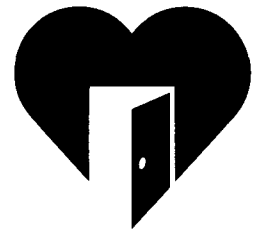


San Jose Family Shelter

serving homeless families in Silicon Valley



www.SJFamilyShelter.org

October/November 2003

Wish List for Holiday Items

The holidays will be here soon. That's hard to believe after our few 90° plus days! Here is wish list of holiday related items.

Thanksgiving

We need Thanksgiving **sponsors** for the families in the Bridges program, and **turkeys** at the Shelter. Gift certificates to **food** stores are also needed for the families, to help them buy additional food/ fresh food for their Thanksgiving dinner.

Christmas Shoppe

The Christmas Shoppe is a room that is arranged like a store where parents can "shop" for their children's presents and the children can shop for their parents' gifts to give to each other on Christmas.

Donate **new items** like scarves, mittens, wallets, art supplies, gift certificates, books, stuffed animals, dolls and toys.

We also need **volunteers** to work the Christmas Shoppe, scheduled for December 19–December 22. Help us by setting up and cleaning up the room. Help families with shopping and gift wrapping.

Light up a family's Christmas by giving them **gifts from the heart**. These gifts will go to families in the Bridges AfterCare and Transitional housing programs who have succeeded in maintaining permanent housing.

For the Christmas Shoppe donations, ask for Nikki at ext. 106. For donations to the Bridges AfterCare and Transitional Housing programs, please ask for Amanda at ext. 111.

A Dream Realized

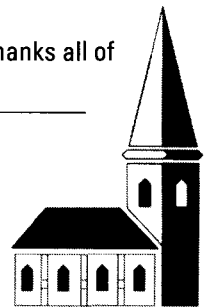
For many years the Board of Concern for the Poor, the parent organization of the San Jose Family Shelter, has recognized the need to increase services to the people in the Shelter. Where do people go after their three months at the Shelter? The first program that was added to the Shelter plan for continuous help was Bridges Aftercare. In this program people in the Shelter are tracked by a case manager to help with any problem the families may encounter, to insure that they retain housing. This program has been very successful but the Board recognized that there needed to be more long-term care available.

The Shelter is very pleased to introduce "GlennArt Arms". This new program, named for two founding Board members and financed by HUD, provides scattered-site transitional housing for homeless families. The families are placed in apartments in various places in Santa Clara County. A family pays 30% of their income as rent, and will be able to stay in the unit for two years. At the end of that time, the family hopefully will be able to take over the lease, and then the Shelter will find another apartment for another family. Unlike other programs of its kind, the family can stay in its own apartment after the two year program expires, and merely take over the lease. Even though the program begins as transitional housing, at the end of that time it will convert to permanent housing for the family. At this time we have three two-bedroom units and two three-bedroom units. Families must participate in case management for the term to address barriers to independence. When the program is fully operational the goal is to assist eight–nine families at any given time.

This is an exciting, innovative, supportive program and the Board thanks all of you who have worked to make this dream possible.

Community Corner

Once a month on the third Saturday at dinnertime, a party takes place at the Shelter. River of Life Christian Church hosts a birthday party for residents whose birthdays fall during that month. Balloons, streamers, gifts, cake and ice cream—the whole birthday party experience is included. River of Life Church has been celebrating residents' birthdays for four years. Church volunteers purchase and wrap gifts. Then a team of usually six people decorate the dining room in streamers, and serve dinner to the Shelter families. This joyous event is co-hosted by St. Justin Parish. St. Justin provides the dinner, and cake and ice cream. River of Life brings the party decorations and, of course, gifts, for each birthday boy or girl (of all ages). The number of birthdays being celebrated varies from 4 to 12 each month. The kinds of gifts purchased are tailored to the resident's age and interest, when possible. Fred Reed of River of Life Church member said that a few years ago the Community Service group in his church was looking for a volunteer opportunity, and the Shelter was very fortunate to provide that opportunity. Thank you River of Life Christian Church for being an important part of the Shelter.



San Jose Family Shelter



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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.

San Jose Family Shelter
Concern for The Poor Inc.
1590 Las Plumas Avenue,
San Jose, California 95133-1667
Tel: 408.926.8885
Fax: 408.254.2056

Director's Report

Dear Friends,

Summer really is over. The days are shorter, the children are back in school, you can practically smell Halloween around the corner. We had a fun party this summer. Just before the children went back to school we had "Christmas in August". The residents were really surprised. We decorated the dining room with Christmas decorations, had turkey, dressing, pumpkin pie, Christmas music and gifts for all of the children and adults. It was fun to celebrate "off season".

Summer was good at the Shelter. The children had fun activities and we had the volunteer recognition party. But our program concern now is to aid the residents in finding jobs. It is really hard work to find a job right now. We are becoming good at helping people find housing and retain housing but without adequate income it doesn't matter how good we are.

The most exciting time at the Shelter is really now. New programs are starting and the holiday celebrations are being planned. If you would like to participate with any of the activities over the next three months, please contact us. It really is great fun to make people feel at "home".

Trish Crowder
Executive Director

Eagle Scout Project

Jason Graves, Boy Scout Troop 407, worked on his Eagle Scout project at the Shelter. Jason recently painted 40 doors of the residents' rooms, which were badly in need of a facelift. Thank you, Jason.



Welcome and Farewell

August was the month for welcomes and farewells. Regan Senkarik was recently appointed to the San Jose Family Shelter Board of Directors. Regan is the general manager for mercurynews.com, the on-line arm of the Mercury News. She has a background in sales and marketing. Regan knew that the Shelter was doing a terrific job with homeless citizens, and she was looking for another area of interest for herself. So she jumped at the chance to join the Board. Welcome Regan.

Farewells took place at the Shelter for Allison Emrick and Linda Huynh. Allison and Linda worked as occupational therapists in a summer internship. They worked with children and parents, both as groups and individually, doing counseling and occupational therapy. Allison and Linda coordinated the three week-long day camps, and

operated the Reading Without Tears reading enrichment program. Thank you, Allison and Linda, for your hard work on behalf of the Shelter residents.



The Shelter staff bid goodbye to Allison Emrick and Linda Huynh, summer interns in occupational therapy.

Success Stories

Lose Jobs, Lose Housing

The DeRay* Family resided at the San Jose Family Shelter for three months. While in the Shelter they learned to obtain housing and become fiscally self-sufficient. Mr. and Mrs. DeRay and their three sons opted to move into an apartment with a friend so that rent would be lower for them. Neither Mr. and Mrs. DeRay had jobs but had been looking aggressively.

In their first few months in permanent housing, the DeRay family struggled to make ends meet. One month the family was short on rent and came to the Bridges AfterCare Specialist at the Shelter for help. The San Jose Family Shelter was happy to assist the DeRay family with their needs. Since then, Mrs. DeRay has enrolled in classes to become a certified nurse's assistant. She is also babysitting part-time in order to help with finances. Mr. DeRay secured a job in which, in the span of two months, he was promoted to a supervisor position and received a raise.

As of August 1, 2003, the DeRay family had obtained their own housing and graduated from the Bridges AfterCare Program. This family feels very happy and confident about their life. The DeRay family is very proud of their accomplishments, and now, after careful budgeting and saving, they are anticipating the purchase of a new car. The family is very happy to once again be on their own. The boys especially love their new bedroom, where they can make forts, play games, and enjoy their three new kittens and pet snake.

Help Family, Lose Housing

The Treebor* family became homeless when they were evicted from their apartment in June, due to having an over crowded apartment. Two of Mrs. Treebor's relatives were living with them and the landlord stopped accepting their rent payment because of the extra people. The family spent the next two months living in hotels and trying to find a new home. Soon it became too hard to continue this and the family came to the Shelter for assistance.

In one month at the Shelter the family was able to find an apartment and, with the advocacy of the staff Housing Specialist, they were approved for rental despite their recent eviction. The apartment would be ready on the first of October but the landlord needed half of the deposit to hold the apartment for them. The San Jose Family Shelter was able to assist the Treebor family in obtaining the funds to secure the apartment. The family came up with the other half and will pay their first month's rent when they move in. Mr. and Mrs. Treebor have already met with the AfterCare Specialist and are creating their wish list to receive furniture and other household items.

The Treebor's are very hardworking people and often let the staff know how grateful they are for the assistance they have received. The family has reflected on their decision-making in the past and realized that even though they had good intentions, they must to put the need of their immediate family first and not help other people if it is going to jeopardize their current situation. The Treebor family is excited to have a second chance and plan to stay focused to make it work.

*Names have been changed for privacy.

Thank You, Pacific Gas & Electric Company!



The San Jose Family Shelter honored its volunteers in July with a party. And the Shelter forgot to thank the organization that sponsored the event—Pacific Gas & Electric Company! Teresa Alvarado, PG&E representative for government relations, was the event planner and the Shelter is very grateful for her hard work. Many of the Shelter activities rely on volunteers, like Teresa and PG&E. How could we forget our great partner, PG&E!

Wish List

Halloween

Costumes in all sizes, children and adult, and makeup for costumes

Housing/Other

Matresses and dressers for for Bridges; calling cards in 45–60 minute values

Holiday Items

see page 1 for additional requests

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 Tel: 408.926.8885

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Tour the Shelter

Visit the web site at
www.SJFamilyShelter.org

Join Kristina Knudsen, development director, for an informative tour of the San Jose Family Shelter. Tours are held the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 A.M. The next tour will be October 29. Let us know when you can come by calling Kristina at ext 118.

Volunteer Meal Teams

October 2003

Breakfast Teams

Oct. 4	Sat.	St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica
Oct. 5	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Subbu
Oct. 11	Sat.	St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica
Oct. 12	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Gopal
Oct. 18	Sat.	Saratoga Presbyterian Church
Oct. 19	Sun.	Bethel Lutheran Church
Oct. 25	Sat.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Jayshree Jain
Oct. 26	Sun.	Evergreen Caring Heart

Dinner Teams

Oct. 4	Sat.	San Jose Scales of Justice
Oct. 5	Sun.	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Oct. 11	Sat.	First Baptist Church
Oct. 12	Sun.	Faith Lutheran Church
Oct. 18*	Sat.	St. Justin Catholic Parish
Oct. 19	Sun.	Almaden Hills
Oct. 25	Sat.	Willow Glen United Methodist Church
Oct. 26	Sun.	Good Samaritan United Methodist Church

* Birthday Party by River of Life Christian Church!

November 2003

Breakfast Teams

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

Dinner Teams

Nov. 1	Sat.	St. Jude Church
Nov. 2	Sun.	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Nov. 8	Sat.	Bethel Lutheran Church
Nov. 9	Sun.	St. Stephen in the Field Church
Nov. 15*	Sat.	St. Justin Parish
Nov. 16	Sun.	Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Nov. 22	Sat.	Willow Glen United Methodist Church
Nov. 23	Sun.	Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
Nov. 27	Thurs.	St. Justin Parish
Nov. 29	Sat.	Bethel Lutheran Church
Nov. 30	Sun.	Mother's Kitchen