



The **GOOD NEWS** Letter

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

MAY 2021



Lots of News from Winter Nights

The Winter Nights Family Shelter will end its 17th season on June 14th.

We are at our final host site and staff is working hard with each family to find appropriate and affordable housing.

(And, sorry this issue of Good News is so late)



♥ Great News ♥

Remember this little cutie on her 2nd birthday in February? Mom's hard work and persistence have paid off for her two young daughters. They found their own apartment and will be moving in on May 29th.

Walnut Creek Extended Family is supporting their new home with furniture and dishes. Winter Nights is helping with linens, cleaning items and games and books for the girls.

Thank you to WN staff who worked alongside them to make this possible.

The Safe Parking Program – One more Month

The Safe Parking program has (again) been extended by a month and is now scheduled to end May 31. We started with four months of operation and have now extended it again. Thankyou Church of the Nazarene, Pittsburg! This such a valuable program for so many people (and pets) living in their cars.



Continued Success



♥ A New Baby Boy ♥



In late April, Marjanae, a Continued Success client, gave birth to a healthy baby boy weighing in at 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measuring 19". Little Wallace Neal Jr. is named after his father, who passed away unexpectedly just a few months ago. Everyone, including his 2 older sisters are doing well.

With a generous donation from St. Perpetua, we were able to provide Marjanae a brand-new car seat for Walliie. Continued Success provided a new diaper bag and Target gift cards to purchase diapers.

Thank you for your continued support of families like the Neals. The connection, encouragement, and resources you help to provide make their continued success possible.





Sending (late) Mother's Day best wishes to the HUNDREDS of mothers who have been part of the Winter Nights Family Shelter program. We hope you had a special day with your family and we wish you Continued Success. Always.

And more (belated) Mother's Day best wishes to the THOUSANDS of moms who have volunteered at the shelter over the past 17 years. You are at the heart of our mission to serve others as we would hope to be served.

Big Hugs from Winter Nights.



Last month, at Walnut Creek Friends Church, clients enjoyed a wonderful meal from Café Oasis in Concord. Well, it was so terrific that Café Oasis and Chef Mike will be catering dinner two more times this month. We have Anne Brown to thank for recommending one of her favorite eating spots.



Drive-In for Youth - Movie Night Youth Homes, a local nonprofit supporting current and former foster care youths and their families, held a fundraiser Friday night, May 21 at the Solano Drive-In in Concord. Youth Homes offered Winter Nights free tickets to the event, and several families took advantage of their generosity. The movie? Spider-man: Into the Spider-verse. Goodie bags were given to each family and everyone had a blast. What fun! Thank you, Youth Homes, for reaching out and making Friday night so special for our families.

Sheltering Families

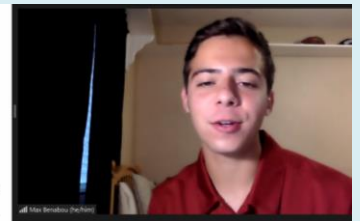


A big thanks to everyone at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** for hosting Winter Nights for 4 weeks, from mid-April to mid-May. Sue Phalen was the host site coordinator.

Two other faith communities provided meals and support. Hillcrest Community Church of Pleasant Hill, Angie Beal coordinator, and for two weeks Temple Isaiah of Lafayette, Anita Weil and Jason Katz.

Thanks also to the Trinity Center for the use of their showers!

A Generous Gift of \$4,000 from The Hamsa Fund



The Hamsa Fund, of the Contra Costa Midrash, is a very special organization for Jewish teens from all over the East Bay. It offers them the opportunity to learn how nonprofits work, how to fundraise, and finally how to serve as a philanthropic board to evaluate nonprofits for grants with the money they raised. Inspired by the text from Deuteronomy “Rather, you shall open your hand to him, and you shall lend him sufficient for his needs, which he is lacking”, they get true, hands-on experience making a difference in their communities.

This year, their mission was to fund nonprofits contributing to “Healthy Homes”.

Winter Nights is honored to be one of five nonprofits selected. At least a dozen Hamsa Fund teen leaders invited the nonprofits to be part of their award ceremony (Covid-style) on May 23. Judy Stillman, Teri Lundval and Ann Lawrence attended. Max Benabou, pictured above, announced a gift of **\$4,000** to Winter Nights for the Continued Success program. To the incredible teens of Hamsa, your hard work and generosity is a valued gift to your community and our alumni families. They will be better able to keep their homes with the funds you awarded us for rental assistance and car repair. **Toda raba.**



On a Saturday this month, Bill Shaw and Teri Lundvall drove to Isleton, about halfway to Sacramento, with a surprise for the Dollette family: two donated bicycles. (The family of mom, dad and five children was with us in 2019.) Dad was at work, but Priscilla and the kids were thrilled with the bikes and so happy to see Bill and Teri. Bill even got in a game of ring-toss with one of the Dollette boys. I think they tied.



Happy Birthday to Me! PLUS Gifts for Winter Nights.

I had a birthday in April and decided that I didn't want presents or cards, so I went on Facebook to ask friends to contribute to a fundraiser for Winter Nights. **It was so easy.** I went on my page and right there on the left side was a link to fundraisers. It walked me through every decision. That helped me decide on a goal, select Winter Nights as a non-profit and write a message to friends. Then it guided me through choosing friends to send the message and it was posted. Others saw it, too. When the donations came in Facebook even help me thank them individually online.

My goal of **\$1000** was met and Facebook has sent that money right over to Winter Nights, with no processing fees charged to donors, me or WN.



Judy Stillman.

Executive Director, Winter Nights

<p align="center">Under Covid-19 Protocols</p> <p>Winter Nights Family Shelter is currently full and is serving 4 families * 14 guests * 6 parents & 8 of their children 6 girls, 2 boys * Ages 5 months, 2, 2, 3, 14 and 18 years old</p>	<p align="center">Safe Parking Program</p> <p align="center">9 clients in 8 cars, and growing</p>
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Our strength is our ability to meet the changing needs of the growing population of homeless families in Contra Costa County. Each family's circumstances are different, and it is our goal to work with each of them to provide support and services that address their particular needs and assist them toward stable and affordable housing. ~ Bill Shaw, Program Director



Safe Parking Program A Note from a Client

I would imagine that there aren't too many people who would consider being involved in a solo car accident in which the vehicle they drove and lived in was declared a total loss, to be a positive. But I consider my accident to have been one of the better things to have happened to me since I was displaced from my home a year ago. It was through my case manager at the hospital that I learned of the Winter Nights Family Shelter Safe Parking Program.

This program has been a great in my life. It has provided me with things that I might not have had otherwise. Things that have assisted in making working full time a little easier. First, I can sleep comfortably knowing that I will not be bothered by law enforcement or neighbors wondering what I'm doing in their neighborhood.

Second, I am able to keep my dog, who is very important to me, with me. Third, because there is a refrigerator and a microwave, I have access to fresh hot/cold food. Fourth, I have access to an outlet so I can keep my laptop that I need for work, charged up. I have access to a bathroom whenever I am in the program. Also, on occasion a shower as well, I can't tell you how having good hygiene has improved my self-confidence. Lastly and most importantly, I have some of the nicest, most caring, and concerned persons working at this program. They go out of their way to make sure each of us is safe, to feed us, and to provide us with as much resources as they possibly can. God Bless them. Please, please, please keep this program going. It has improved my situation.

Offering hope, One Winter Night at a time.

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) nonprofit, public benefit corporation
Tax ID # 84-4775540 Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law,
and no goods or services are provided in exchange for a donation.

Web: www.cccwinternights.org



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