

August /September 2004

Summer Camp Memories

Summer camp for the children this year was wonderful. When you look at the photo, you can see the joy in the faces of the children. They had an exciting time, learning about themselves and their world. They made friendships and the experience will stay with them forever. The children returned so happy, (tired, dirty and crying) that it brings joy to all of the people around them. They have learned new skills, met new people and enjoyed life as a child, not as a poor child.

Thank you to all of the people who made it possible for 24 children to enjoy a week of camp in the Redwoods. Thanks to Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp for the opportunity to send the Shelter children

at a reduced rate. Thanks to Lu Walthart and the generous people at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the camperships and for driving some of the children to camp. Thanks to Marcia and Bill Swift and the good people at Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the "stuff" for the campers—backpacks, towels, flashlights, cameras (including processing fees), pillows and pillow cases. Thanks, too, for driving up the largest group of 15 and fetching them after camp. Thanks to AAUW for their gift to pay for the Trading Post and some of the bathing suits and new clothes. This is an

expensive venture and we are grateful for all of the people who helped.



Concern For The Poor *Is Now* Family Supportive Housing

In the June newsletter it was announced that San Jose Family Shelter's parent corporation, Concern For The Poor, had changed its name to Family Supportive Housing to better reflect its mission to the community. In response to that article this letter was received from Gerry Phelps, the first director of the San Jose Family Shelter and still a true friend to the Shelter and its work. Hark back to the days of typewriters and carbon paper....

"Noticed that you are now Family Supportive Housing, Inc. not Concern for the Poor. Good! That was always an awkward name, which was not really what we preferred anyhow.

It came about this way. In 1985, I typed up the articles of incorporation myself, using another charity's articles as a boilerplate, to avoid attorney fees. Used my electric typewriter, as this was pretty well before useful PCs and printers. The name I typed in was Concern, Incorporated.

Only then did I think to check, and was dismayed to learn that the name was already taken. What to do?? I could not face typing the whole thing over again on a typewriter (with hand corrections, etc.—remember?) Counting spaces, I saw that there were exactly enough spaces to substitute Concern for the Poor instead. Whew! But I was not crazy about the name.

When our Board (the very first one) saw it, they did not like the name, and asked why the change. But when I explained that the new name exactly fit the whited-out space of the old one, so that I did not have to re-type all those pages again, they accepted the new one immediately. I was then the only employee, and had more important things to do—like getting the shelter open!

Anyhow, that was the only reason for that particular name. And the new one is miles ahead of the old one. Congratulations!"

Thanks, Gerry, for sharing your story with us. And for reminding us that word processors and computers are here to stay.

Board of Directors

Bob Zapotosky
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Vice Chairman

Author (Art) Charette
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Shelter Staff

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.


Dear Friends,

The lazy, crazy days of summer are here and they are neither lazy nor crazy. Summer activities are going on. The children are participating in three weeks of day camp with Occupational Therapy interns and it is great fun for them. They are off today at the zoo. I am very thankful that they are so well taken care of and so well entertained.

Twenty-four of the children went to summer camp in the Redwoods for a week. I drove three teens up for the camp and the conversation in the car was wonderful. On the way up they were very quiet, I presume somewhat reluctant to go, but on the way back it was constant conversation. One of the young men says he will work and save money this year so he can go back next summer as a counselor. The young woman said that she had told her mother that she was going to be bored and lonely for a week. After camp she said that it was the fastest week she has ever spent and she had no idea how many wonderful things could happen in a week. She was already planning on inviting some of her new friends to her new home this fall. I feel privileged to have been part of this life altering experience for these young people. Thank you to all of the people who helped make this week possible for the children.

Thanks to the generosity of Bob Riggs, we have a new Wolf stove. The old stove was giving us fits and was a source of constant complaint from the meal teams. With joy, we now have a wonderful stove with six (6!) gas burners, a griddle and two ovens. It will make cooking much easier for the staff and hopefully trouble free for groups who come to cook.

Last month we received a BBQ which is efficient for large groups so with the new appliances, cooking for the families in the Shelter is much easier. If you too would like to bring some food and to use our new equipment, give Nikki a call, we love to share our good fortune.



Trish Crowder
Executive Director



It is not usual to see pictures of new stoves or other appliances in this newsletter, but the shiny new Wolf Stove just needed a photo op. A giant thank you to Bob Riggs who helped us receive this very needed appliance.

SAVE THE DATE

The 18th Annual Soup Kitchen Dinner will be held at Bellarmine on November 3. Make plans to attend this fun event, great food, music, and auctions. Most importantly, proceeds directly benefit the San Jose Family Shelter. Invitations will be mailed in September. If you would like to help, please call Trish Crowder at (408) 926-8885.

Housing Workshop and The Merc— What a Team!

Workshop: Using the Mercury News as a Educational Tool

By Baljit Dhanjal

For months, the Housing Workshop has used The Mercury News newspaper as part of various educational activities that promote motivation, self-confidence, and skills to find housing. The workshop helps adults practice how to search for affordable rental units, interview for housing, budget their expenses and search for employment according to their desires and skills.

Adults are asked to read certain areas of the paper then apply their experiences to the various activities and topics. For example, one activity that is most popular with the residents involves locating 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom housing units. Another activity focuses on listing current and needed skills to obtain a job. In terms of budgeting, activities focus on coupons and the shopping section of the paper.

The newspaper also encourages social participation in group activities. Thirty-minute exercises are created to enable adults to work in groups to discuss all aspects of homelessness. Individuals from various experiences with homelessness discuss struggles and obstacles they have had to overcome, or are currently working to overcome in order to be successful.

There is always something in the newspaper that can be used as a resource to help adults experience the



Sandi Marine (right) San Jose Mercury News newspaper, manager of Newspapers in Education Program, Baljit Dhanjal (left) Housing Specialist of the San Jose Family Shelter presenting Sandi Marine with a gift for all the donations of newspapers for residents' education.

reality of searching for the latest rental units, employment opportunities, and tracking their budgeting in order to cut out unnecessary spending. Thanks to The Mercury News and sponsors, the residents of the San Jose Family Shelter are able to receive a great resource to help them in their path toward success.

If you would like to help the Mercury News newspaper continue to provide donated newspapers to organizations like the San Jose Family Shelter, please call Sandi Marine (Manager) at 408-920-5272. You can also write to, San Jose Mercury News, Mercury News In Education, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190 or visit the website mnie@sjmercury.com for more information on how you can help donate or sponsor the program.

Success Story

Angelina and Alfred came to the San Jose Family Shelter with their three children, Robert (15), Kate (10) and Gabby(3). The family became homeless when Alfred was laid off from his job at an auto body shop. Angelina wasn't working at the time and they could no longer afford the rent. They left their apartment and came to the Shelter.

They were at the Shelter a very short time. By their second week Angelina found a job at a grocery store and shortly after that Alfred found a job landscaping. Alfred prefers working in auto body repair, so he continues to look for jobs in auto body repair while he does landscaping.

Two weeks after the parents found employment, the family found a place to live, but they needed assistance with some of the deposit. Since they were transitioning into Bridges AfterCare, and the other community funds were unavailable, the family requested and received a grant for \$400 from the AfterCare fund.

Angelina, Alfred and their family are living in their own apartment now and they will continue to receive services from Bridges AfterCare Program into next year.

Sometimes just a little help, and some support, is all our families need to make that transition from the Shelter to permanent housing.

School Needs

- school backpacks
- school supplies
- meats & cold cuts, cheeses
- \$15 gift certificates to Payless Shoes for school shoes
- \$20 gift certificates for Target for school uniforms & school clothes

Other Needs

- inexpensive brooms & small mops

Meal Teams Needed

There are a few dates in the Fall that are not filled as yet. Why not use this opportunity to gather your friends, co-workers, or church members and help the Shelter and its residents.

Oct. 31	Sunday	Halloween		Dec. 12	Saturday
Dec. 24	Friday	Christmas Eve		Dec. 31	Friday New Year's Eve

August 2004

Breakfast Teams

August 1	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Namita
August 7	Sat.	St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica
August 8	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Gopal
August 14	Sat.	San Jose Christian Reformed Church
August 15	Sun.	Bethal Lutheran Church
August 21	Sat.	Saratoga Presbyterian Church
August 22	Sun.	Evergreen Caring Hearts
August 28	Sat.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Jayshree Jain
August 29	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Gopal

Lunch Teams

August 8	Sun.	Mazarin
August 21	Sat.	CRC

Dinner Teams

August 1	Sun.	Westminster Presbyterian Church
August 7	Sat.	St. Francis
August 8	Sun.	Calvary Church
August 14	Sat.	First Baptist Church
August 15	Sun.	Alchemy Hair Studio
August 19	Thurs.	Back 2 School Dinner by Teddy
August 20	Fri.	St. James
August 21*	Sat.	St. Justin Catholic Parish
August 22	Sun.	Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
August 27	Fri.	New Restoration Church
August 28	Sat.	San Jose Scales of Justice League
August 29	Sun.	Prince of Peace Saratoga

September 2004

Breakfast Teams

Sept. 4	Sat.	St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica
Sept. 5	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Namita
Sept. 11	Sat.	San Jose Christian Reformed Church
Sept. 12	Sun.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Gopal
Sept. 18	Sat.	Saratoga Presbyterian Church
Sept. 19	Sun.	St. John Vianney Church
Sept. 25	Sat.	Sathya Sai Seva Group Jayshree Jain
Sept. 26	Sun.	Evergreen Caring Hearts

Lunch Team

Sept. 18	Sat.	CRC
Sept. 25	Sat.	Delta Sigma Phi

Dinner Teams

Sept. 4	Sat.	St. Jude Church
Sept. 5	Sun.	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Sept. 11	Sat.	Campbell Church of Christ
Sept. 12	Sun.	St. Stephen in the Field Church
Sept. 16	Thurs.	Dinner by Teddy
Sept. 18*	Sat.	St. Justin Parish
Sept. 19	Sun.	Immanuel Lutheran Church
Sept. 24	Fri.	Faith Lutheran
Sept. 25	Sat.	St. Andrews
Sept. 26	Sun.	Good Samaritan United Methodist Church

* Birthday Party by River Church Community!