

MEDIA ALERT

Emergency Family Shelter Meets Funding Gap

Community raises \$94,000 in just one month

What: Martinez, CA –Today, SHELTER, Inc. it has met and exceeded the funding gap by raising \$94,000 to support and serve homeless families at Mountain View Emergency Family Shelter in Martinez.

In April, SHELTER, Inc. faced a \$78,000 gap for the 2013-2014 budget for Mountain View Emergency Family Shelter. The organization faced the real possibility of having to reduce vital services to homeless families at the facility and in need, appealed to the community for help. An outpour of support resulted with The Quest Foundation offering to double all donations up to \$23,000 and 122 individuals, businesses and organizations joined together exceed the goal.

“People understand that Mountain View Emergency Family Shelter is a necessary resource for this community and they don’t want to see it go away,” said SHELTER, Inc. Executive Director, Tim O’Keefe. “I think the outstanding response shows widespread understanding that homelessness is a critical issue in Contra Costa County.”

As East and Central Contra Costa County’s only emergency family shelter, Mountain View is a critical resource for homeless families in crisis. Every year, over 140 men, women and children rely on the facility as they make steps toward escaping homelessness. For an average of 90 days, each family works with a case manager one-on-one to identify barriers preventing them from overcoming homelessness. At no cost, families have access to an employment specialist, parenting and nutrition classes, mental health counselors and other supportive services to get back on their feet and become self-sufficient.

The additional \$16,000 raised will give SHELTER, Inc. a much needed jumpstart going into their new fiscal year starting July 1, 2014. To support Mountain View Emergency Family Shelter go to www.shelterincofccc.org.

When: The campaign to support Mountain View Emergency Family Shelter began in April 2014 with donations coming in through June 1, 2014.

Who is SHELTER, Inc.?

The mission of SHELTER, Inc. is to prevent and end homelessness among low-income residents of Contra Costa County by providing resources that lead to self-sufficiency.

Why: The economic crisis continues for many families in our community. A layoff, foreclosure, health crisis, or unexpected setback creates the perfect storm for homelessness. People are struggling to provide the basic necessities such as food, clothing and shelter to loved ones.

- Housing Challenge: A minimum wage earner would need to work **152 hours per week** or **3.8 full-time jobs** to afford a 2-bedroom apartment in our county.
- There are an estimated 7,500 homeless people in the county. Almost half are children. We served 5,246 individuals in 2013.
- Last year, SHELTER, Inc. assisted 1,552 households requesting assistance to prevent homelessness.
- Top reasons for requesting homeless prevention assistance:
 - 28% Income not enough to pay for housing, need to move.
 - 20% Lost job or reduced hours at work
 - 10% Asked to move by landlord or family
 - 9% Had an illness, injury or death in the family
 - 3% Foreclosure
 - 2% Domestic Violence

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