



# The **GOOD NEWS** Letter

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

MAY 2020



## ***Winter Nights– Adapting in Real Time An Update***

If you have been following Winter Nights and the coronavirus adventure, you know that plans went out the window March 16, when we began to operate as a *sheltered-in-place* shelter. Volunteers were not allowed in the shelter, families were not to leave during the day, and staff was present 24/7. The staff, volunteers and families have been flexible and inventive. Meals were purchased from local restaurants as take out and delivered “no-contact” style. Activities were delivered by donors, shelter alumni and volunteers. Nothing like a pandemic to bring out the best in us all.

### **Here’s where we are today:**

**The Shelter**, housed at congregations, closed May 4<sup>th</sup>, with two families still waiting for housing. Those families, both mothers with 2 children are now living in motel rooms with kitchenettes provided by Winter Nights.



Gift cards for groceries are being provided, and client services continue with frequent visits from staff and managers.

**An update from today:** One of the families sheltered in a motel has been accepted into a county program called Hotel Placement for Homeless Patients, Project Room Key, because of

her cancer has left her immunocompromised. She and her children will receive county-provided motel shelter, starting Monday. This is so exciting. We all hope that the housing she is in line for will be available soon. Wonderful!

**The Parking Lot Program** was extended by a month, through the end of May, to help those living in their cars. It was also expanded to a “round-the-clock” program, allowing clients to remain parked at East County Shared Ministries throughout the day with access to restrooms. With parks and small businesses closed, access to restrooms is a problem. Program managers and staff continue to provide support and client services, trying to help in any way we can. **The Oasis day center** is also available for showering three days a week.

**Families who moved into housing in the past 6-8 weeks** are settling in and setting up their new places with furniture and lamps, towels and linens, plates and cups, pots and pans. The Executive Team members and staff are helping to fill in the final items needed. Welcome Home!



**Our 2019/2020 season will end June 15<sup>th</sup>.** We hope both families will be housed and our Parking Lot clients will be on better footing by then. We will let you know in June.

## Following up with Winter Nights' Clients who now have Housing



**Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who make it possible to change lives.** Oasis manager, Teri Lundvall, has been reaching out to clients who are now housed, from both the Shelter and the Parking Lot Program. She was just checking in to see how they are doing. The response is heartwarming.

From the PLP:

Mother with a daughter: *Thank you very much. I actually miss you guys. You have made an impact on me in the short time I've known you I am more driven than ever to find a way out of this. Bill....you rock!!! Your energy is uplifting. Just seeing how driven you are made me realize that when I get settled, I want to work with helping the homeless myself.*

*Stephanie, Terri, Jade, Anthony, and Jasmine (Did I get her name right, we met once, and she is a sweetheart. If I didn't, please forgive me) - all of you are caring and have a way of talking TO people and not AT people, this is a great quality to have.*

*I appreciate our talks more than you can imagine. Please stay safe. Maybe I can pop by and see you all some time or even work alongside you one day. God Bless you always and much Aloha*



From the Shelter:

Mother with 4 children: **Winter Nights is like the Hilton of the homeless world. I appreciate everything you all did for us. You guys were amazing and me and my kids really truly appreciate all you did for us. The youngest is potty trained, teenage son is able to hang out with his friends again and skate whenever. I just gotta take it day by day.**



Mother & Father, 2 young children: **I appreciate all the things that Winter Nights has done for my family because without you guys my kids wouldn't have a place to call their own. To see my kids light up every time they walkthrough those doors or when our 2-year old recognizes when we're close to home puts me in a way better mood. ❤️ Thank you so much for checking in on us, we really appreciate it**



Mother & Father, 4 children: **Hi Teri!!!! Oh my goodness, we miss you all so much! You all are constantly in our thoughts & prayers. I cannot even begin to tell you all how much you guys have helped change our lives. All in all, we're all doing fantastic & are thankful for this second shot in life.**

**The biggest thing about being on our own now is definitely taking ownership of all of the responsibilities that we have & take what we learned from our previous hardships & applying our newfound techniques from Winter Nights for bettering ourselves.**

**"We pray that it will be a program that lives on forever & continues to bless others the way it did for us"**

### From the Parking Lot Program Sheltered-In-Place



Breakfast



Trying to beat-the-heat

### Birthdays and Graduations Sheltered-In-Place



Congratulations - #18 and Class of 2020 !!!



## We Are In This Together

Long before anyone had ever heard of COVID-19, Winter Nights received a generous donation of disinfecting wipes from Clorox.

When the virus locked everything down, we heard that Trinity Center, a program for homeless and working poor men and women in Walnut Creek, needed disinfecting wipes for their day program.

Bill Shaw, Program Director (on the right), took time to share our abundant supply with Trinity Center, in two socially distanced deliveries in April. Scott Garvey from Trinity is on the left.

Bill also took disinfecting wipes to Saint Vincent de Paul in Pittsburgh and the GRIP homeless shelter in Richmond.

## Time to Celebrate YOU!

**Generous Donors** who joined with so many **Individuals** to support Winter Nights' families as they sheltered-in-place



San Ramon Valley  
United Methodist  
Church



lafayettejuniors



LESHER  
FOUNDATION



United Way  
Bay Area



sunlight  
giving

Clayton Valley  
Sunrise Rotary



Rossmore  
Rotary  
Foundation

St. Isidore  
CATHOLIC CHURCH, Danville

**Winter Nights Family Shelter**  
is currently serving  
**2 families \* 6 guests \* 2 adults & 4 children**  
*2 girls and 2 boys: 11 - 18 years old*  
*housed in motels*

**Winter Night's Parking Lot Program**  
is currently serving  
**5 clients in 4 cars**  
Single mother and her son *and* 3 single adults

Thank you for keeping us  
warm + safe, and all the  
fun activities, you are all  
wonderful people.  
Anne, you bring sunshine  
with that wonderful smile  
and warm hugs.  
Saturday + Sunday Breakfast  
are the greatest.  
Bless you all  
Juliey + Alley

**Control-Click HERE**  
**for our Facebook page**  
**with WN Video ↓**

**Winter Nights Family Shelter in**  
**Contra Costa County**



THANK YOU  
Ashlinn  
Thank you for <sup>feeding me &</sup> me and my  
son allowing us to stay  
here Thank you for us  
To have some where to  
sleep Bertha & Onasi

If you would like to support Winter Nights with a donation of any amount, checks can be made out to  
**Winter Nights Family Shelter** and sent to:

**Winter Nights Family Shelter, 404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**

Online donations can be made at this link: <https://cccwinternights.org/contribute/>

**Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc** is a public benefit 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Tax ID # 84-4775540 Donations are tax deductible, and no goods or services are provided in exchange for a donation.