

Providing shelter for homeless families is a very noble goal. Providing shelter for homeless families and also teaching them how to avoid homelessness in the future is the ultimate goal of the San Jose Family Shelter. Residents of all ages at the Shelter have many types of classes that are available to them.

Some of the classes like budgeting money, job skills, finding available housing, and techniques for parenting are mandatory. Other classes like English as a Second Language, astronomy and weekend field trips are interesting. These are the classes available to adults:

- **Budgeting Workshop:** This workshop teaches residents to improve and prioritize spending habits, and review and develop money management skills. Residents learn basic household budgeting, participate in interactive activities and develop lifestyle goals.
- **Parenting Classes:** We have a wonderful facilitator who is dedicated to offering our adult residents some suggestions and methods as well as do's and don'ts for parents, grandparents or any other caregiver in raising a child to become a successful adult. She emphasizes love, patience and commitment! Consistent assessments are made to identify the needs of the residents. Those needs then become the topics for future classes.
- **Employment:** An Employment Specialist uses an employment workshop as a resource for all adult residents. Services include understanding job skills and interests, and connects those factors to vocational options. The workshop assists residents in the job search, educates in

# PLAN

## *For the Future*

self-presentation and interviewing skills, role playing, etc. By gaining these skills, residents will increase their confidence and performance in the market place.

- **Housing:** Both a Housing Specialist and a housing workshop is available to all residents. The goal is to assist families in their search to find affordable, safe and sanitary homes by helping them develop needed skills for self-sufficiency and connecting them to landlords with available housing.
- **Al-Anon:** The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. They also learn about taking responsibility for their own actions that happen in everyday life.
- **English as a Second Language:** One-on-one classes are held to accommodate residents with specific and special needs.

Children are also required to attend some classes like LEAP, and have other options open to them that are just for fun. These are the classes for children:

- **LEAP Homework Enrichment Program:** This evening program is for school-aged children. We provide one-on-one tutoring, arts and crafts activities, a computer lab, a library and a daycare!

The main goal for this program is not only to provide the assistance children need in school but also to provide a structured program and to help children with their socialization skills.

- **Kidz & Company:** This program offers after school enrichment combined with fun! The program includes reading comprehension games, math focus, arts & crafts, dancing, games and snack!
- **Community Impact:** A group of volunteers with a representative from Community Impact reads bedtime stories to the children. After, the bedtime story, volunteers make residents' lunches for the next day!
- **Girl Scouts:** A team provides crafts and other educational activities for the children.
- **Summer Camp (off-site):** We are grateful to be able to send resident children to summer camp at Mount Cross. The children stay there for a week and learn games and nature, hike, interact with other children, and have a ton of fun!
- **Summer Camp (on-site):** We have on-site summer camps for three weeks during the summer season. Occupational therapist interns from San Jose State University prepare fun crafts, educational games, and sports for the children. Children have a chance to be educated, entertained and can interact with the other children.

There are also family oriented programs and activities which create a bond between family members.

Dear Friends:

Springtime at the Shelter is a nice quiet time. The children are still in school, the temperature has been very comfortable, conducive to outdoor activities and the plans for summer are being made.

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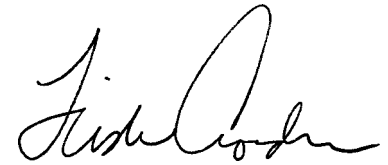
Trish Crowder  
*Executive Director*

## *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.

Since the last newsletter, we have had the dedication of the new refrigerator. We are more than pleased with the new fridge. Food stays colder and the storage area stays warmer (no leaking cold from the freezer). Thanks again to all of the people who generously provided it for us.

Summer activities are now being planned. We hope all of the families will have interesting and educational activities to fill their time. Volunteers are always needed for the special events during the summer. Thanks to all of you for your generosity of spirit and your concern for our families.



Trish Crowder  
Executive Director

## *Surprise and Congratulations!*

On Wednesday, May 11, Executive Director Trish Crowder was surprised by her staff with a luncheon and an award ceremony. She was honored by the staff and was presented with a plaque by Board member Ken Price. The award was in appreciation for her dedication and outstanding accomplishments. There was a wonderful lunch and many kind words for Trish's leadership and vision in administering the Shelter.



## **Congratulations, Trish!**

## *Job Assistance*

No matter how low the rents go, with no income, there are no affordable rental units. In response to the increasing need for residents to obtain employment, the Shelter has initiated a program to help residents identify and successfully apply for jobs. We are working on this program as an enrichment to our ongoing employment program with Flextronics.

Jaime Angulo works with the residents early in the morning and late in the afternoon to offer resume writing, interest and skills testing, job search, job support and job counseling for the residents. He has been very successful in assisting residents to find jobs.

## Success Story

Ms. Linda Crawford had a history of substance abuse and, prior to her stay at the San Jose Family Shelter, had been in an alcohol and drug abuse transitional housing unit. Upon leaving that program she discovered that the apartment she rented for 10 years was expecting a large increase in rent and she was unable to continue to live there with her daughter.

Linda and her daughter stayed with friends for a while, and then at another local shelter. While there, Linda learned of the San Jose Family Shelter. During her stay Linda was able to save money and, with the assistance of the Housing Specialist, found a room rental near her daughter's school and her sister's home.

Since moving out of the shelter nine months ago Linda has made the room rental into a home for her and her daughter. While in Bridges aftercare, Linda relied on her constant communication with her case manager for a variety of things. Sometimes it was to work on her budget and get a Safeway gift card so that she could host a birthday party for her daughter. Other times she would just call to talk about her living situation and any frustrations that arose from living in a shared housing situation. To this day she is extremely grateful for all the help the Shelter has provided her and her daughter over the past year. Linda states, "I don't know what we would have done without their help. They were always there – if I was having a bad day and thought about taking a drink again, I would just call up and talk out my situation and things just seemed to get better. I was able to evaluate my life and now I can provide a better life for my daughter and myself."

Recently Linda finished her schooling and passed her GED test with flying colors. Her future plans are to go to a vocational school in order to get a job and get a place of her own.

Ms. Linda Crawford is another shining graduate of Bridges aftercare program, and shows that supportive help really makes a difference in people's lives.

## Classes, *continued from page 1*

- **Monthly Birthday Parties:** River Church Community in conjunction with St. Justin's Parish join together once a month to provide a dinner and a birthday party. They bring gifts for each child and parent who has a birthday for that particular month. They also bring cake for everyone!

- **Weekend Fun:** We have fun activities on the weekends for the children to enjoy including kite-making, sports activities, arts and crafts, and more!

- **Field Trips:** Occasionally, we offer off-site activities for parents and children. Some field trips that we've hosted included a Mother's Day Dinner and Play Event, basketball games, football games, a trip to the Palo Alto Baylands!

- **Hearts & Arts Family Program:** This program is run by volunteers who want to provide creative art activities for families

in order to build a stronger bond between family members.

- **Family Astro:** During the winter months, this program is available to families to learn about Astronomy through interactive games and arts and crafts. We also have a volunteer who brings a telescope.

- **Health Care:** Gardner Health Van comes once a week to provide medical needs.

- **Prayer and Discussion:** We have a prayer and discussion group for women of faith. We already had answered prayers! (This group meets outside of the Shelter due to funding laws.)

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## All in the Family

Thanks to a number of meal providers who are also Friends of the Family (Family Supportive Housing, that is) we have a new BBQ. This great new machine has a cook-top which is 24 x 72. It will easily be able to barbeque great meals for the families. On behalf of hungry children and their parents, thank you to our generous friends. Now that we have this great cook-top, you may wish to bring a group in to do a summer party. Hot dogs and hamburgers with the fixings is a great summer time treat for everyone. Call Nikki at 926-8885 if you are interested.

### Summer BBQ's

We have a new large barbeque grill, so fire up the grill, the party is starting at the Shelter!

The Shelter needs all sorts of BBQ supplies and food: Meat, chuck roasts, ground meat, and pork roasts. Also needed are large containers of ranch salad dressing and ketchup, or any other picnic type food supplies.

## Our Own Special Angel

Once, and sometimes twice, a week our special friend Lidabelle Macfaddon brings us wonderful food from Trader Joe's. Thanks to Lidabelle's devotion, we have great food to share with the families. We receive hamburger, chicken, salmon, vegetables, fruit and lots of bread. The food is wonderful, unusual, nutritious and a great treat. Thanks to Trader Joe's for the food and to Lidabelle for picking it up for us weekly.



Do all of the good you can, by all of the means you can, in all of the places you can, at all of the times you can, to all of the people you can, as long as ever you can.

*John Wesley, Founder Methodist Church*

### June 2004

#### Breakfast Teams

June 5	Sat.	St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica
June 6	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Namita
June 12	Sat.	San Jose Christian Reformed Church
June 13	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Gopal
June 19	Sat.	Saratoga Presbyterian Church
June 20	Sun.	Bethal Lutheran Church
June 26	Sat.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Jayshree Jain
June 27	Sun.	Evergreen Caring Hearts

#### Lunch Teams

June 19	Sat.	CRC
June 26	Sat.	Beta Sigma Phi

#### Dinner Teams

June 5	Sat.	San Jose Scales of Justice
June 6	Sun.	Westminster Presbyterian Church
June 12	Sat.	First Baptist Church
June 13	Sun.	Mario Posado Jr.
June 19*	Sat.	St. Justin Catholic Parish
June 20	Sun.	Almaden Hills
June 25	Fri.	Campbell Church of Christ
June 26	Sat.	St. Andrews
June 27	Sun.	Good Samaritan United Methodist Church

### July 2004

#### Breakfast Teams

July 3	Sat.	St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica
July 4	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Namita
July 10	Sat.	San Jose Christian Reformed Church
July 11	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Gopal
July 17	Sat.	Saratoga Presbyterian Church
July 18	Sun.	St. John Vianney Church
July 24	Sat.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Jayshree Jain
July 25	Sun.	Evergreen Caring Heart
July 31	Sat.	Siemens

#### Lunch Team

July 17	Sat.	CRC
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#### Dinner Teams

July 3	Sat.	St. Jude Church
July 4	Sun.	Westminster Presbyterian Church
July 10	Sat.	Tamrat
July 11	Sun.	St. Stephen in the Field Church
July 17*	Sat.	St. Justin Parish
July 18	Sun.	Immanuel Lutheran Church
July 23	Fri.	Campbell Church of Christ
July 24	Sat.	Willow Glen United Methodist Church
July 25	Sun.	Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
July 31	Sat.	San Jose Scales of Justice

\* Birthday Party by River Church Community!

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