

April/May 2004

Brrrr! It's Cold Inside!

Last November it was determined that our refrigerator/freezer could not be repaired again, and definitely needed to be replaced before it completely died. We got quotes from four different companies, determined the best bid and made plans to replace the unit right after the holidays.

Just as we were trying to determine how to pay for this wonderful new machine, Good Samaritan Methodist Church committed \$14,000 (70% of the cost) to the new fridge. A number of other generous people came forward with gifts to cover the rest of the expense.

The new unit was to be installed in February. Food was cleaned out, put in off-site storage and a giant rental fridge. The old unit was dismantled and removed. But, to much dismay, there was structural damage to the wall and the roof near the unit. Thanks to former Board member and current good friend Larry Cochran, we learned to navigate the unknown world of emergency large repairs. All of the sub contractors who came in were generous with their time. It cost an additional \$7,000 to install the new fridge but finally it happened.

Now our frozen food stays frozen and the refrigerated food doesn't freeze. The rental fridge is gone; the roof is repaired; there is a new wall and ceiling in the storeroom, and a new linoleum floor in the walk-in area.

Thank you to all of the people who helped us through this project. We will have a blessing of the new freezer/refrigerator and a thank you party for all of the people who provide food for the homeless people who live at the Shelter.

GlennArt Arms

A New Innovative Housing Program

With a grant from HUD, we have opened the GlennArt Arms, a transitional housing program. Nine scattered-site units have been leased to nine families who are able to live in the units for up to two years, paying 30% of their income. The transitional housing program includes case management and access to many services to empower the family to be truly self-sufficient upon completion of the program.

Families pay 30% of their income for rent. The units are scattered-site, which

means they are individual units in various parts in the county. We have five two-bedroom units, three three-bedroom units and one house which we lease, and the residents sublease. It is better for the families to be living in regular neighborhoods and not all living in one place. The units are very affordably priced. It is expected that once a family has finished the program, they will be able to stay in that same unit and it will become their permanent housing. We then will identify another property for lease, and sublease it to a new family to participate in the program.

The program is named after Glenn DeDraker and Art Charette. Glenn DeDraker was a long-time Board member and supporter of the Family Shelter who died in May 2003. His good friend Art Charette continues to serve on the Board, and can be found at the Shelter working in many capacities. The transitional housing program was a dream for both men.

San Jose Family Shelter case manager, Kim Emley, has worked very hard to make this program a success, by finding the right properties and the right families to live in those properties. The program is working very successfully and we recently received a note from a family who had great things to say about Kim and GlennArt Arms.

November 26, 2003

Dear Kim,

I would like to take the time to tell you in this letter how grateful I am for everything you have done for our family. I thank God first of all because he has placed you in our lives to help us in the difficult times that we have been going through. This has been the most wonderful year that we [could] not imagine that we were able to have. In this we know that you guys have made this dream come true this year. I [would] like to thank all that work hand in hand with you that are set to accomplish a great task before you. Thank you for making us feel that we have a sense of belonging, destiny and a purpose in this life. Our best wish to this Shelter and to every person that puts in a seed that later gives birth and grows. Thank you for your commitment to helping others in difficult times. You are able to shine hope in us.

*Sincerely,
Francisco, Adriana, Cisco and Crystal*

Dear Friends,

Spring and actually summer are here and life is blooming at the Shelter. We are barely through with Christmas and are already planning summer activities. This wonderful weather is contributing to our spring fever.

We had a tough time of it but now we have a new refrigerator-freezer. There will be a blessing for the new equipment and a little party to thank all of the people who helped make it possible. The best part is that we made many new friends during this laborious process. Meals were brought in by new volunteers and the tradesmen who worked were very good to us also.

One of the special meals that was prepared for us was a St. Patrick's Day dinner. After dinner one of the residents went up to Kathy Imwalle, a Board member who helped put on the dinner, and asked if she had done the decorating. When Kathy replied that she had indeed decorated for the party, the resident thanked her and told her that her son had had a very bad day at school that day and when he came in to dinner and saw all of the decorations he thought they were especially for him. The Mom said he brightened up and was gloriously happy. How heart warming to know that you have really made a difference in the life of a child.

Thank you to all of the people who help us every day in so many different ways.

Sincerely,



Trish Crowder
Executive Director



*A Coincidence?
Perhaps...
An Affirmation—
Definitely!*

Volunteer Lorraine was running a little late for her scheduled time to arrive at the Shelter. She called Information on her cell phone so she could advise the Shelter of her delay. When she asked for the number of the San Jose Family Shelter, the operator said that the San Jose Family Shelter was a wonderful place.

The operator said she was so grateful for the Shelter and for its supportive environment. She had spent three months living at the Shelter and now she had this wonderful job which she loved. The time she lived at the Shelter had made such a difference to her; she was able to turn her life around and now she was stable with a good job and an apartment.

What a great gift to know that people are able to really benefit from their stay here.

Board of Directors

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Kendall Price
Mark Richards
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Regan Senkarik

Shelter Staff

Trish Crowder
Executive Director

Mission Statement

San Jose Family Shelter provides shelter and supportive services to homeless families in Santa Clara County to empower them to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

A New Name - But the Same Mission

Have you noticed? The parent organization for the San Jose Family Shelter has changed its name. The old name was Concern For The Poor, Inc. After eighteen years the organization now has a new name Family Supportive Housing. Family Supportive Housing describes our mission in a clearer way. We are about families, we are about housing, and we are about support services in connection with the housing. The Shelter offers emergency shelter with services, Bridges the aftercare program is service-enriched permanent housing and the GlennArt Arms transitional housing program is service-enriched housing for up to two years. We will be using both names for awhile but eventually we will be Family Supportive Housing exclusively.

Success Story

With the realization of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's ability, one can build a better world.
His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Addie** is a divorced mother of a 5 year-old boy, Isaak**. She and her son had escaped a life grappled with domestic violence. Before coming to the San Jose Family Shelter the family stayed in motels, on friends' couches and at another local shelter. They spent a little over three months here at SJFS. While at the Shelter, Addie's mother passed away.

Addie had not been in contact with her blood relatives in some time and was anxious about seeing them again. With the positive outreach of her case manager here at the Shelter, and support of her friends, Addie was able to see her family again and get through that difficult time.

Since leaving the Shelter, Addie and Isaak have rented a room in a friend's home. Over the span of nine months they have made the rental into a home of their own. Addie is very proud of her garden outside and loves to cook in her own kitchen for her son and their housemate.

Of course the road to permanent housing is no smooth ride and has an occasional bump along the way. Addie had recently decided to go back to school so that she could become an occupational therapist. She was been fortunate to receive grants and support from her school to help her meet her goals and pay her rent. During her first term the school had cut some of her funding which caused her to get behind in her rent. The Bridges AfterCare program at the San Jose Family Shelter stepped in and assisted the family at that dire time.

AfterCare was also happy to assist the family by providing a Thanksgiving basket (provided by Children's Creative Learning Center) and presents at Christmas-time for Isaak. Both Addie and Isaak are eternally grateful to the Shelter and all that has been provided for them.

**names changed to respect the privacy of our clients

Donations and Volunteers Make the Shelter A Better Place

Right: Special thanks to St. Victor's School for donating pillows and linens for the families at the Shelter



A very special and belated thank you to volunteer Paulette Dickerson and all the lovely volunteers from Xerox. Xerox, via Paulette, hosted a wonderful pizza party for the children of the Shelter at Christmas-time. Xerox also made a donation to the Shelter and gave Paulette and her hard-working group the funds to purchase Christmas gifts for each child. This most generous gift has occurred for several years. We are very grateful for Paulette and the other people from Xerox who care so deeply for the residents, both adults and children, at the Shelter.



Six generous men, all Bellarmine graduates and members of the alumni service group, spent a Saturday installing three interior doors in the families' residence rooms at the Shelter. Each door was installed between two rooms so that we will have double rooms for large families. The day after they completed the job, we were able to accept into the Shelter a single mother with seven children. Now she will have two rooms, a bed for everyone and she can keep an eye on all of the children.



This was a greatly needed addition to the Shelter and we are grateful for the kindness and the skills of Vic, Nick, and Dom Giacalone, Rob Selvi, Ken Ravizza, Steve Douglas and Herman.

Brian Yam, son of former Board member Patrick Yam, organized a drive at his school, Woodside Priory, for warm jackets. Thank you, students, for all of the jackets. During our cold days, the jackets were put to good use. Thanks to Brian for his work in organizing his school.



Food

Meat, meat, meat, and more meat. We cannot seem to get enough of it at this time.

Bedding, etc.

Pillows, linens, blankets, bedspreads, towels

Camping Gear

Looking ahead to summer camp, we will need sleeping bags, air mattresses, and air pumps.



April 2004

Breakfast Teams

April 3	Sat.	St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica
April 4	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Subbu
April 10	Sat.	San Jose Christian Reformed Church
April 11	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Gopal
April 17	Sat.	Saratoga Presbyterian Church
April 18	Sun.	Bethal Lutheran Church
April 24	Sat.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Jayshree Jain
April 25	Sun.	Evergreen Caring Hearts

Lunch Teams

April 3	Sat.	Sanctuary
April 10	Sat.	North Valley
April 17	Sat.	CRC
April 24	Sat.	Beta Sigma Phi

Dinner Teams

April 3	Sat.	St. Francis Church
April 4	Sun.	Westminster Presbyterian Church
April 10	Sat.	First Baptist Church
April 11	Sun.	Alchemy Hair Studio
April 17*	Sat.	St. Justin Catholic Parish
April 18	Sun.	Almaden Hills
April 23	Fri.	Faith Lutheran
April 24	Sat.	Willow Glen United Methodist Church
April 25	Sun.	Good Samaritan United Methodist Church

May 2004

Breakfast Teams

May 1	Sat.	St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica
May 2	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Subbu
May 8	Sat.	San Jose Christian Reformed Church
May 9	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Gopal
May 15	Sat.	Saratoga Presbyterian Church
May 16	Sun.	St. John Vianney Church
May 22	Sat.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Jayshree Jain
May 23	Sun.	Evergreen Caring Heart
May 29	Sat.	Siemens
May 30	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Gopal

Lunch Team

May 15	Sat.	CRC
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Dinner Teams

May 1	Sat.	St. Jude Church
May 2	Sun.	Westminster Presbyterian Church
May 8	Sat.	First Baptist Church
May 9	Sun.	St. Stephen in the Field Church
May 15*	Sat.	St. Justin Parish
May 16	Sun.	Immanuel Lutheran Church
May 21	Fri.	St. James
May 22	Sat.	Willow Glen United Methodist Church
May 23	Sun.	Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
May 28	Fri.	New Restoration Church
May 29	Sat.	Denise Huynh
May 30	Sun.	Mother's Kitchen
May 31	Mon.	Alchemy Hair Studio

* Birthday Party by River of Life Christian Church!