



Family Supportive Housing
1590 Las Plumas, San Jose, CA 95120

San Jose Family Shelter

Building a Brighter Future

The Need

Family Supportive Housing, Inc. (FSH) operates the San Jose Family Shelter, the only emergency housing shelter in Santa Clara County that exclusively serves families, both single and two-parent; providing a safe home for up to 90 days. In 2006 alone, emergency housing and valuable supportive services were delivered to 183 families.

At the current location on Las Plumas Avenue, in East San Jose, up to 35 families live at one time. In addition to a paid staff of about thirty, the facility also has a large cadre of volunteers who supply and serve all weekend meals. Residents are also given regular counseling, workshops on subjects such as parenting, budgeting, and many other services calculated to engender feelings of self worth and a return to self sufficiency.

The present structure was built in 1988 inside the shell of an empty warehouse. Because of its location in an industrial area and its age and physical condition, it is no longer considered acceptable housing. Although each family is housed separately, the rooms are small and cramped and only community bathrooms are available. There are not only health and safety issues, but also one's personal emotional well being. The outdated amenities and lack of adequate accommodations for challenged families are obvious to visitors and volunteers. Because the facility is inadequate, both the structure and its surroundings, staying in the current location is not an option. The City of San Jose has mandated that the Shelter move.

The Solution

The City has approved the building of a 35,000 square-foot, 36-unit facility on one-half acre of land located in a new residential area. The finding of the appropriate land, and the complex approval process, has taken over ten years. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, Patricia Crowder, the Board of Directors and many individuals and entities have persevered to make this socially responsible project reach the point where it is today.

In partnership with Charities Housing acting as Project Manager, the final hurdles to getting blueprints approved and the builder chosen are being cleared.

Features of the brand new San Jose Family Shelter will be:

- ◆ Located in a healthy neighborhood, modeling the attributes of a healthy family
- ◆ Emotional security, where safety and security will have a positive impact
- ◆ Separate rooms twice the size of those in the old facility
- ◆ Bathrooms for each family, enhancing privacy and quality of life
- ◆ Storage adequate to keep family and staff belongings organized
- ◆ Being responsibly 'green', thinking globally and acting locally

Family Supportive Housing will strive for LEED Silver certification for building “green”, assuming it is appropriate financially, given the priorities of the new facility.

Building a Brighter Future

The mission of Family Supportive Housing is to support and empower homeless families in Santa Clara County on their path to self-sufficient living.

Family Supportive Housing will continue to offer enrichment programs and workshops, in addition to their well-respected Transitional Housing Program. As has been true in the past, the Shelter’s ‘AfterCare’ Program in the form of case management and other services, will continue to be available to families for up to nine months after they have left the Shelter and are in permanent housing.

Family Supportive Housing is creating a national model for service to homeless families. The new San Jose Family Shelter will be a true example of what the City, County services, area faith groups and community can do when working together to create hope and dignity for those on the brink of homelessness. This project will equip and enrich the lives of children, youth, parents, and the entire community.

The Cost

The new facility will appropriately be environmentally ‘green’ and will cost approximately \$16 million. Most of the funding will come from the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County and the State of California. Family Supportive Housing’s estimated portion of the total cost is \$5 million dollars. These funds will be generated from the generous gifts of major benefactors, foundations, churches and the community at large who support this vision.

The Timing

The quiet phase of fundraising began in July 2007. *Building a Brighter Future* will become a community wide campaign in the fall. It is expected that all funds will be raised by May 2008, and that the new San Jose Family Shelter will be occupied by May 2009. Building will begin when commitments for 80% of the funds have been made.

The Benefit

Building a Brighter Future offers opportunities for a brand new facility that will represent hope for 35 families at all times, 365 days a year. The safety, security and confidence of a warm and supportive place to call ‘home’ will be theirs for 90 days while they are on the path to self-sufficiency. We invite and encourage those close to us to help us invest in our human capital in Santa Clara County. It is the best investment one can make.