



◆ In This Issue

Emergency Winter Shelter Opens in Guerneville

Vet Connect Restructures

Winter Warmth Gears Up

Task Force Board Changes

New Mental Health Consumer Organization Forms

Planned Giving: Leaving a Legacy

October In Paradise: Oh, What A Night!

Health Care For The Homeless: Medical Respite Program Funded

Remembering Red Thomas

Task Force Work in Progress:
 - Advocacy
 - Emergency Food & Shelter Funding
 - Winter Warmth
 - Resource Guides and more

EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER OPENS AGAIN IN GUERNEVILLE

By Jan DeWald

At 8 p.m. on November 15, an emergency winter shelter opened in the River Area for the 4th year, operated in the Guerneville Veterans building by the new Community Housing Opportunities West (CHOW).

For its first two years the shelter was only open during extreme weather. If it was pouring rain or below freezing St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church offered St. Hubert's Hall, and Russian River Interfaith Coalition (RRIC) provided volunteers. This arrangement was far better than no shelter at all, but was extremely difficult to manage. The decision to open could not be made until late afternoon. This made it challenging for the unsheltered and volunteers alike to plan for the night.

During the winter of 2008 / 2009 the Board of Supervisors granted a fee waiver for use of the Veterans Memorial Building in Guerneville. Regional Parks contracted with RRIC for oversight, with West County Community Services providing fiscal management and insurance. The shelter was open 9

continued on page 4

VET CONNECT STRUCTURES ITS FUTURE

By Jim Poore, PhD.

Sonoma County Vet Connect ("SCVC") has been recognized as an Unincorporated Non-Profit Association dedicated to helping veterans of the United States military services and their dependents. SCVC is now able to operate as an independent entity rather than a collaborative of agencies and individuals, and to have a bank account and its associated benefits. SCVC offers specific locations and times throughout Sonoma County where veterans can go to determine any benefits or services for which they may be eligible and to learn how to access this assistance. In the case of homeless veterans, SCVC seeks to determine if that veteran has shelter, food and is taking any needed medications. SCVC then assists the homeless veteran to resolve any or all of those circumstances as needed.

SCVC has also structured an agreement with Viet Nam Veterans of America Chapter #223 ("VVA"). That arrangement enables SCVC to process donations through the VVA and permits the donor to claim a tax deduction. The ability to offer potential donors the chance to realize a tax deduction will greatly improve the opportunity to receive donations of either cash or equipment.

Membership in SCVC is limited to veterans with an honorable discharge. Experience has shown that veterans seeking help are usually more comfortable discussing their situation with another veteran. They believe that

continued on page 4

**The Sonoma County
Task Force
for the Homeless**

is a coalition of public and private service providers, community organizations, religious congregations, businesses and individuals working to end homelessness in Sonoma County and to assist those who have lost their homes. We depend heavily on our members for direction, financial support, and volunteer assistance.

Chair

Nick Stewart

Vice Chair

V. J. Lopez

Treasurer

Mary Varley

Secretary

Grace Villafuerte

Board Members

Sam Barnhart

Georgia Berland

Jan DeWald

Sandra Kates

Belle Sweeney

Peter Takacs

The Task Force Board represents a diversity of perspectives as well as a commitment to the efforts of the organization.

Executive Officer

Georgia Berland

Reporter Editor

Operations Manager

Fawn Moran

Reporter

Layout & Production

Webmaster

John Harnish

Volunteer Program

Assistants

Katreina Eden

Megan Lawrence

Marilyn Mitchell

Eddie Phipps-Bennett

Dialogue...

The Dialogue section is devoted to items submitted by readers. We particularly invite personal experiences, ideas, suggestions, and responses from homeless people, program staff, volunteers, and the community. Please see Editorial Guidelines below for how you can contribute your thoughts.

Dear Friends:

Last year many of you responded warmly to our requests for warm clothing and blankets. Those received by Catholic Charities were distributed to their five shelters and Homeless Service Center in Santa Rosa. I've been on Catholic Charities' Board of Directors for the past few years, was until recently on the Task Force Board, and thank you for your generosity and compassion. Many families are struggling this year for a new start in this down economy and need our help.

Catholic Charities' Family Support Center is in the old Santa Rosa General Hospital building downtown. Each of the thirty rooms houses a family — over 130 people in all, more than half children age one month to sixteen years. This building is a beehive of activity after school with kids doing art and homework, parents taking self-improvement classes, and Sister Kathleen and staff preparing meals. Every Friday after school I take a carload of kids to a beautiful ranch in the vineyards for horseback riding lessons. The children absolutely love this beautiful area where they get to feed the chickens, pet the animals and ride horses. Unfortunately with so many children at the center their name comes up only two or three times a year.

I continue to be overwhelmed by the variety of programs run by Catholic Charities, helping all people regardless of religious affiliation. Dozens of folks are assisted with immigration and citizenship by bilingual staff at our Airway Drive headquarters. Our Alzheimer's Respite Program gives family members respite from caregiving. One volunteer is 104 years old. She comes in to play the piano so the guests can sing and dance. Another room houses the Home Alone program with volunteers calling over 100 seniors, disabled and housebound individuals daily. Other staff members are counseling homeowners and renters in avoiding foreclosures and evictions. Another program I'm involved in is called Coach 2 Career where we assist the unemployed with job searches, resumes and interviewing skills. These programs are just the tip of the iceberg. For more visit www.srcharities.org or call 528-8712. Thanks again for all your help, and I will guarantee one thing. True happiness comes from helping those in need. Happy Thanksgiving!

- Don Nowacki

REPORTER Editorial Guidelines:

Publication of any article will be finally determined by the Editor and is not promised. Articles are edited for length, grammar, accuracy and clarity, and may be held for a later issue. Personal stories, constructive critique, photos, graphics, ideas, and suggestions are warmly invited, as is information of interest to those concerned about homelessness in Sonoma County. Unsubstantiated allegations are not published, nor are profanity, racial, ethnic, religious or personal slurs, denigration or name-calling of individuals or agencies. Submissions must be 500 words or less, and sent via e-mail or CD to scfhms@pacbell.net, mailed to the Task Force for the Homeless at 3315 Airway Drive, Santa Rosa 95403, or faxed to 575-4494. Submissions must include the full name of the author or artist. Typed or legible handwritten articles will be accepted from authors who do not have computer access, but must be received at least one week prior to the regular deadline.

Publication Dates for 2010

Spring 2010

Summer 2010

Submission Deadlines

February 10

June 2

WINTER WARMTH GEARS UP AGAIN

By Georgia Berland

The Task Force for the Homeless has begun our 2009-10 Winter Warmth coat, jacket, blanket, and sleeping bag clearinghouse. We collect from a variety of drives, sort and distribute desperately needed adults and children's warm items via homeless service agencies countywide throughout the cold and rainy months. Many agencies have clients who need these items, but do not have storage space.

The Task Force has gratefully had the donated use of a warehouse at the California Human Development (CHD) building on Airway Drive, where our offices are also located. We can still accept donations there, but cannot use the space for distribution this year, since CHD is remodeling the building.

We are deeply grateful to Pacific Mini-Storage in Cotati for its six-month donation of an 8' x 20' storage unit so we can get these crucial survival items out to people as the cold and wet weather hits the county! We are starting up 2009-2010 distributions in November from this donated unit in Cotati. [Thank you Pacific Mini-Storage!](#)



Volunteers unload donated coats for our Winter Warmth program.

TASK FORCE BOARD CHANGES

We are pleased that Sam Barnhart, site coordinator for Catholic Charities' Sam Jones Hall and Director of the West County Winter Shelter, was re-elected, and Real Estate Investor Peter Takacs was elected to the Task Force Board at our September Annual Meeting. (See masthead p. 2 for list of continuing members).

Four of our most dedicated members have left the Board after many years of outstanding service. Gale Brownell, our former Chair, Vice-Chair, and Advocacy & Funding Committee Chair, is stepping off the Board after more than nine years. Dannielle Danforth, our former Vice-Chair and Treasurer, a 10-year member, has taken a new job and moved out of county. Don Nowacki, a wonderful advocate and fundraiser since 2002, has also just left the Board and is enjoying working more hands on with people in need through Catholic Charities. Nancy Lisk, a tireless advocate for West Count services who also prepared our annual agency Wish Lists and wrote compelling articles and advocacy testimony, has also left the Board. We offer each of these outstanding individuals our sincere and heartfelt thanks for their enormous contributions to the Task Force mission.

The Board is seeking potential new members. These simultaneous retirements means its membership is suddenly down to only 10 from our usual 15-17. We welcome those with a passion for ending homelessness and assisting people who are homeless through the collaborative work we do. We are particularly looking for people from the business and religious communities, as well as those with professional skills in accounting, housing development and/or finance, law, criminal justice, education, health, or the public sector. We're also aiming for geographic and ethnic/cultural balance. For more information contact Belle Sweeney, Nominations Chair, at belle.sweeney@gmail.com.

Nick Stewart's multi-year Board Chairmanship was temporarily extended at the October Board meeting. V. J. Lopez was elected Vice-Chair. Grace Villafuerte has moved from Interim Secretary to Secretary and Mary Varley remains Treasurer. A new Chair is expected to be elected in November.

Gale's departure left a need for additional leadership in our Advocacy work. People interested in helping the Task Force stay current with and/or respond to pending legislation, policies and projects, please contact Georgia Berland at gberland@aol.com.

Emergency Shelter Opens...continued from page 1

p.m. to 7 a.m. December through March. Volunteers noticed that the majority of clients arrived hungry, and they started providing nightly hot meals for up to 23 people at their own expense. The unsheltered were out in the weather all day and having a hot meal before bedtime was gratefully appreciated. This impromptu sharing rapidly became a regular part of the shelter routine. An Emergency Food and Shelter Program grant administered by the Task Force funded what rapidly became an organized meal service. In 2008/2009 over 4700 meals were served, and over 1400 bed nights provided. Quite an accomplishment for a small group of volunteers with limited funds.

In Spring of 2009 Faith Based Community Housing Corporation West, a non-profit community housing development corporation, or "CHODO", based in Sebastopol, offered to join forces with RRIC. The two Boards combined and became Community Housing Opportunities West (CHOW). This newly formed organization began to coordinate responses to the housing needs of the low income and unsheltered population in West County.

This summer Supervisor Efren Carrillo called a series of "Stake Holders" meetings, bringing together West County service providers and community leaders to find a permanent shelter site. Supervisor Carrillo's Assistant Susan Upchurch worked diligently to help CHOW find a location. At least 83 sites were considered with no success.

The great 5th District leadership took the initiative to obtain use of the Veteran's Hall again this winter. A fee waiver was requested by Supervisor Carrillo and approved by the entire Board of Supervisors, as was a County grant to help cover necessary expenses. Community Action Partnership stepped up with funding for a Housing Director, and California Human Development Corporation has promised assistance. West County Community Services continues to be fiscal agent and a strong supporter of the shelter. The cooperation between all these organizations promises that, just maybe, there is a lasting solution to a long-term problem on the horizon. But this winter people will be kept warm and safe in the Guerneville Veteran's Hall.

Vet Connect...continued from page 1

another veteran will be more able to understand their situation and recommend a possible action to resolve their problem.

SCVC began operations in May of 2008 and has helped more than 900 veterans and their dependents during that time. SCVC conducts clinics at the Santa Rosa Veterans Hall every Tuesday from 9 AM until Noon. The clinic is staffed with representatives from the Sonoma County Veterans Service Office, the Veterans Administration Clinic located in Santa Rosa, the County Mental Health Division, and a person knowledgeable concerning the availability of shelter beds. Veterans seeking work are referred to Sonoma County Veterans Resource Center.

Similar clinics are held in Guerneville on the second Thursday of each month from Noon until 3 PM, in Sonoma on the third Thursday from Noon until 3 PM and in Petaluma on the fourth Thursday again from Noon until 3 PM. The Guerneville, Sonoma and Petaluma clinics are conducted at the Veterans Hall located in each of those communities.

The most current need is for cash donations. These will be used to purchase bus tickets for veterans with limited access to transportation to the SCVC clinics as well as the new Veterans Administration Medical Clinic in the Sonoma County airport business park.

A NOTE OF THANKS

In our Summer issue we acknowledged the leadership of Ted Fox and County Mental Health in establishing the interagency Community Health Outreach Worker team. We also want to offer our appreciation to Karin Adams of the Drug Abuse Advisory Council, who was key to creating this team and still acts as a core leader. Numerous other public and private agencies are dedicating their time and effort as well. The Community Health Outreach Worker Team intervenes to support homeless people, especially those who are unsheltered and need basic services. We are grateful to all of CHOW's team members. Thanks!

NEW MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER/CLIENT ORGANIZATION FORMING

By Kevin Murphy

A formal organization of mental health clients is now forming in Sonoma County, building on many years' history in which recipients of mental health care have organized to seek system improvements. For more information, contact: Kevin at Interlink Self Help Center (546-4481), Vivian at Wellness and Advocacy Center (565-7800) or Jessica at the Russian River Empowerment Center (604-7264). The new group, which meets two Mondays monthly, is making its meeting minutes available at all three of these client-run mental health recovery programs. Interested clients are encouraged to contact one of the people listed above to learn more and to catch up on what's been discussed thus far. The new group is especially seeking clients' input.

PLANNED GIVING: LEAVE A LEGACY TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

By Katreina Eden

Planned giving creates advantages for both the donor and the agency. The Task Force For the Homeless depends on your donations to accomplish our work. Here are just a few of several options available. This is not legal advice. Please consult your own attorney when planning gifts within your estate.

Gifts by Will or Living Trust:

The benefits of gifting through your Will or Living Trust include maintaining control of your assets during your lifetime, the ability to change your bequest, to direct exactly how you want your bequest used, and for your estate to claim a tax deduction.

Charitable Remainder Trusts:

A Charitable Remainder Trust provides a specified distribution to one or more beneficiaries for life or for a term of years, with an irrevocable remainder interest held for your named charity. The difference between the two types of trusts is in the calculation of the distribution. With Charitable Remainder Trusts, the donor gets to enjoy the benefits now, and their named charity later.

A Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust provides the beneficiary a fixed amount during the term of the trust, with the remainder going to the charity. The beneficiaries can be anyone you name, such as yourself, your children, etc. The donor receives an immediate tax deduction. Also, the amount contributed to the trust would not be taxed as part of your estate.

A Charitable Remainder Unitrust requires that the distribution be a "fixed percentage" of the value of the trust determined annually. This protects against inflation. The Unitrust also allows the donor to make additional contributions after the trust has been established.

Charitable Lead Trusts:

A Charitable Lead Trust is just the opposite of a Charitable Remainder Trust. It is an irrevocable trust that provides interest to a named charity for a term of years while the remainder then goes to a named individual(s) such as the donor, the donor's children, etc. A lead trust also enjoys income, estate, or gift tax deductions.

Talk to your attorney about Planned Giving. Becoming a donor will help end homelessness in Sonoma County and better our community while enjoying benefits yourself.

Task Force for the Homeless

General Meetings First Monday of Every Month
Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1 9:30-11 AM
First United Methodist Church, McMullin Room
1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa
All Organizations & Individuals Are Welcome!

Continuum of Care Planning Group

January 21, 2010 1:00 to 4 PM
Sonoma County Community Development Commission
1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa
All Jurisdictions, Departments & Agencies
Dealing With Homelessness Are Welcome!

15th ANNUAL OCTOBER IN PARADISE: OH, WHAT A NIGHT!

By Peter Takacs

It was the end of one of our best warm autumn days when the festivities began. The annual October in Paradise fundraiser to benefit the homeless of Sonoma County was underway. Even before the 5:30 opening, the first of hundreds of donors, partners, supporters and friends began to appear, anxious for the evening to begin.

For the 15th year, the Byck family's Paradise Ridge Winery offered its elegant facilities for an evening of dinner, dancing, and lively auctions. Patrons had a choice of seating on the expansive terraces offering spectacular vistas of the rolling vineyards of the Russian River Valley or inside with the landscape still in view.

And what an event it was that raised \$35,000, almost 30% of our annual operating budget. The incredible generosity of all who contributed through sponsorships, donations, event and raffle tickets, and auction bids online and on site was key to its success. The funds raised were just above our 2008 results — about 16% less than 2007. This is impressive in light of the still dire economic situation.

A social hour started the evening with hors d'oeuvres and drinks, offering a chance to mingle, meet new people, visit with acquaintances and take a peak at the extraordinary array of Silent and Live auction items. Jazz ensemble Brulée created a festive and lively atmosphere.

The evening moved on to our two annual awards. The Marijke Byck Spirit of Community Award was presented to Superior Court Presiding Judge Gary Nadler for his leadership and dedication in establishing the Court Homeless Protocol Project to end jail recidivism, and re-establishing the Homeless Court to help clear warrants that are barriers to self-sufficiency. The Spirit of Service Award was given to The Mental Health Division of the County Department of Health for reaching out to better assist people, to provide intervention services and to build community collaboration in the midst of a grim funding environment. (See our Summer issue for more on our awardees.) The \$500 check for the non-profit cause of the Spirit of Service winner's choice was directed to Community Action Partnership's HCA Homeless Assistance Fund. The Task Force awarded a special additional \$500 grant from its Fund for the Homeless to the same program.

The Live Auction got underway with incomparable Auctioneer Ernie Carpenter stepping up again this year to secure bids for fabulous treasures and trips. Steve Godfryd of Pacific Auction Company ably assisted. Silent auction tables were laden with wine, adventures, art, sports memorabilia, select services, jewelry, merchandise and handmade goods. Just after sunset, dinner was announced, masterfully prepared by former chef and current Board President Nick Stewart with delicious donations from great local restaurants, bakers, stores and caterers. After the always-popular dessert tray, the incomparable Blue Moon Rhythm and Blues Dance Band enticed revelers to dance, while others grabbed a final look at auction goodies.

On the drive home, thoughts mingle around the enjoyment of the evening and who can be invited next year to this very special and important event. All are welcome.

While October in Paradise raises significant funds, support is needed and appreciated all year round. On behalf of those who ultimately benefit from your generosity, we thank you.



HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS: MEDICAL RESPITE PROGRAM FUNDED

By Georgia Berland

Sonoma County now has a boost to develop a much-needed Medical Respite program for homeless people being discharged from hospitals. Kaiser Permanente has awarded \$150,000 to Catholic Charities to work with the Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Collaborative facilitated by the Task Force to expand specialized recuperative care for people in these vulnerable health situations countywide. The project will start by enhancing medical follow-up and care for clients in existing facilities at Catholic Charities in Santa Rosa and COTS in Petaluma. It will form a planning group through the HCH Collaborative to plan the second and third stages—facility and service improvements and expansion to other county localities; and a sustainable, focused, coordinated countywide program. This is a great step forward in meeting our long recognized local need for such a program.

The HCH Collaborative as a whole is enhancing access to integrated primary health care, mental health, substance abuse, and homeless services for homeless people countywide. We're customizing our newly designed screening and care standards and integrated case management system to each discipline's intake, data, and service systems. We've chosen MiVia, developed through St. Joseph Health System and being successfully used locally by farm workers, as our patient-owned medical record system. We're seeking funds to license and technical assistance to adapt this key system component to each discipline as well. We should be able to license and start testing and implementing the MiVia system for under \$10,000 for the next year, plus the cost of technical assistance to assure inter-operability with existing information systems in each discipline. We welcome ideas or assistance from the community to help us meet this potentially pivotal challenge in integrating health care for people who've lost their homes.

We're planning to pilot test each system component in at least five agencies in 2010, and then implement them countywide. We also continue to identify and coordinate to fill service gaps. All three major hospitals, Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services, Drug Abuse Advisory Council, Public Health, community clinics, and homeless services participate. Dory Escobar of St. Joseph Health System chairs the group, which is supported by the Task Force as part of our collaborative program development.

REMEMBERING HOBART "RED" THOMAS

Sonoma County has lost a great piano player and a really good man. Hobart F. "Red" Thomas slipped away on June 10, 2009 in Santa Rosa. Red successfully juggled music, academia, and family - and lived a glorious life. Born in 1924 in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, he interrupted his education at 19 to join the Army Air Corps and was soon a B-17 navigator in Kimbolten, England. Red survived 30 combat missions and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. He married Rachel Wallis of Richardson, Texas, and in 1951 earned a Ph.D. from Stanford. In 1956 the Thomas family of five moved to Santa Rosa, when Red and other professors from San Francisco State College opened a small extension on Mendocino Avenue. The Santa Rosa Center eventually morphed into Sonoma State University with Red as one of the founding faculty. He served as chairman of the Psychology Department, and was proud of his work at the College of Expressive Arts. He played a mean jazz piano at numerous October in Paradise events for the Task Force over the years. Red is warmly remembered.

TASK FORCE WORK IN PROGRESS

Committee and Project Updates

ADVOCACY AND FUNDING COMMITTEE: We contacted Rep. Mike Thompson to thank him for his support of national health care legislation with a strong public option, and distributed information on local funding policy hearings and pending Housing Elements of General Plans, as well as relevant state legislation. The Task Force is looking for new energy on our Advocacy efforts since Gale Brownell, our long-term Advocacy and Funding Chair has left the Board. Contact Georgia Berland at gberland@aol.com or 431-7559.

EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP) FUNDING: Congress has allocated \$200 Million in EFSP funds for 2010, and Sonoma County should learn our allocation soon. We will likely be granted about 2/3 of what was received in 2009—still twice what we had in 2008. The Task Force administers the EFSP Local Board, which allocated \$520,322 in 2009 to 28 different programs of 20 agencies in two separate funding rounds. This was three times more money than usual, due to a similar supplemental Congressional allocation for 2009 as was just announced for 2010, plus additional American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Final reports for 2009 funding are due in January and are carefully reviewed by the Task Force before submission to the EFSP National Board to assure full compliance with regulations.

EDUCATION: We continue to make community presentations and to offer relevant speakers at our monthly public General Meetings. To secure a speaker or get involved in community education, contact Nick Stewart at scfhmls@pacbell.net.

PUBLICATIONS:

REPORTER NEWSLETTER: We invite input and submissions for our Winter/Spring issue by February 10th, 2010 at gberland@aol.com.

Our Website, www.sonomacountyhomeless.org, offers archived issues of the *Reporter*, the Homeless Resource Guide for download or online use, any current Requests for Proposals for EFSP funds, links to local resources, information on the Task Force board, staff, and activities, facts on homelessness, service directories, and ways to get involved. Please send any content suggestions to gberland@aol.com.

ANNUAL MEETING/BOARD ELECTION: See Article Page 3 for September election results and Board changes. The Task Force is recruiting now for interested potential Board members to help us accomplish our work. Contact Belle Sweeney at belle.sweeney@gmail.com.

OFFICE/STAFF: Fawn Moran, our half-time Operations Manager, has recruited several wonderful volunteers, including Eddie Phipps-Bennett, Megan Phillips, Katreina Eden, and Marilyn Mitchell to keep the Task Force office functioning, and to support our Winter Warmth program. Please be patient if we're not here when you call, and please also phone us at 575-4494 before you stop by to be sure staff is in the office.

FUNDRAISING — HOW YOU ARE SUPPORTING US:

The funds that keep the Task Force running come from you - our community. In November, Johnny Garlic's helped us by donating 25% of dinner proceeds for those who brought in a flyer on November 4th. Thanks to those of you who participated! Our annual October in Paradise dinner, dance, and auction netted about 30% of our annual operating budget - this year about \$35,000. (See Article p.6). We deeply appreciate your memberships and donations. Special thanks to Bonnie Kay and the Bonnie Kay Fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona for their recent \$2000 grant!

The Task Force participates in iGive.com (see article p. 11), MySpace, and is exploring other online giving options. We gratefully accept Vehicle Donations as well. The Task Force invites you to consider Planned Giving (see article page 5) as well as tax-deductible donations for program operations or designated gifts to our Fund for the Homeless for direct services such as Voicemail, Resource Guides, and annual Spirit of Service awards. The Task Force maintains a prudent operational reserve, strengthened in 2008 through the generous be-

Task Force Work In Progress...continued from page 8

quest of Betty Bock. Task Force funds come entirely from private donations, membership, and events, except for a small Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) administrative grant, and special grant-funded projects, including those that help support the Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative. Financial reports are available at 575-4494 or scfhmls@pacbell.net.

COORDINATION PROJECTS

The Task Force facilitates these projects or is an active participant. We help to integrate projects in the community to provide more effective and efficient services.

HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS: (See article page 7). Contact Georgia Berland at gberland@aol.com or 575-4494.

ENCAMPMENT SWEEPS/ALTERNATIVES: We continue to support the work of the interagency Community Health Outreach Worker (CHOW) Team—Karin Adams, Ted Fox and others doing outreach—to respond to concerns regarding encampments. CHOW members, with the cooperation of the City/County Creek Stewards Program and other city agencies, try to find and assist people who would be displaced by sweeps. We still hope to devise longer-term, more effective solutions both for public agencies to protect health and safety, and for residents of encampments. We plan to work with the County and other jurisdictions as we move forward. Contact Georgia Berland, 575-4494 or scfhmls@pacbell.net.

WINTER WARMTH: We're planning our first 2009-'10 winter season distribution for November. Let us know if you plan to run a coat, blanket, or sleeping bag drive and we'll work with agencies to get the donated items to the all too many people who need them to make it through this winter. In 2008-09 we distributed over 1900 items through homeless service agencies countywide. Thanks for keeping so many homeless people warm and dry! (See article page 3). For information please contact Fawn at 575-4494 or scfhmls@pacbell.net.

COURT HOMELESS PROTOCOL PROJECT: We are exploring possible funding sources to expand and continue the program Originated by Judge Gary Nadler and developed by a criminal justice, health, and homeless services consortium coordinated by the Task Force. Project Intercept of California Human Development runs this effective, comprehensive re-entry program supporting Homeless defendants, supported by a two-year CA Dept. of Community Services grant for \$87,000 ending in early 2010. Contact Georgia Berland at gberland@aol.com or 575-4494.

HOMELESS RESOURCE GUIDE: The Sonoma County Human Services Commission replenished the stock of 2008-09 Homeless Resource Guides in English, which the Task Force now has available for distribution. Call 575-4494. New English and Spanish versions are in the works and we hope to raise funds to print it once the draft is completed through the Volunteer Center and 2-1-1 service. The Guides remain extremely popular. Many unsheltered people live far from telephones and the Guide helps them see the range of services available and to know when to try to contact them. We prioritize distribution of the printed guides for unsheltered homeless people. One can also use the online version at www.sonomacountyhomeless.org, or download the booklet format, cut it to size and staple it for distribution. Contact Fawn at 575-4494 or scfhmls@pacbell.net.

VOICEMAIL PROJECT: The Task Force Board provides funds to pay the phone bills for The Voicemail Project operated by the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Rohnert Park. The phone lines and computer system are newly updated. Hundreds of people use the free voice mailboxes to help secure housing, employment, and other assistance. We plan to expand the system to health care providers to improve patient follow-up. Please report any system problems or make program inquiries to Fawn at 575-4494.

CONTINUUM OF CARE: The Task Force participates in the Sonoma County Continuum of Care, and several of our projects help to achieve the goals of the County's Ten Year Homeless Action Plan.

SERVICE AGENCY WISH LISTS

By Grace Villafuerte

As we celebrate the holiday season, those of us who enjoy the comfort of our own homes have much for which to be grateful. We know many of our neighbors are not so fortunate, especially in this difficult year. If you find yourself able to spare any of the items requested below, please consider donating the serviceable things you no longer need to a homeless service provider. Enjoy your holidays knowing that you've helped homeless families and individuals stay warm and meet their basic needs as they work to stabilize their lives. Thank you.

Catholic Charities Family Support Center, Carol Kempton, 542-5426: Toothpaste & toothbrushes, toilet paper, laundry soap, bleach, disposable razors, shampoo, bar soap, socks, diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, cold medicine, antibiotic or antifungal medical creams, aspirin, acetaminophen, underwear, t-shirts, garbage bags, sleeping bags, blankets, rain gear.

Catholic Charities Homeless Services Center, Sam Jones Hall, Brookwood Shelter & Russell Avenue Shelter, Mike or Kate, 525-0226: Toilet paper, laundry soap, bleach, disposable razors, shampoo, soap, socks, feminine hygiene products, cold medicine, antibiotic or antifungal creams, aspirin, acetaminophen, ground coffee, underwear, t-shirts, garbage bags, sleeping bags, blankets, rain gear.

Cloverdale Community Outreach Committee, Wallace House, Gloria Higginson, 894-2727: Pick-up truck, copy machine, 5-drawer filing cabinet, small office size refrigerator, dishwashing & dishwasher soap, laundry detergent, bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, plastic pillow protectors, sleeping bags, blankets, winter coats/jackets for adults & children, winter hats & gloves, children's pajamas (boys & girls to age 17).

Community Housing Opportunities West, Jan DeWald, 478-3718: Socks, clean warm blankets & sleeping bags, back packs, rain gear, good volunteers, a building in Guerneville with showers to use as shelter.

Community Support Network, Opportunity House, Cathy Carr, 573-6955: Raincoats, rain ponchos, umbrellas, backpacks, blankets, new pillows, pillow cases, forks & spoons, dishtowels, washcloths & hand towels, hats, socks.

Community Support Network, Transitional Training, Marissa Johnston, 575-0979 x14: Pillows & pillow cases, sheets, comforters, laundry baskets, garbage cans, coffee pot, coffee cups, vacuum cleaner, baking sheets, casserole dishes, juice pitcher, silverware, throw rugs, lamps & dressers.

Community Support Network, Dutton House, Rita Larson, 575-0979 x21: "Gorilla Hair" ground cover, carpeting for recreation room, area rugs for client's rooms, area rug for dining room, exercise equipment, ping pong table, patio furniture, 2 refrigerators.

Community Support Network, Stony Point Commons, Marissa Johnston, 575-0979 x14: Dishes, plates, bowls, silverware, pots & pans, towels, twin sheets & blankets, kitchen towels, pot holders, new microwave, blender, hand mixer.

COTS Family Center & Mary Isaak Center, Debbie Robbins, 765-6593 x100: Baby diapers (except size 3), baby monitors, baby formula, baby wipes, deodorant, disposable razors, tissues, hand sanitizer, silverware, coffee cups/mugs, gift cards, bus passes, van to transport clients to appointments, wire shelving, toiletries, twin size blankets & sheets, pillows, towels, umbrellas, gloves & knit hats for children & adults, coffee/tea, sugar/creamer, health snacks/fruit & juice for children, furniture in good condition, large plastic containers for dried food storage, working lawn mower and yard equipment.

COTS Petaluma Kitchen, (drop off at 301 Payran St. Petaluma) 778-6380: Canned vegetables (green beans, corn, potatoes, mixed), salad dressing, mayonnaise, mustard, canned stews, pork & beans, tuna, hot dogs, lunch meats, ground beef, ham, turkey, spaghetti sauce, pasta, garlic powder, ground black pepper, sugar, stainless steel dishwashing scrubs, mops & brooms.

Disability Services & Legal Center, Melva Freeman, 528-2745: Rain ponchos, hats, scarves, and gloves.

Interlink Self Help Center, Mary Simmons, 546-4481: Sleeping bags, warm coats, rain ponchos, umbrellas, hats, socks, jeans, razors, combs, toiletries.

Service Agency Wish Lists...continued from page 10

Interfaith Shelter Network, (12 transitional houses) Christy, 546-7907, x10: Cleaning supplies, first aid supplies, children's books, games, videos, blankets, pillows, bedspreads, quilts, coffee tables, table lamps, twin size sheets, towels, toiletries, umbrellas, socks, gloves, day planners, new books, DVDs, CDs, cards, board games, umbrellas, phone & gift cards, sweats, gloves, wool hats.

The Living Room, (drop-in center for women & children), Bonnie Wood, 579-0138: Diapers, (sizes 4, 5 & 6), baby wipes, sippy cups, backpacks, county bus passes, hairbrushes & accessories, feminine hygiene products, toiletries, socks, warm hats, scarves, gloves for women and children, women's underwear, & umbrellas, disposable razors, Q tips, facial tissue, toothpaste & toothbrushes, dental floss, mouthwash, cosmetics, plastic bags, stationary, envelopes, pens & pencils, gift cards, motel vouchers, small size deodorants, disposable razors, sunscreen, instant oatmeal & cocoa mix, sugar, salad dressing, snack packs, hairbrushes, combs, chapstick, blankets, sleeping bags, duffel bags, flashlights & batteries, adult diapers, postage stamps, phone cards, dinner plates, cups & bowls, silverware, gas & taxi vouchers. Food items: breakfast cereals, juice, jam, peanut butter, soup mixes, butter, milk, eggs, meat, fruit, vegetables, breads & pastries.

Redwood Gospel Mission, Don Cobb, 542-4817: Socks & shoes, blankets, towels, paper towels, toothbrushes, forty-man bus, musical instruments for praise bands.

The Rose, (women & children's shelter), Sandra Kates, 573-0490: Women's PJ's (M-XXL), slippers, underwear, socks, sweats, postage stamps, phone cards, city bus passes, umbrellas, coffee, cereal, gift certificates, pillows, twin bedspreads, comforters, alarm clocks, note cards, garden rakes & gloves, pruning shears, bedding plants & bare root roses.

Manna Home, (women's recovery program), Laura Clark, 576-1471: NIV Bibles, AA & NA books, Praise CDs, gift certificates, stamps, note cards, stationery, phone cards, umbrellas, socks, coffee, Splenda, diet soda, matching bath rugs & towels, matching twin bedspreads or comforters, bed pillows, alarm clocks.

River to Coast Children's Services, Donna Roper, 869-3613: Children's clothing, shoes, boots & socks, gift cards & certificates.

Santa Rosa Homeless Clinic, Jeanne Kelly, RN & Dr. Michael Kozart, 546-6479: Kleenex, ibuprofen, cough medicines, stethoscopes, file cabinet, HP 74 & 75 ink for fax machine, pulse oximeter, copy paper, copy machine, file folders, bandaids, triple antibiotic ointment, chapsticks & small baggies for putting medicines in.

SAY Coffee House Teen Shelter, Anita Rosales 546-3432: Basketball hoop, socks, blankets, movies or DVDs, city and county bus passes, jackets, games or puzzles, toothbrushes, toaster, crock pot, art supplies, computer speakers, & storage freezer.

Tamayo House, (transitional housing for youth), Dorothy, 528-7500: Small kitchen table & chair sets, couches, overstuffed chairs & entryway chairs, billiard supplies, pool cues, sports equipment, ping pong table, car, canopy or gazebo, vacuum cleaners, high speed wireless router.

Sonoma Overnight Support, Bill Burrell, 933-9593: Donation of funds for services.

Women's Recovery Services, Laura Brown, 527-0412: Bandaids, diapers, all sizes, baby wipes, baby shampoo, night lights, toothpaste & toothbrushes, deodorants, shampoo & conditioner, hair brushes & hair ties, dental floss, chapstick, emery boards, nail clippers, slipper socks, pens & pencils, binder paper, high chairs, sippy cups, bottle brushes, journals & sport bottles, bicycle/tricycle helmets, a handy man/woman for small carpentry jobs.

SHOPPING ONLINE CAN BE A GIFT TO THE TASK FORCE

How can you make searching and shopping for that perfect gift this holiday season even more perfect? Use iGive.com, where with every transaction a portion goes to benefit the Task Force for the Homeless. Raise a penny (or more) per search and generate donations from any of the 730+ stores listed with iGive.com, ranging up to 26%. Just designate the Task Force as your recipient agency. And check out the new searchable coupons and deals, where you'll find all the up to the minute offers and specials.



