



VOLUNTEER

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FALL/WINTER 2015



HIKE

TO END HOMELESSNESS Pg 3

## Becoming Self-sufficient: Financially Able to Provide for Myself and My Son

“I’ve been homeless since I was 14 years old,” says Corina, a single mother of one living at SHELTER, Inc.’s transitional housing facility.

From a young age, Corina experienced abuse at home. Realizing she was living in an unhealthy environment, at age 14 she chose to leave. Bouncing around between friends’ homes, she managed to graduate with her high school diploma, hold jobs in retail and fast food and attend college classes at Los Medanos College.

“Every time I had a job or I went to school, I would quit because I wasn’t comfortable where I was living and I didn’t feel loved,” says Corina.

“But when I had my son I felt like I needed to make a change.”

After her son Nico was born, Corina returned to school to complete a certificate in office work. Without child care, she still struggled with finding a job and a permanent home.

In late 2014, Corina and Nico moved into their first apartment at SHELTER, Inc.’s Pittsburg Family Center. After over two years of being unemployed, Corina had difficulty finding a new job.

“It was hard finding a job on my own,” says Corina. “Everything is online now. You can’t just go into a store and ask for an application.”

(cont’d pg 4)



Corina watches Nico play from her kitchen.



On July 27th, over 250 people celebrated the 24th Annual Swing for SHELTER at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. Presented by UnitedHealthcare and Maggie and Norm Eggen, this all-day event to end homelessness included a golf tournament followed by a fun evening of auction bidding and dinner. Thanks to the generous support of our golfers, dinner attendees and sponsors, \$166,000 was raised to end homelessness for families in Contra Costa County. Thank you to everyone for making this year another successful event benefiting SHELTER, Inc. families. We look forward to seeing you next year, so mark your calendars for Monday, July 25, 2016!

For more photos visit:  
[www.shelterhike.org/events/swing/](http://www.shelterhike.org/events/swing/)

Photos above: Johnathan Korfhage at the Marshmallow Drive Contest, Maggie & Norm Eggen during the silent auction, and Tim O'Keefe with Trudy Triner and John Foley.

## A Note from the Director

As I look around our new offices, I'm amazed at the incredible amount of growth SHELTER, Inc. has experienced in the past year.



When we ended our fiscal year in June, we saw a 27% growth in the number of men, women, and children we were able to serve, both through housing and through financial assistance. This growth in services also meant we needed you, our faithful supporters, to join us in meeting the most basic needs of those helped. You donated \$590,000 worth of in-kind items such as food, diapers, toiletries, backpacks and cleaning supplies. You volunteered 15,500 hours of your time and talents, caring for families at our centers, improving facilities, giving back office support and providing leadership.

It is hard to imagine sleeping in your car at night and getting up in the morning to go to work—there's no place to take a shower, wash your clothes or make breakfast for the kids. But the addition of our newest grant, HousingWORKS! helps change that. In partnership with Contra Costa Health Services and Contra Costa Employment and Human Services, the program provides funding to assist homeless families currently in job training programs with security deposits, temporary rental subsidies and case management.

SHELTER, Inc. has struggled with our own housing crisis. When we started the year, our office space in Martinez was already impacted, with staff doubled up and a second office space rented down the street. We desperately needed a larger space, one that could house the entire agency. After a two year search, we purchased a centrally located facility, large enough to accommodate our staff, increase efficiencies and ultimately, provide more streamlined services.

On June 3, we celebrated our new home with an open house, joined by many of our friends and supporters. Tim Grayson, Mayor of Concord, welcomed us and officially declared June 3 to be SHELTER, Inc. day in the City of Concord, but I think we should rename June 3 as SHELTER, Inc. Supporter Day. You, our supporters, are the ones who made this year possible.



Thank you for a year of extraordinary change and growth.

*Shirley O'Keefe*





## HIKE TO END HOMELESSNESS

# Hike for SHELTER - October 18, 2015

Looking for a fun way to give back to your community and enjoy the outdoors at the same time? You can fight homelessness and raise funds to help hundreds of low-income families and veterans while hiking the beautiful Mount Diablo hills.

This family-friendly event offers

four trail options for all hiking abilities, a beautiful post-hike celebration with catered lunch, music, fundraising prizes, t-shirts and special guest speakers.

Brush off your hiking shoes and invite your friends to join you in **HIKING TO END HOMELESSNESS!**

# HIKE FOR SHELTER

## DAY/TIME/PLACE

Sunday, October 18, 2015

7:30am-2pm

Mount Diablo State Park

Check in at Monte Vista High School,  
Danville

## REGISTRATION COST

\$25 per person for easy, moderate and challenging trails. \$50 per person for the summit trail. Children under 5 are free. Includes catered lunch, T-shirt and snacks.

## FUNDRAISING MINIMUMS

Only hikers over 18 are required to fundraise. \$250 per adult, \$750 for teams of 3-6 adults.

**FOR INFO AND TO REGISTER  
VISIT [SHELTERHIKE.ORG](http://SHELTERHIKE.ORG)**

## SUCCESS STORY:

# Making His Mother Proud

*Every year, we ask a successful SHELTER, Inc. graduate to share their story with guests at Swing for SHELTER. This year's speaker, Gary Moore, left the audience in tears with his story of success.*

Gary's wakeup call came at the age of 27. His girlfriend had kicked him out of their apartment, leaving him with no place to go. An addict, he was using his income for drugs and not saving anything.

Homeless, he asked his church about a place to live and they recommended what was then an adult shelter in Concord run by SHELTER, Inc. Living at the shelter provided Gary with the opportunity to take advantage of services offered to help him on his feet. "I immediately entered a drug rehab program and took classes on how to budget," says Gary. "SHELTER, Inc. showed me how to be accountable and I

took it very seriously."

With new found tools to live a better life, Gary began saving his money. "I remember being shocked when I went to the bank and I had money in my account, it was the best feeling!" He says, "I never thought of the shelter as my home, but as a stepping stone to start my real life."

Within the year, Gary had started a new job as a contractor and moved out of the shelter. Now married with two children, Gary works for the City of Pittsburg, owns his own condo and has started a small BBQ business on the side.

"I don't know what would have happened if I hadn't found SHELTER, Inc.," says Gary. "I was embarrassed about what I had become and I was embarrassed to talk to my own mother. I knew I had made something of myself when my mom said to me, 'You are a man now, Gary. A man is not measured



Gary, his wife, children and Ann Noterangelo at Swing for SHELTER.

by his age, but when he's able to take care of himself. You are doing that now and I'm so proud of you Gary."



MEET THE STAFF  
**SOPHIA GAVINO**

“Sometimes poverty is not just about money; it’s about lack of love, friendship and resources,” says Sophia Gavino, the on-site case manager at Mountain View Emergency Family Shelter.

“Many of our participants haven’t had someone to walk beside them, to be a friendly face and support them in a time of need,” says Sophia. “I can do that for them.”

Sophia isn’t new to serving disadvantaged populations. As a

*(Becoming Self-sufficient cont’d)*

She began working with one of the newest members of SHELTER, Inc.’s Employment Services Program, Chuck Bryant.

Working one-on-one, Chuck assisted Corina with filling out online applications, forwarded potential positions to her, attended job fairs with her and coached her on how to interview.

Funded primarily by Y&H Soda Foundation, SHELTER, Inc.’s Employment Services Program provides clients with one-on-one career development, job readiness placement and retention.

“We really want to provide the most comprehensive employment program to help our clients secure employment and become self-sufficient,” says Lindsey Drolette, Employment Services Coordinator.

Clients who participate in the employment program also have

access to assistance with interview clothes, transportation costs and job readiness courses.

Within 6 weeks, Corina had an offer for her first full-time union position in over 2 years. “Chuck was so supportive. He gave me extra encouragement and motivation which is what I really needed,” says Corina. “Without him, I don’t think I would have the job I do.”

Corina also took steps to get her driver’s license and found childcare for her son.

Of her long term goals, Corina says, “I want to be happy and I want to be financially able to provide for myself and my son so I don’t have to depend on anyone.”

If you have job openings you would like help filling, please contact Lindsey Drolette Employment Services Coordinator at (925) 957-7573 or [LindseyD@shelterinc.org](mailto:LindseyD@shelterinc.org).

case manager in SHELTER, Inc.’s veterans department, employment specialist, GED tutor and youth case manager, she brings a breadth of experience serving homeless and low-income populations. Her diverse experience is particularly important at Mountain View Emergency Family Shelter, where incoming families face numerous challenges and need constant one-on-one support.

“There really isn’t anything I haven’t heard, so when a person shares their story with me there isn’t anything that would drop my jaw to the floor,” says Sophia. “I listen without judgment and then guide them on what they need to do to become self-sufficient.”

“It is my goal to be that support and provide tangible teaching moments so families never end up here again.”

Sophia expresses that which is true of those who work at SHELTER, Inc.—professionalism and compassion.

access to assistance with interview clothes, transportation costs and job readiness courses.

CORPORATE SUPPORT  
**DOUGLAH DESIGNS**



Leila Douglah and her team spend their days designing and creating stunning, custom kitchens, bathrooms and homes for local residents. For Leila, there are two things she wants to do in life: run a successful business and help others when she can. Driven by a simple philosophy - “If you can make a living, then share it” - Leila clearly delights in her work, and helping those in need.

“I’m fortunate that I’m able, capable and have the drive to be successful,” says Leila. “Others, both here and in other countries, don’t all have the opportunities I’ve had.”

Since her introduction to SHELTER, Inc., Leila has generously spread the word about the organization and issue of homelessness in Contra Costa County. A sponsor of SHELTER, Inc.’s 25th anniversary event, the 4th Annual Hike for SHELTER and this year’s 6th Annual Hike for SHELTER presenting sponsor, Douglah consistently supports the organization.

“I am so happy that I am able to help! It gives meaning to what we do.”

## HOST A THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Help SHELTER, Inc. families make this Thanksgiving as sweet as pumpkin pie by donating non-perishable ingredients and items they need to prepare their own Thanksgiving dinner this year.

For a full list of suggested items, visit [shelterinc.org/support/volunteer/thanksgiving.html](http://shelterinc.org/support/volunteer/thanksgiving.html).

No donation is too small or too large!

Please deliver your donations by no later than 3:00pm  
Friday, November 20, 2015 to 1333 Willow Pass Rd., Suite 206,  
Concord, CA 94520. Questions? Email Theresita at [theresitag@shelterinc.org](mailto:theresitag@shelterinc.org)

GROCERY CARDS  
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Body Wash HATS  
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DVDs SOCKS  
BOOKS Presents  
SCARVES

## HOST A TEEN GIFT DRIVE

We need your help to make sure that all families who come to us in December receive holiday care. Help make their holiday joyful by hosting a gift drive and collecting new necessary items to make their new year brighter. For a full list of suggested items, visit [shelterinc.org/support/volunteer/thanksgiving.html](http://shelterinc.org/support/volunteer/thanksgiving.html).

Please deliver your donations no later than 3:00pm  
Friday, December 11, 2015 to 1333 Willow Pass Rd., Suite 206,  
Concord, CA 94520.

Questions? Email Theresita at [Theresitag@shelterinc.org](mailto:Theresitag@shelterinc.org)

## DONOR CORNER: THANK YOU

MARCH 1, 2015 – AUGUST 31, 2015

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And to the 689 other donors who made personally significant contributions up to \$2,499, who we are limited by space constraints from listing, your contributions will be listed on the website at the end of the year. Thank you!

SHELTER, INC. TAX ID #68-0117241





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“For you, this may have been a small act of kindness. But for us it has been a big life-changing helping hand. Your act of kindness has had a very calculated effect on our lives. It has added happiness, subtracted sadness, divided troubles and multiplied our faith.”

## GIVE NOW AND GIVE LATER

**GIVE NOW** and your financial gift to SHELTER, Inc. will make an immediate difference in the lives of families in Contra Costa County. In turn, it will give you maximum tax benefits, especially attractive if you are in high earning years.

**GIVE LATER** by making a gift from your estate through your will or revocable trust. You may also designate SHELTER, Inc. as a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan. Even though SHELTER, Inc. cannot use this gift immediately, it will be critically important to the long-term financial strength of the organization.

You will need professional assistance to set up most estate plan gifts. For more information, contact Cynthia Dial at (925) 957-7572 or [CynthiaD@shelterinc.org](mailto:CynthiaD@shelterinc.org).

INSPIRING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES. ENDING HOMELESSNESS.