WINTER NIGHTS
Family Shelter

The GOOD NEWS Letter

Celebrating the families, volunteers, donors, and staff of
Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc
FEBRUARY – MARCH – 2025

Winter Nights Executive Director

After almost two and a half years at the helm of Winter Nights, our Executive Director, Carmella Kowall, is moving on. Her last day was April 1. The Board of Directors thanks Carmella for her service and wishes her the very best in whatever path she chooses to follow.

Board member Liz Haughey has agreed to serve as Interim Executive Director and will work closely with Office Manager Teri Lundvall and the entire Winter Nights staff to ensure that all our programs continue to run effectively and efficiently. We will begin a search for our next Executive Director in the coming weeks and let you know when we have an announcement to make.

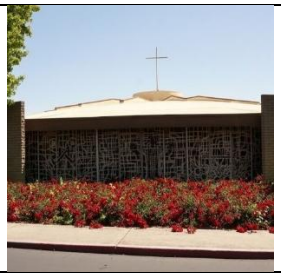
Dan Swander
Board President

Contra Costa's Coordinated Entry

We are now able to meet in person bi-weekly with Contra Costa Health's Health, Housing and Homeless Services' (H3) Coordinated Entry team to discuss our client households who are "document ready" for housing. (They have all paperwork for applying for housing: birth certificates, social security numbers, proof of income from a job or benefits, etc). Coordinated Entry can then refer them to County Housing Navigators or Rapid Rehousing departments. Being able to work closely with H3 is so helpful in moving families and individuals into housing more quickly and efficiently. We are very excited.

Gratefully,
Ann Lawrence - your Good News writer/editor
ann@cccwinternights.org
4-15-25

Thank you to the congregations who were Host Sites in February and March,
and all the volunteers who served at the Family Shelter.
We only list sites after clients have moved to the next site for their privacy and safety.



St. John Vianney Catholic Church – Walnut Creek
Debbie Mellin, Coordinator

Cohost Groups
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church-Orinda:
Andie Sheets, Dan Swander, Katie O'Brien , Coordinators
Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church: Dan Gannet, Coordinator

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection–Pleasant Hill
Janelle Towel, Myron Backhaus, Coordinators

Cohost Groups
Walnut Creek Friends Church: Maria Coburn, Coordinator

Orinda Community Church: Lani Shepp, Coordinator

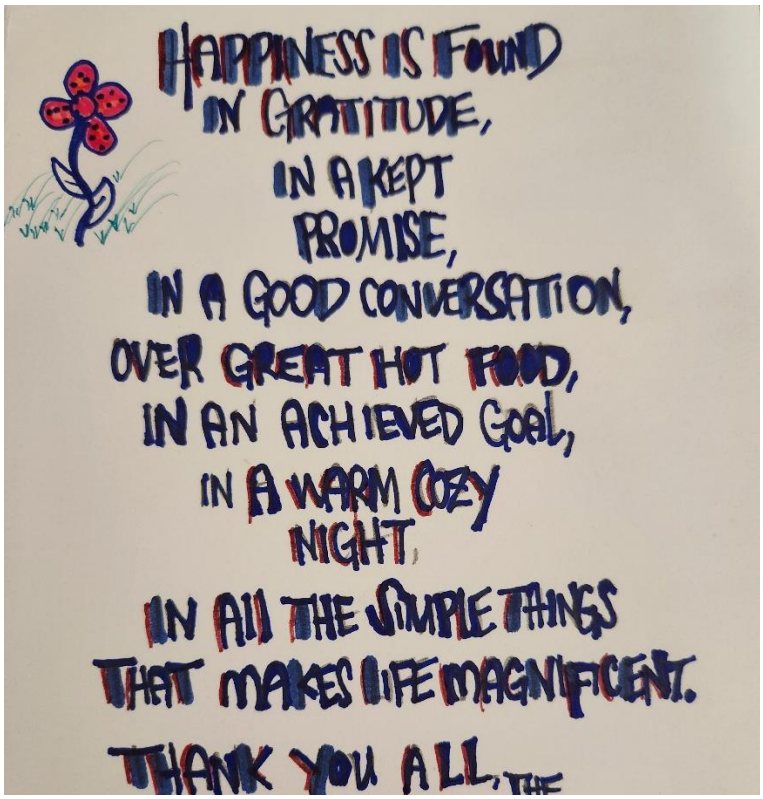
Cohost Groups
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church–Orinda: Karen Rose Kalvass, Coordinator
Church of Santa Maria–Orinda Susan Lundstrom, Coordinator
St. Perpetua Catholic Church–Lafayette
Temple Isaiah-Lafayette

Concord United Methodist Church:
Carolyn Paulson, Sandy Blaze, Coordinators

Cohost Groups
First Presbyterian Church-Concord
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-Concord: Sue Hertless, Coordinator
Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church
St. Bonaventure Catholic Church-Concord

The good folks at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church served for a week in late January/early February. Their coordinator, Andie Sheets, sent this photo with a note.

"A little 5-year-old at the Shelter made this slice of "cake" from a square of cornbread with a pat of butter for icing and a grape stem (minus the grapes) on top. She carried it around the dining room singing Happy Birthday and saying "Happy Birthday" so sweetly to all. We all loved it"



A Thank You from Clients Staying at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Family Shelter

The Family Shelter
April 4, 2025
8 families – 21 guests
8 adults & 13 children
(21 months to 15 years old)

★	A father with two children is working with Contra Costa's Rapid Rehousing to find housing. It shouldn't be much longer and we couldn't be more excited for them.	★
★	A mother has a Section 8 housing voucher for a subsidy worth about 30% of her adjusted income towards rent and utilities. She has found a place and is just waiting for inspection to be able to move in with her two children. YAY!	★
★	Another mother's name came up in a lottery for a low-income property in Concord. Fingers crossed for her and her son!	★

	A mother has about two weeks left until her Opportunity Junction finals in office skills and then graduation. She has worked very hard and is so excited. She has also been referred to permanent supportive housing. It won't be long now before she has a good job and they are housed.	

The Safe Parking Program

April 4, 2025

The Safe Parking Program in Pittsburg

7 clients - 6 cars

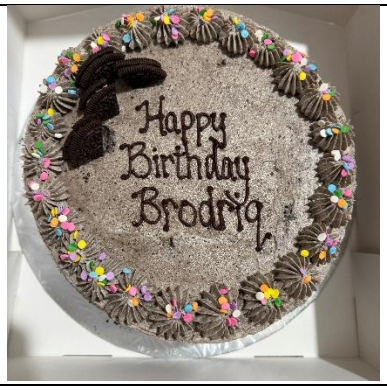
The Safe Parking Program in Antioch

5 clients - 5 cars

	A little bit of help goes a long way. In February and March Winter Nights helped four Safe Parking clients with car registration fees, reinstating car insurance, a new battery, towing a vehicle and setting up an account for bridge tolls. This $2900 in assistance helped 4 clients get back on their feet. With cars repaired, insured and registered they can look for work and save for housing. Right now, an additional three Safe Parking clients are working on getting their cars repaired.	

Continued Success

	A former client took a CPR Certification class with some help from Continued success for the cost of the class. When she successfully completed her certificate, she was able to get a much better job. Well done! Another alumnus was helped with the cost of a new battery for her car.	

★	Continued Success will send out its quarterly email this month. We are in contact with 65 alumni families and households from both the Family Shelter and Safe Parking.	★
★	**Four birthdays** were celebrated by children in Continued Success. Thanks again to our friends at Cake4Kids for your time and talent!	★
		
★	**Take a look at this video of Cake4Kids on the Kelly Clarkson Show** ▶ CAKE4KIDS Video - Kelly Clarkson Show ◀	★
	Thank you all! **Teri Lundvall – Continued Success**	

Winter Nights in The Community

GIVING THANKS BY GIVING BACK	The publication **Walnut Creek City Lifestyle** featured Winter Nights along with Meals on Wheels and the Monument Crisis Center in their November 2024 issue, pages 18-20. ▶ Winter Nights in the News

MORE

Helping ▲ Families Home

This season it takes $2000 per day to fund Winter Nights

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"My mom and I were frequently homeless when I was growing up because of financial insecurity and mental health struggles. It is truly a sacred thing to be able to show up for people at the most vulnerable and hardest times of their lives. I'm honored to support your work and thank you for all that you do!~Winter Nights donor, 2023

Whatever way you choose, for whatever amount,
YOU are helping us serve more families and individuals.

DONATE ONLINE

Checks can be written to:

Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc.
404 Gregory Lane #7
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
For questions or assistance please call the office 925-414-3883
Or email Winter Nights at the link below

CONTACT US

The Faces of Homelessness
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Our Contact Information Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc. Gregory Lane #7 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 925-414-3883 http://www.cccwinternights.org Unsubscribe | Manage email preferences		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 permission.