



The **GOOD NEWS** Letter

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

JUNE 2020

The 16th Season of the Winter Nights Family Shelter Has Ended

What a road we traveled this year. So many twists and turns. Thank you for going with us and being part of it. There were two babies born, an Alumni Reunion, Power Shut-Offs, celebrations of birthdays, graduations, school awards, holidays, the Super Bowl, families moving into new homes, and of course Sheltering-in-Place for COVID-19 starting in March.

We added four weeks to the Shelter program, starting the season September 9th, and an additional 4 weeks to the Parking Lot Program, January through May. We piloted an 8-week stay at one congregation in January and February, not knowing COVID-19 was coming and extended stays would become the norm. Two congregations offered the shelter families COVID-19 extended stays.

We always knew Winter Nights was flexible, nimble and resilient. But COVID-19 really tested this. Everyone had a true “can-do” attitude. Inventing, adapting and adjusting became the norm. Volunteers stepped up to do what needed to be done, without entering the shelter, like delivering groceries and arranging take-out dinners. Clients did cleaning and meal prep that volunteers would have done. Winter Night’s staff worked around the clock with focus and compassion. **The best news:** The staff, shelter families and PLP clients stayed healthy and virus free.



Winter Nights Family Shelter served 15 families this season

53 clients, 30 children (57%) and 23 adults (43%)

The children ranged in age from newborns (two of them) to 17 years old.

27% of the children were 5-years old and under (15% of all clients)

8 families secured housing (33 clients, 14 adults, 19 children)

2 families have housing promised when the Housing Authority re-opens (2 adults, 4 children)

2 families are being housed in motels. One has housing promised and the other is still working to find housing.
(2 adults, 4 children)

3 families left on their own and we just don’t know

2 families were asked to leave for non-compliance with the shelter’s rules. It happens.



The average stay of a family was **150 days**.

There were **7 single-parent families** (1 father, 6 mothers and 15 children)

There were **8 two-parent families** (15 children)

If you take each family and their size, and the number of nights the family was at the shelter

Winter Nights provided 1567 shelter-nights for families.

An incredible season ...

September 9, 2019
16th season of Winter Nights begins
Four weeks added to this season



OCTOBER
* First Alumni Reunion of former Winter Night's clients
* 3-day PG&E planned power outage at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church



NOVEMBER
* Two baby girls born to families in the shelter.
* Wonderful Thanksgiving dinner at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection



DECEMBER
* A great Christmas at Temple Isaiah
* Visit from Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, State Assemblymember, 16th District



JANUARY
* 8-week stay at East County Shared Ministry begins
* The Bay Church brings its shower truck every Sunday in Jan/Feb
* Car donated to Winter Nights family
* **Parking Lot Program** begins for families and adults living in their cars.



FEBRUARY
* Most Holy Rosary's Knights of Columbus's Super Bowl Party
* The Ultimate Game Truck came for a day of games
* The Bay Church brings its shower truck to ECSM on weekends

MARCH
* Pottery Projects with Danielle John are a hit!
* **March 16th - Shelter-in-Place order**

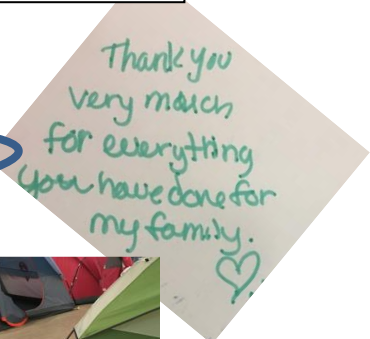


APRIL
* Winter Nights remains open as a shelter-in-place program.
* Parking Lot Program hours extended to round-the-clock, with access to Oasis for showers 3-times a week.

MAY
* **Parking Lot Program** extended through the end of May
* **Shelter** closes May 4. The program continues as the 3 remaining families are given motel rooms with kitchenettes gift cards for groceries and gas, and regular staff visits.



I ♥ ART



JUNE
* **Season 16 ended June 15, 2020**
* Three families remained housed in motels through county programs
* **Winter Nights' new Continued Success program begins to keep in touch with newly housed families.**



The 2019/2020 season: A Very Different Year! Thank you! Thank you!

There are many, many people to thank for making this 2019/2020 season so successful, and under very interesting circumstances.

We are so grateful for the hosts, co-hosts, volunteers, foundations, individuals, organizations, and businesses that contributed to this unusual Winter Nights' season. Your help enabled us to continue to care for clients at a difficult time. We also know that after the shelter-in-place protocols were in place volunteers truly missed the hands-on part of serving. But we were so thankful and encouraged by the many ways you did serve – at a distance. Thank you.

In the end, both the Shelter and the Parking Lot Program came through for families and individuals. Eight Shelter families found housing (53%) and two more are waiting for promised housing (total of 67%).

The PLP helped 19 clients, in 12 cars. One family came into the Shelter program and was housed, two individuals found rooms to rent, and one individual found placement in a long-term Safe Parking Program in Alameda.

We want to thank the many providers who offered their own special touch. Thanks especially to the Contra Costa County Health, Housing & Homeless Services' Coordinated Entry program and to Hope Solutions for housing options for our clients, to Extended Family of WCUMC for furnishing the new homes of Winter Nights' families and St. Vincent de Paul for hosting our Oasis day program.

Judy Stillman,
Executive Director,
Winter Nights Family Shelter



♥ Our Faith Community Partners ♥

These Faith Communities are at the heart of Winter Nights. Their generous donation of their facilities, time and talent is at the core of the Winter Night's mission to provide shelter, meals and services to homeless families with children as they work toward stable, affordable housing. We can't thank them enough!

Brentwood United Methodist Church
Christ the King Catholic Church - Pleasant Hill
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Antioch Stake
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Concord Stake
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Danville Stake
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Walnut Creek Stake
Church of Santa Maria, Catholic- Orinda
Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church
Concord International Seventh-day Adventist Church
Concord United Methodist Church
Congregation Beth Chaim - Danville
Danville Congregational Church
East County Shared Ministry (8-week pilot)
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection - Pleasant Hill
First Baptist Church - Pittsburg
First Christian Church of Concord
First Congregational Church of Martinez
First Presbyterian Church - Concord
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Concord
Grace Episcopal Church - Martinez
Hillcrest Congregational Church - Pleasant Hill
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church - Orinda
Lafayette Christian Church
Lafayette United Methodist Church
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church - Antioch
Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church - Walnut Creek (4 weeks – SIP 24/7)
Orinda Community Church
Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Lafayette
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - Pleasant Hill
St. Anna's Episcopal Church -Antioch
St. Anselm's Episcopal Church - Lafayette
St. Bonaventure's Catholic Church - Concord
St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church
St. Isidore Catholic Church - Danville
St. John Vianney Catholic Church - Walnut Creek
St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception - Walnut Creek
St. Matthew Lutheran Church - Walnut Creek
St. Paul's Episcopal Church – Walnut Creek
St. Perpetua's Catholic Church - Lafayette
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Orinda
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church - Danville
Temple Isaiah of Lafayette
The Bay Church - Concord
Walnut Creek Friends Church
Walnut Creek United Methodist Church (2 weeks – SIP 24/7)
Ygnacio Valley Presbyterian Church – Concord

Introducing The *Continued Success* Program

The staff and volunteers of the Winter Nights Family Shelter are always excited to see families work hard and succeed in regaining sustainable housing. Both clients and staff put an enormous amount of effort into this journey back to a stable family life with a home of their own,

However, over the years we have seen how easily it can come off the rails. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic this is especially true. Job loss, illness, childcare or transportation issues can easily conspire to put a family back into homelessness. Yet, there are often simple interventions to avoid this.

Winter Nights is excited to announce a new program, **Continued Success**, for families after they have left the shelter. We want to provide simple follow-up to see how they are doing, to listen and share in their continued success, or to offer encouragement, direction and perhaps resources to head off potential problems that might cause them to lose their housing again. It is certainly easier to keep our alumni families housed, than to get them back into housing.

We will keep you posted.



One of our Faith-Community partners just told us something we didn't know, and want to share:

For 2020, the **CARES Act** allows for up to a **\$300** deduction on your federal income taxes for **charitable** gifts made to 501(c)(3) nonprofits **over and above the standard deduction** if you do not itemize. Married/Filing-jointly taxpayers can claim a deduction of up to **\$600**.

The **CARES Act** allows those who do itemize in 2020 to deduct contributions to 501(c)(3) nonprofits up to **100% of their Adjusted Gross Income**.

Contributions must be made in cash, not tangible goods, stock, or other non-cash types of property. Check it out with your tax advisor.



Winter Nights has produced a short video celebrating the shelter's spirit of working with families on their path forward to housing

Click Here:

[Winter Nights Family Shelter VIDEO](#)



Click here to visit us on Facebook

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

Like Us, Friend Us, Share Us

Offering hope, One Winter Night at a time.

If you would like to support Winter Nights with a donation of any amount, 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 at <https://ccwinternights.org/contribute/>

Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc is a 501(c)(3) public benefit nonprofit.

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

