**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact:

Heather Keith Spellman

[Heather.Spellman@shelterinc.org](mailto:Heather.Spellman@shelterinc.org)

415.999.7511

**SHELTER, Inc. Opens New Dining Hall and Commercial Kitchen at**

**310 Beck Avenue Location**

***Ability to serve greater capacity***

CONCORD, CA July 5, 2023— SHELTER is proud to announce the completion and opening of their new dining hall and commercial kitchen at their 310 Beck Avenue Navigation Center in Fairfield, CA, (formerly SHELTER Solano) with seating capacity for more than 102. With the opening, the facility can now serve nearly all its shelter participants at the same time, with hot meals cooked in a proper kitchen, vs. serving microwaved meals in two shifts, in a much smaller building.

The appearance is not a stereotypical shelter building with a soup kitchen, but a modern, clean, hacienda-style facility. SHELTER’s vision for its participants is to give them a “hand up,” and inspire them to turn their lives around, end their homelessness, and become self-sufficient. The accompanying programs run by committed staff call for engagement, participation, effort and a willingness to accept help and make changes in their lives.

“We want our participants to regain the basics in their life, start to feel good about themselves, find the root cause of their instability, work on a lasting solution, and become housed,” said SHELTER CEO **John Eckstrom.**

The new 7,415 square foot building is centrally located for all shelter participants, with an adjacent landscaped playground and lawn area to await meal times. The chef onsite will also be using the commercial kitchen as a teaching facility for participants.

“We were fortunate to have the idea, backing and support to plan a culinary program for our shelter participants, which will be taught by our new chef in this space,” continued Eckstrom. “Shelter participants who graduate from this culinary school will have skills they can use in the future to be self-sustaining. We are also gratified to have a range of funders and donors, both public and private, who believe in our mission and support the new facility.”

One of the largest homeless services providers in the Bay Area, SHELTER operates SHELTER Solano, which is Solano County’s largest homeless shelter, a family shelter in Martinez, CA, two domestic violence prevention programs, a Veterans program, and an Adult Shelter in Sacramento.

###

About SHELTER:

Since 1986, SHELTER has provided critical housing assistance, case management, and wrap-around services to help families and individuals facing eviction, living on the streets or struggling to obtain affordable rental housing. SHELTER works to prevent homelessness, end homelessness and provide affordable housing. On average, 3,100 children, women and men annually participate in SHELTER, Inc. programs in Contra Costa, Solano, and in Sacramento counties.