



The **GOOD NEWS** Letter

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

January 2020

The 8-Week Pilot is over ~ Thank You, Volunteers!

A very special “Thank You” goes to all the congregations and volunteers who joined together to make the 8-week pilot at East County Shared Ministry (ECSM) a great success. In January and February, Winter Nights stayed at ECSM for 8 weeks, instead of moving every 2 weeks. One shelter site and 11 cohost congregations! Over 600 volunteers!

Being part of a pilot program means being in uncharted waters, and you were amazing.

Thank you for your caring and support of the families and staff. Thank you for incredible meals and special activities. Thanks for being flexible, generous, helpful, funny, considerate, energetic, humorous, nice, focused, pro-active, sincere, thoughtful ... How many adjectives can we come up with to describe 8 wonderful weeks?

You are the best!

East County Shared Ministries

Brentwood United Methodist Church

The Bay Church - Concord

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Antioch

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Concord

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Walnut Creek

Clayton Valley Presbyterian

First Christian Church of Concord

Grace Episcopal Church - Martinez

Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church - Antioch

St Anna’s Episcopal -Antioch

St Ignatius Catholic Church - Antioch

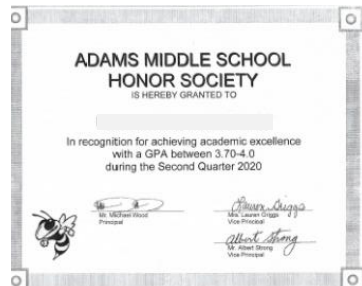


Our thanks to **The Bay Church of Concord** for bringing their portable shower trailer to ECSM every Sunday during the 8-week stay. Families used the Oasis day center’s showers during the week, and had hot showers available on Sundays too, thanks to friends at The Bay Church.



Academic All-Stars

A mother and father are very proud of their two children who have both been doing wonderful work at school while at the shelter. Their son received an academic award for his 2nd Quarter **GPA of 3.7-4.0**, and their daughter wrote a multi-page essay on “Modern Cars” that received a top grade.



Modern Cars

Have you ever wondered who invented the car, what it does to impact the environment, and how have changed throughout the years? I questioned myself about that alot and I read four different articles that answered my questions. The articles I read are known as source one, source two, source three, and source four. As you read you will find how automobiles got their start, How have automobiles changed through the years, and How have they impacted the environment.

**Congratulations “N” and “A”
and Mom and Dad!**

The Ultimate Game Truck visits Winter Nights



Excitement rolled into Winter Nights in the form of **The Ultimate Game Truck**. Special thanks to Taun Hall and **The Miles Hall Foundation** who arranged for the magic. (Check out their Facebook page.) It’s hard to describe the energy the game truck generated. It accommodates 24 players inside, and flat screens open-up on the exterior for more players. Did anyone take pictures? Jen and Miguel own the business and have asked if they can visit monthly and bring **The Ultimate Game Truck** as their gift to the families of Winter Nights. Of course you can!

Housing Update – One family housed and Five on their way

Great news to share: One family has moved into housing and there are five more families in the queue. A mother, father and their daughter are all moved in. Support from Walnut Creek United Methodist's program, **Extended Family** and the **Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition** provided furnishings. They are so happy. Another five families are just waiting for arrangements to be made by the agencies who have offered them housing. A mother with 3 children, a mother with 4 children, a mother with 2 children, a husband and wife with 2 children, and a husband and wife with 4 children are all very close to being in homes of their own.

Clothing Bazaar at East County Shared Ministries

ECSM's Bountiful Table ministry held a special clothing bazaar for Winter Nights families. Everyone went shopping. It was so fun. One little guy got a pair of cowboy boots for himself, and now won't take them off. 😊 Thank you, Bill Dexheimer and crew!



Super Bowl Sunday Fan Feast



Families always get excited with a good party and great food. Most Holy Rosary's Knights of Columbus and a team of volunteers outdid themselves. Chef Robert Velazquez led the way. Snacks of mini pizzas and 7-layer dips were followed by a meal of tri-tip, meatballs, mac-and-cheese, tater-tot skewers, and shrimp and avocado salad. Did we mention the cake? The only thing that would have made the evening more spectacular was if the Niners had won.

Rocking the Village

Sometimes it takes a while for a family to get traction after living in a car with their children. One of the gifts Winter Nights offers to them is time. Time to settle in, time to heal, time to be heard, time to build trust. That is the case for a mother of 2 who, with special attention from the staff, is blossoming. She is really focused and determined now. She has set her goals and identified the steps to meet them. She is amazing everyone as she clicks down that list, accomplishing what she needs to do to apply for housing. Everyone at the shelter recognizes her hard work and is cheering her on.

Winter Nights Family Shelter

is currently serving

8 families * 33 guests * 12 adults & 21 children

9 girls, 12 boys: 12 weeks to 17 years old

Winter Night's Parking Lot Program

The PLP is currently serving

3 individuals & 1 couple, ages 73 – mid-40's

A family of 6 (4 children) at the PLP last month

is now at the shelter.



Winter Nights Family Shelter has a Facebook Page

Click here to visit us at

[Winter Nights Family Shelter in Contra Costa County](#)

Like Us, Friend Us, Share Us

Offering hope, One Winter Night at a time.

One Winter Night costs \$1256.

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, 404 Gregory Lane #1, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

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 (ICCCC)**, 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.