

# *Family Supportive Housing, Inc.* *San Jose Family Shelter*

Serving homeless families in Silicon Valley



[www.familysupportivehousing.org](http://www.familysupportivehousing.org)

April/May 2005

## *Employee Spotlight*

The Shelter welcomes two new members to our team of hard working, dedicated employees. Aaron William is our Employment Specialist and Gabriela Rodriguez is the Bridges AfterCare Housing Specialist.

Aaron joined Family Supportive Housing on December 1, 2004. He has a degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology from San Jose State University. Before joining our team, Aaron worked as an Admissions Rep at Bryman College and also as a Work Counselor-Job Coach at the Community Integrated Work Program.



Aaron works with the clients from the Shelter, GlennArt Arms Transitional Housing Program and the Bridges AfterCare Program. His focus is to help the clients to create a resume and teach them how to utilize the internet for job searches. Aaron did not waste anytime starting a resume workshop and the results are evident by the many job interviews his clients have been granted.

Gaby received her AA in Psychology and is working toward a BA in Social Work. She also graduated from the Correctional Academy. Gaby comes to us most recently from the Barbara Saville Women's Shelter where she was a Shelter Advocate. Prior to that she worked as a Sexual Assault-Domestic Violence Advocate at the West Fresno Crisis Center.



Gaby works with the families who are transitioning out of the Shelter into permanent housing. She provides ongoing case management assisting families in maintaining their housing. Gaby has settled into her new job and is contacting landlords with the goal of providing housing opportunities for her clients. She

has developed a trusting, caring relationship with the families in her care. Many people have benefited from her assistance already.

Join us in welcoming Aaron and Gaby. When you are here visiting the Shelter, please stop in and introduce yourself.

San Jose  
Family  
Shelter



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### *Shelter Staff*

Trish Crowder  
*Executive Director*

### *Mission Statement*

To support and empower homeless families in Santa Clara County on their path to self-sufficient living.

**Family Supportive  
Housing, Inc.  
San Jose Family Shelter**

1590 Las Plumas Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95133-1667  
Tel: 408.926.8885  
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## *Director's Report*

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! Spring is a wonderful time of year at the shelter. We have had a lot of celebrations, Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year's, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and now Easter. Each holiday is special and has its own special food, decorations and activities. The families enjoy the celebrations and the staff loves putting them on. We are lucky to have a new cook who prepares all of the special food with creativity and resourcefulness. We have already started plans for the summer vacation. All year long there are opportunities to offer special activities for the families. Each holiday is special and each is a learning experience.

We do have a challenging and exciting job. How often are you asked to use all of your skills, all of your knowledge, all of your life experiences and all of your heart to develop a plan to help a family find a permanent place to live. It is rewarding work because success happens often.

You are welcome to join us in this work. We need kind hearts and generous souls and occasional helping hands. The rewards are great and so often found in the smile of a child.

Easter Blessings to you and yours.

Patricia Crowder  
Executive Director

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## *Success Story*

February was a successful month for our GlennArt Arms Transitional Housing families! Three people in the program were successful in finding full time employment. Tasha completed a job training program through Catholic Charities and ESL classes and secured a job at a small market in San Jose. She says she gets to do "a little bit of everything". She helps customers, runs the cash register and even helps out in the kitchen when things get especially busy. Tasha is thrilled to be employed and contributing to her family. Joanne also found employment this month. She took a different route and completed job training for non traditional careers for women through the Center for Training and Careers. She worked with Family Supportive Housing's Employment Specialist, Aaron Williams, to polish her resume and get it circulating in the community. Joanne will be working as a contract employee for PG&E, as a meter reader. Her job is secure for at least the next year; however Joanne sees long term potential in her position and hopes to become a permanent employee of PG&E. Eric also returned to work this past month. Eric had not been able to work his construction job since 2003 due to a back injury. His workers' compensation lawyer negotiated a deal for Eric to return to his employer full time but in a different capacity. He took on a new role at the company and is happy with the new and challenging responsibilities. Hopefully, this spring we can see even more participants become employed and succeed with our program.



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## *Wooside Priory Warms Our Hearts!*

We were fortunate enough to have Brian Yam organize a Warm Coat Drive to benefit the San Jose Family Shelter for a second year. Brian is a student at Woodside Priory, and as a community service project, he spearheads a school-wide coat drive for the Shelter. The support is tremendous! The entire student body gets involved. Brian organizes this effort with the help of a few of his classmates. They receive all the donated new and gently used coats from the students and faculty, then bring them to the Shelter.

This is a wonderful gift for our residents, a gift that makes many, many people warm and happy. We

thank Brian for his continued support of the Shelter. We are fortunate to count Brian Yam and the Woodside Priory as our friend.



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## *3-Day Blinds Brightens our Rooms!*

In February, 3 Day Blinds, under the direction of their showroom manager, Alisa Miller, installed new Disney Home Window Coverings in the Voyager Daycare. What a great gift! The children love their afternoon naps now that Winnie the Pooh, Tigger and all their friends are with them. Thank you, 3 Day Blinds for such a generous donation!



*A flock of blessings light upon  
thy back.  
-- William Shakespeare*

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### *Special Requests*

The Shelter makes 130 lunches every day for the resident families. Please help by donating fresh vegetables, fruit & lunch meat. We also are in need of sugar, pies, cakes and other baked goods. We can't seem to keep enough of these items on hand.

Thank You!

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### *Thank You*

A special thanks to all the individuals and companies who donated everything needed to make a very special Easter for the families this year. The Easter Bunny was able to visit all the children at the Shelter, in the AfterCare Program, and the Transitional Housing Program.



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[www.familysupportivehousing.org](http://www.familysupportivehousing.org)

*The first of April some do say,  
Was set apart as All Fools Day,  
But why the people call it so,  
Nor I nor they themselves do know!  
-- American Proverb*

## Volunteer Meal Teams

### April 2005

#### Breakfast Teams

Apr 2 Sat. St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica  
Apr 3 Sun. Sai Group  
Apr 9 Sat. SJ Christian Reform Church  
Apr 10 Sun. Sathya Group  
Apr 16 Sat. Saratoga Presbyterian Church  
Apr 17 Sun. Bethel Lutheran Church  
Apr 23 Sat. Sathya Group  
Apr 24 Sun. Evergreen Caring Heart Org.  
Apr 30 Sat. Siemens

#### Lunch Teams

Apr 9 Sat. CYO  
Apr 16 Sat. CRC

#### Dinner Teams

Apr 2 Sat. St. Francis Church  
Apr 3 Sun. Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Apr 9 Sat. Hope Lutheran Church  
Apr 10 Sun. St. Clare's School  
Apr 16 Sat. St. Justin's Parish  
Apr 17 Sun. Mother's Kitchen  
Apr 23 Sat. Willow Glen United Methodist  
Apr 24 Sun. Good Samaritan U.M.C.  
Apr 30 Sat. San Jose Scales of Justice

### May 2005

#### Breakfast Teams

May 1 Sun. Sai Group  
May 7 Sat. St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica  
May 8 Sun. Sathya Group  
May 14 Sat. SJ Christian Reform Church  
May 15 Sun. St. John Vianney  
May 21 Sat. Saratoga Presbyterian Church  
May 22 Sun. Evergreen Caring Heart Corp.  
May 28 Sat. Sathya Group  
May 29 Sun. Sathya Group

#### Lunch Teams

May 14 Sat. CYO  
May 21 Sat. CRC

#### Dinner Teams

May 1 Sun. Westminster Presbyterian Church  
May 7 Sat. St. Jude Church  
May 8 Sun. St. Clare's School  
May 14 Sat. St. Stephen in the Field  
May 15 Sun. Immanuel Lutheran Church  
May 21 Sat. St. Justin's Parish  
May 22 Sun. Good Samaritan U.M.C.  
May 28 Sat. Channing House Group  
May 29 Sun. San Jose Scales of Justice

**We are in need of a dinner team on Monday, May 30th.  
If you can help please give Nikki a call at 408.926.8885 x106  
Thank you!**