



PROGRAM UPDATE:

A JOURNEY OF POSSIBILITIES

When she left her unhealthy marriage, Sarah was sure she would find an apartment quickly. But the high cost of rental housing made it difficult to find a place she could afford.

"It was discouraging because they kept telling me, 'you don't make enough money' or 'you have too many people' or 'your credit is bad,'" said Sarah.

Refusing to go back to an unhealthy relationship, Sarah slept in her car while her young daughters stayed with their father.

"I would take them during the day and we would have to hang out at the park and have picnics," said Sarah. "I tried to make it so they didn't really understand what was going on."

Without stable housing, Sarah lost her job and ended up applying for government assistance. She was placed

into a temporary clerk position with a local public agency and enrolled in SHELTER, Inc.'s HousingWORKS program for housing assistance.

A rapid re-housing program, HousingWORKS helps families quickly get off the streets and into a home leased in their name, by providing temporary assistance with rent and support services.

After several months at her job, Sarah was offered a permanent position. With a stable job and help from SHELTER, Inc.'s housing resource specialist, Sarah found a two-bedroom apartment in Antioch. Her daughters now have a room of their own when they stay with their mom.

"I'm really blessed to be where I am today because it seemed like a really impossible journey," said Sarah.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Donate non-perishable food so low-income families can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal together this year.

GIFT CARDS FOR TURKEYS

- \$15 to \$20 to local grocery stores. **Please no fresh or frozen turkeys.**

PANTRY FOOD

- Chicken stock
- Canned corn
- Cranberry sauce
- Cream of mushroom soup
- Canned green beans
- Biscuit mix
- Stuffing mix
- Gravy
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Pasta noodles and sauce
- Salt and pepper

DESSERTS

- Pumpkin pie mix
- Pudding mix
- Jello mix

DRINKS

- Hot cocoa or coffee
- Sparkling cider

For a printable list, visit:
<http://tiny.cc/shelterdonate>

Please deliver items by 3pm on Friday, November 18, 2016 to our main office at 1333 Willow Pass Rd., Suite 206 in Concord. For more info contact Theresita at Theresitag@shelterinc.org.

A MESSAGE FROM CEO JOHN ECKSTROM



This November we will celebrate our 30th anniversary of providing vital services to the most vulnerable in our community. Thirty years is a remarkable milestone for any nonprofit and it is my honor to lead this great organization into its next chapter. I'm especially impressed with how our organization has become one of the longest lasting and largest providers of homeless and housing services in Contra Costa County.

In my short six months as SHELTER, Inc.'s CEO, I've witnessed the deep commitment that you, our donors, volunteers and community partners, have for helping our neighbors in need; from serving meals at the family shelter to donating household supplies and financial gifts. The many ways you devote your time and resources to helping others are endless and always immeasurably appreciated.

I am convinced that by working together as a community we can lead the way in addressing the crisis that is felt throughout the country. The Bay Area is known for innovation and prosperity, and in our experience it's

also a place of generosity. With our combined efforts, SHELTER, Inc. can continue to adapt, evolve and develop effective programs so the families in our community have the hand up they need during difficult times.

To those of you that I have met during the past several months, I would like to thank you for your wisdom, kind words and warm welcome into this great organization. For those who I have yet to meet, please reach out to me and share your thoughts and experiences.

You can be assured that SHELTER, Inc.'s engaged board of directors and dedicated staff will continue our leadership in the critical field of services for the homeless and at-risk families and individuals. I look forward to sharing our challenges and successes with you along the journey.

Respectfully yours,

John Eckstrom

On July 25th, 132 golfers and 161 dinner guests celebrated the 25th 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, dinner and a presentation by a former client. Thanks to the generous support of our golfers, dinner attendees and sponsors, \$173,917 was raised to end homelessness for families in Contra Costa County.

Thank you for making this year another successful event benefiting SHELTER, Inc. families. We look forward to seeing you next year. Mark your calendars for the 26th Annual Swing for Shelter Monday, July 24, 2017!

For more photos visit:
www.shelterinc.org/news/swing/photos.html

Photos above: Former clients share their story with Ann Noterangelo on stage during dinner; Carol Hyman, Margo Somerville, Pat McSween and Ted Dobbs enjoy the silent auction and cocktail hour.

2016 YEAR-END TAX STRATEGIES

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS – The use of donor advised funds has surged in popularity in recent years. This is partly due to their immediate tax deduction for contributions of personal assets and the flexibility of selecting beneficiaries at a later date. Please make sure that you include us in your year-end charitable planning.

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA) CHARITABLE ROLLOVER – The Charitable IRA Rollover provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 is now permanent law. A taxpayer age 70 ½ or older may “roll over” or transfer from his or her IRA accounts up

to \$100k annually directly to charity without first having to recognize the distribution as income. If you have not taken your required minimum distribution, please consider a direct gift to SHELTER, Inc.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES – Donating long term appreciated securities directly to SHELTER Inc. – rather than selling the assets and donating the cash proceeds – is one of the best and easiest ways to give.

CONTACT Aydee Ferguson at aydee@shelterinc.org for more info.



Anthony teaches the importance of safety before heading outside for a lesson on car maintenance.

PROGRAM UPDATE:

THRIVE AND SHINE CLASSES

The doorbell rings and 11-year-old Madison runs down the hall.

"I'll get it," says Madison.

Giselle, a SHELTER, Inc. volunteer intern, and her two daughters enter Pittsburg Family Center carrying baked chicken, corn on the cob, salad and cookies.

Tonight is week seven of SHELTER, Inc.'s eight week Thrive and Shine Class.

Every week, clients participate in a volunteer led and facilitated workshop. Workshop topics change weekly, covering subjects such as healthy habits, money management, time management, household basics and decision making.

Anthony Smith, a professional maintenance man and mechanic has volunteered to cover basic household repairs and car maintenance tonight.

"I'm a repair man by trade and I've taught a lot of people about how to maintain and repair their cars," said Anthony.

Before class begins, volunteers and clients sit down to enjoy dinner together.

"Having dinner available to the clients not only frees them up to participate in the workshop but it also helps build camaraderie," says Theresita Gonzalez, SHELTER, Inc. Resource Coordinator.

When everyone has finished eating, volunteers take the kids to the tutoring room to participate in games that mirror the adult activities.

Anthony begins class with a

quick message about safety and an introduction to basic tools. Then the parents head outside for a demonstration on how to check and change a car's oil, gauge tire pressure, jump start a battery and check transmission fluid.

"Over the years we've seen certain themes come up and thought the families in our programs could benefit from a few life skills workshops," says Theresita Gonzalez. "We wanted to create a nurturing environment where some info might be basic but would be useful and functional for families."

Tonight, after the workshop, families will receive tool boxes with screwdrivers, wrenches and sockets to help them utilize their new skills.

"The classes are so good, the time just flies by," says Mercedes, a resident at Pittsburg Family Center. "Even when class is over everyone wants to stay a little bit longer."

Thank you to the many volunteers and donors who made the Thrive and Shine classes a success.

"The classes are so good, the time just flies by"



Children play in the tutoring room at Pittsburg Family Center while their parents are in class.



Project Hearth Board Members at a cultivation event.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: A CAUSE TO CARE ABOUT

“Thanks to your generosity, our bills are paid, the lights are on, and we can breathe again. So, from the bottom of our hearts we thank you for the chance to get back on our feet and begin moving forward again.”

It's thank you notes, like this, that make the ladies of Project Hearth proud of their work. For more than 25 years, the group of Jewish women has raised funds to help families who experience an unexpected financial crisis and fall behind on rent.

“We take this job very seriously and it's very heartwarming to get those notes and to realize that the work we're putting in is making a difference,” said Melody Weintraub,

Project Hearth Board Member.

More than 2,000 people in Contra Costa County have been helped by Project Hearth's efforts over the years. By sending out an annual letter to friends and family, the ladies of Project Hearth have raised more than \$1.4 million for families facing homelessness in our community.

“It does make a difference when you ask your friends to support a cause you love,” said Melody. “It's not hard, it's just a letter and they can choose to give or not give. We've shown that they'll give and they'll be happy to give when they understand there is a need.”



LAMA members from left to right: Matt Griffin, Brian Britton and Colin Harter.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: LAMORINDA GIVES BACK

One of Lamorinda's newest service groups is already making a noticeable impact in Contra Costa County.

Less than 8 months old, Lamorinda Gives Back (LAMA) held their 1st Annual Summer Field Party “Bluegrass, BBQ & Bourbon” on July 30th, raising \$20,000 for SHELTER, Inc.

“SHELTER, Inc.'s mission fits what we're trying to do in giving back to the hyper local community – not just the Bay Area or California – but Contra Costa County,” said Colin Harter, event coordinator for LAMA.

PARTY FOR A PURPOSE

Turn your next event into a party for a purpose by asking your friends and family to donate to SHELTER, Inc. in lieu of bringing a gift. Whether your guests give an item from our in-kind wish list or a financial gift, their support will make an impact in the lives of homeless families in our community.

PARTY IDEAS:

- Birthday
- Holiday
- Wedding
- Housewarming

HOW TO:

1. Visit the Donate page on SHELTER, Inc.'s website to view current needs.
2. Contact Aydee Ferguson at (925) 957-7572 to tell us about the event and request SHELTER, Inc. informational materials to share with your guests