual Fall fashion show and luncheon, please join us for a virtual fundraiser supporting Winter Nights Family Shelter. Your support will help provide temporary housing and transition opportunities for homeless families in Contra Costa County.

*Save the Date!*  
**NOVEMBER 16-20, 2020**

**GIVE**   **shop**

**WINTER NIGHTS**  
Family Shelter

DANVILLECHILDRENS  
GUILD.COM

**JEWELRY  
DRAWING**

**5 DAY  
ONLINE  
VENDOR  
FAIR**

**100+ Women Who Care  
of Contra Costa County**

**\$8,000 donation**



Winter Nights was the recipient of the 100+ Women Who Care of Contra Costa County's fall donation to a local nonprofit. Each of 80 members will be donating \$100 each to Winter Nights. Their cumulative \$8,000 donation is so appreciated.

These wonderful women will be helping to shelter, feed and provide vital services to help families to return to housing this season.

## **Bill's Mens Shop**

**A Donation of New Men's Clothing  
What a generous surprise.**

Winter Nights was contacted by Bill's Mens Shop in Berkeley. After being in business 60 years, long time owners Marty and Judy Berg were retiring. They asked if we were interested in a donation of new men's clothing from their store.

Our quick answer was, YES!  
So, in early October they delivered a variety of items that will be given to the men and teens in the program.



## Continued Success

A Winter Nights program for alumni families, to just stay in touch and offer encouragement, suggestions, and resources, if needed, to keep them housed.

### It's time for some really Good News, don't you think?

We would like to share the bright faces of a family who was in last season's program. Dad, mom and their five children found housing by renting at an RV park. They just purchased their own RV and wanted to share the Good News. They asked us to share these photos and their prayers for all the families, volunteers and supporters of Winter Nights. A joyful family of deep faith.



This bubbly young lady and her mother were also guests of the shelter last year. Mom sent the photos to stay in touch. All we can say is "My, My. How you've grown."



### Offering Hope, One Winter Night at a time.

Your support helps rebuild the lives of so many families. Thank you.

Checks can be made out to

**Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc**

and sent to: **Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc · 404 Gregory Lane, #7 · Pleasant Hill, CA · 94523**

Online donations can be made through this link → [DONATE](#)

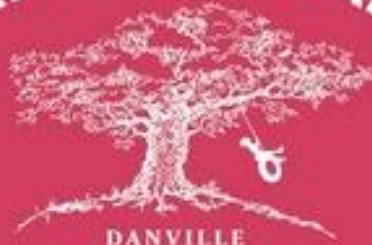
**Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc** is a 501(c)(3) public benefit nonprofit corporation • Tax ID # 84-4775540

Donations are tax deductible, 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.

Web: [www.cccwinternights.org](http://www.cccwinternights.org) Contact: [info@cccwinternights.org](mailto:info@cccwinternights.org)

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