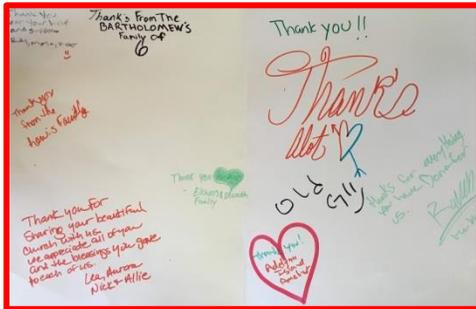




# The **GOOD NEWS** Letter

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

May 2019



## Words to Everyone from Winter Nights families:

*Father and mother of five:* Our future is Bright! I have a lot of love I haven't felt in a long time, and it's coming from strangers. Now all the puzzle pieces are coming together. Everyone's intentions here are to move you forward. If you need help, there's a volunteer ready to help.

*A father of four plus a newborn:* I had an old resume. Jim helped to combine it with my experience since then. He helped make it into a great resume. I've gotten lots of interviews and I have a job that I start next week.

*Mother of two, plus her mother:* The tutoring is great because it's the same volunteers on the same weeknights, and they personalize the techniques. My son is on the spectrum and has PDD, and had an autism diagnosis when he was four. I will keep helping my son. I want to make you all proud. He takes pride in his schoolwork now and has confidence.

*A mother of two:* I called 211, then talked to Bill and came to Winter Nights. I didn't have time or space to work on my problems, but Winter Nights gave me that. I want the people here to know how much they helped me. The life coach was one of the biggest benefits for me. I didn't have confidence in myself, and that gave me my confidence back. I recognize all of what has been given to me and want them to know how much I appreciate it.

*Single mother of a newborn:* The people at Winter Nights are welcoming, loving and friendly - you guys are really concerned about us. Sometimes some people just want somebody to care.



<< Decky Thornton from St Andrew's Presbyterian plus Myung Lee and Sunhee Lee, superb volunteer chefs from the Hamona Korean Church

## It's the last few weeks of the 2018/2019 season at Winter Nights

The WN shelter began its last full month of the season with 7 families; 32 clients; 12 adults and 20 children (*4 of whom are babies born this season*). With only weeks to go, families were given exit dates so they could finalize housing plans before the shelter closed for the season in June. ∞ As families set off for new homes, two new families entered: A father and daughter through the Mt Diablo School District's program, Homeless Outreach Program for Education (HOPE) and a couple from our PLP program who is expecting their first child in a few weeks. Baby #6?

- A mother and her toddler will be sharing an apartment with her sister who has moved to the area.
- A mother and her newborn have rented an in-law unit in Vacaville
- A family of three will be renting from a relative now that both parents have jobs.
- A family of four has signed a rental agreement and is ready to go.
- Mom, Dan and their five children have applied for a brand-new unit of subsidized housing in Vacaville.
- Another family of seven now has an RV to live in, and has rented a spot in an RV Park.



*"Good Morning Bill!  
Wanted to send you a huge hug and say "Thanks!"  
for all your love and support for our Family ♡♡♡!!!"*

## Basketball Night - Wolfpack players scrimmage at Winter Nights

In April, the Wolfpack basketball team, that meets at The ARC sports center at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, organized an evening of basketball with the kids from Winter Nights.

A dozen Wolfpack players, ages 9-13, brought tee-shirts for all, and an infectious energy and style. Cindy Stern (coach and Wolfpack President) along with Melisa Argyres (coach) were there to organize shooting games like free throw knock out, but most of the time they played full court scrimmages. The teams were a blend of Wolfpack and Winter Nights players, boys and girls, and rotated players with each new game.

Cindy said her favorite moment was hearing a twelve-year-old boy and Wolfpack player say to a young girl who was hesitant to get on the court "Do you want to play on our team?" Cindy added "I loved seeing the smiles on the faces of all the kids!"

Our thanks to the Wolfpack team and coaches for putting those smiles on all the faces.



### Winter Nights' PARKING LOT PROGRAM January 2, 2019 – April 29, 2019

The Parking Lot Program (PLP) came to an end April 29<sup>th</sup>. After last year's pilot, the PLP was a full 4-month program this year to better meet the ongoing and growing needs of those living in their cars.

The PLP serves this homeless population that is very often overlooked. These are the invisible, working homeless. They look like "you-and-me", and are quiet about their situation so as not to bring attention to it. The kids go to school daily, and parents fear losing their children to Social Services. It was a blessing to be able to help.

We were able to resolve several situations for our participants. They were able to sleep in a safe and secure environment. They had daily access to restrooms and showers. This allowed the participants to have energy, stamina and focus to be productive the next day.

Participants were both individuals and families from throughout Contra Costa County: Antioch, Bay Point, Brentwood, Oakley, Concord, Hercules, Pleasant Hill,

Pittsburg, Walnut Creek, and from other counties as well.

For 4 months the PLP was a refuge for over 30 people; 8 individuals & couples, and 5 families with a total of 20 children. This year, due to the graciousness of the shelter program's congregations, we were able to supply hot meals to the participants on most nights, in addition to breakfast.

We offered case management to the participants if they were interested. One adult was referred and accepted by Homeless Courts for traffic tickets. Several of the clients took advantage of our Oasis day center and showers. Winter Nights was able to move 3 families into the shelter when space became available, and help 1 family and 1 individual find housing. Another family and a couple stayed in the program until they were able to move out-of-state for housing.

We look forward to being able to offer a Parking Lot Program again next season.

In addition to the generosity of Winter Nights' faith community hosts and cohosts, it takes \$952 a night in donations to fund the program

If you would like to support Winter Nights with a donation of any amount, checks can be made out to **Winter Nights** (with **One Winter Night** in the memo) & sent to:  
Winter Nights Family Shelter, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Online donations can be made at <https://cccwinternights.org/contribute/one-winter-night/>

Winter Nights Family Shelter is a program of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County (ICCC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Tax ID # 94-1693225 Donations are tax deductible, and no goods or services are provided in exchange for a donation.