



**WINTER NIGHTS**  
Family Shelter

**The GOOD NEWS Letter**  
**Celebrating the families, volunteers and staff of**  
**Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc**

**JANUARY - 2023**



**It's 2023 !**

I read that the end of December through mid-January was the wettest three weeks in 161 years. That's a lot of rain and snow, as well as leaking roofs, flooded crawl spaces, downed trees and mud sliding from the hillsides. It also means full reservoirs and a deep soak for the landscape.

The Shelter and Safe Parking Program safely carried on through it all, reminding us of our blessings and giving us the opportunity to care for others who find themselves without a roof over their heads.

Good News: One Shelter family found housing and two individuals from Safe Parking are now housed. Wonderful!

That reminds me. Did you know that we have a very special mission to keep unhoused families together? What ever makes up their family: a single dad and his children, a family that includes an "adult" child, such as a 19-year-old daughter or an adult relative living with them like a grandmother. It sounds so simple and logical, but it makes Winter Nights Family Shelter very special.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Gratefully,  
Ann - your Good News writer/editor

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## Thanks to the congregations and volunteers who made the Family Shelter possible this month

During a time of rain, wind, downed trees, and flooding Shelter families were warm and dry, and well fed with hot meals. They celebrated the holidays and the children could just be kids; playing and keeping up with their homework. We are very grateful for all you do to make Winter Nights the warm and welcoming haven that it is.

This month our thanks go to: Temple Isaiah - Lafayette, St Paul's Episcopal Church - Walnut Creek and their cohost Hillcrest Congregational Church - Pleasant Hill, and St John Vianney Catholic Church - Walnut Creek and their co-host St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Orinda with help from Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

Many thanks for your generous hearts and hard work.



Temple Isaiah - Lafayette  
Host Coordinators:  
Adina Zinn, Anita Weil,  
Leslie Shafton, Joani deVries



St Paul's Episcopal Church - Walnut  
Creek Host Coordinators:  
Sue Phalen  
Co-host:  
Hillcrest Congregational Church  
Angie Beal



St John Vianney Catholic Church -  
Walnut Creek Host Coordinator:  
Liz Rogers  
Co-host:  
St. Stephen's Episcopal  
Ann Lawrence, Andie Sheets.  
Susie White, Dan Swander

### Words of appreciation to January volunteers from Shelter Families:

*"Thank you for everything! We appreciate all that you have done, taking the time to make us feel at home." Family of 4*

*"Thank you for all the help and hospitality you've given us"  
Family of 2*

## Family Shelter



**Another Shelter Family has a New Home** Mom, Dad and their young son are safely housed. **Extended Family helped them with needed items for their new home.** They are the 2nd Shelter family housed this season.



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## The Family Shelter

Jan 30, 2023  
4 families - 11 guests  
6 adults & 5 children  
4 Moms & 2 Dads  
All girls: 1 to 13 years old

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**Photos from a week at the Shelter in mid-January.**  
Our thanks to Iris Luckey, photographer, for most of the photos (the good ones).

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# The Safe Parking Program



## The Safe Parking Program

Jan 30, 2023

11 clients in 9 cars



### Great News!

A Safe Parking client found housing this month with a bit of help with a rental deposit. Well Done!



### MORE Great News!

Another client from Safe Parking just found housing. Fantastic!



## Family moves from Safe Parking into the Family Shelter

A mother and father with a 1-year-old just moved from SPP into the Shelter. We are glad to have them inside on these cold nights.

## Help with Car Repairs

Two Safe Parking clients were helped with the cost to repair their cars. These two clients are elderly and their cars are their homes until they find housing.



We are often asked "How can I help?"  
One way is to donate items we urgently need:

### GAS CARDS

\$25 cards for stations like Arco or Safeway Gas Shelter families can really use the help as our Shelter moves from one congregation to the next, extending their commutes.

**Sleeping bags:** NEW only, adult & youth size, rectangular, 40 degrees  
**Hand & Foot warmers** - disposable types for clients sleeping in their cars

Questions?

Contact the office 925-414-3883 or at [info@cccwinternights.org](mailto:info@cccwinternights.org)



Continued Success



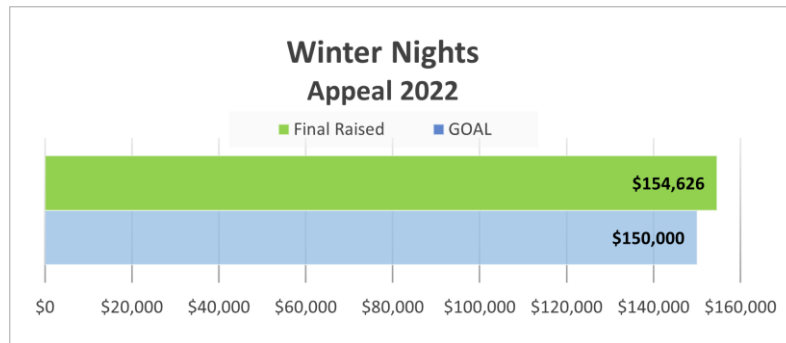
One alumni family needed help with rent and utilities. We were happy to be able to help.  
Thanks for the support you give to our alumni.

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**MORE**  
**Help ▲ Families Home**

**Appeal 2022 UPDATE**  
**You did it!**

Wow! Your donations during our Appeal 2022 raised 103% of our \$150,000 goal.  
Thank you so much for your support and generosity.



\$150,000 will fund **3 more** months of the Family Shelter, the Safe Parking Program and Continued Success. Shelter families will work with staff to heal and plan their way forward, Safe Parking participants will sleep safely in their cars with overnight supervision and receive help with housing needs, and alumni households will remain part of the Winter Nights family with help to remain housed if needed.

**Special thanks** to those of you who provided **Matching Funds** through your employer and to those of you who became **Monthly Donors**.

We are so appreciative.

*What a wonderful organization doing important work.*

*I made a donation last night.*

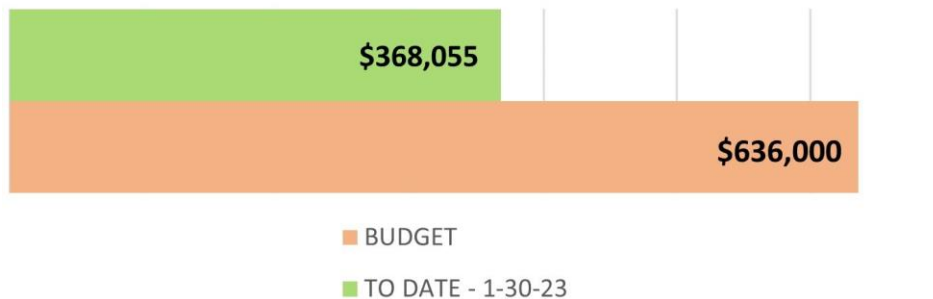
*~ Donor Comment*

## We Are Not Done Yet

We are still working to raise another \$268,00 to fund the full year of the Family Shelter, the Safe Parking Program, the Oasis Day Center, and Van transportation for families without cars. It costs about \$53,000 a month in staffing, client services, supplies, and gas. Onward!

### Winter Nights Year-to-Date Fundraising

Jan 30, 2023



## DONATE ONLINE

Or you can mail a check to:

Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.  
404 Gregory  
Lane #7  
Pleasant Hill,  
CA 94523

Don't forget to check if your employer has a Matching Fund.

It can double your impact.

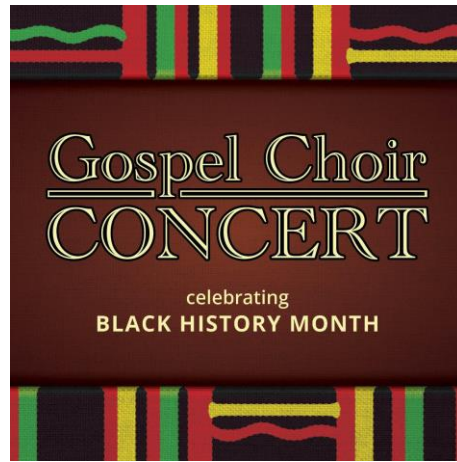
*Whatever way you choose, for whatever amount,  
your gift makes a real difference in the lives of the children,  
parents and individuals of Winter Nights.*

**Thank You.**

For questions or assistance please call the office

**925-414-3883**

Or email Winter Nights at the [CONTACT US](#) link below



## SAVE THE DATE - February 26th

The Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church is celebrating Martin Luther King on **February 26th** with a Gospel Choir Concert and a presentation by Dr. Melba Pattillo Beals, a member of the Little Rock Nine.

“Dr. Melba Pattillo Beals made history as a member of the Little Rock Nine, the nine African-American students involved in the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in 1957. The world watched as they braved constant intimidation and threats from those who opposed desegregation of the formerly all-white high school. She later recounted this harrowing year in her book titled *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Desegregate Little Rock's Central High School.*” *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*  
<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/melba-pattillo-beals-725/>

Dr Beals moved to Santa Rosa, CA to finish her senior year at Montgomery High School and attended San Francisco State, Columbia University and the University of San Francisco.

### Gospel Choir Concert

A celebration of Gospel music, pioneers in African American Music, and Traditional Spirituals featuring guest speaker Dr. Melba Patillo Beals, one of the Little Rock Nine and Civil Rights Advocate.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**5-6:30PM**

[wcpc.church/concert](http://wcpc.church/concert)



**Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church**  
**1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

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➔ Forward

If you would like to share the Good News about Winter Nights with family, friends or colleagues, please forward it.

Past newsletters are available on our website, where you can also subscribe

<https://cccwinternights.org/goodnews-archive/>

## CONTACT US

Video

[Winter Nights - Family Shelter Stories](#)

Stories from Two Families - Family Shelter-2020



### Our Contact Information

Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.

404 Gregory Lane #7

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

925-414-3883

<http://www.cccwinternights.org>

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

Winter Nights respects and supports the  
privacy of all our clients. Any photos of  
clients are used only with their express  
permission



