



◆ In This Issue

**Opening Doors:
Federal Strategic Plan**

2010 Spirit Awardees

**Open Letter From
CHOW**

**October in Paradise:
Fun & Treasures**

**Medical Respite
Update**

**Health Care for
The Homeless
Launches Access
System Test**

Shoes! Shoes! Shoes!

**Foss Creek Court
Opens**

**CHOW & Cloverdale
Need Help**

**Prescription
Discounts**

**Task Force Work
in Progress:**
- Advocacy
- Funding
- Education
- Resource Guides
- Voicemail
and more...

“OPENING DOORS” TO THE FUTURE

By Georgia Berland

“Opening Doors”, the new Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, was unveiled in July. The Plan was compiled by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) as mandated by the HEARTH ACT that recently re-authorized the McKinney-Vento funding that our Continuum of Care and others secure each year (c. \$2 Million in Sonoma County). The Plan lays out the Obama Administration’s strategy to end homelessness. Four major goals are targeted to ensure that “no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home”.

- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years;
- Prevent and end homelessness among veterans in five years;
- Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in ten years;
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

continued on page 4

SPIRIT AWARDS HONOR GALE BROWNELL & MICHAEL KOZART

By Georgia Berland

The Task Force is proud to honor Gale Brownell and Dr. Michael Kozart as our 2010 Marijke Byck Spirit of Community and our Spirit of Service Awardees, to be presented October 14th at “October in Paradise”.

In 20 years managing Housing Programs for the City of Santa Rosa, Gale Brownell was the person to see if you had an innovative project. She’d explore how to make a good project happen, even if it was not business as usual. When she retired from public service, Gale started a new full-time career as a member of the Task Force Board, serving over nine years including several terms as Board Chair. She activated our Executive Committee and improved the accountability and involvement of the whole Board, and was central to producing the last nine October in Paradise events. Her warmth and vitality engendered a camaraderie that made our work more effective, fun and rewarding. Her calm, balanced approach assured everyone was heard and involved.



Gale Brownell

Gale was Chair of Advocacy and Funding throughout her Board tenure. Her expertise in Housing Elements, Consolidated Plans, development approvals and funding made her invaluable in supporting policies and projects 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

V. J. Lopez

Vice Chair

Jan de Wald

Treasurer

Mary Varley

Secretary

Grace Villafuerte

Board Members

Sam Barnhart

Georgia Berland

Florence Corcoran

Sandra Kates

Nick Stewart

Peter S. Takacs

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

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Georgia Berland

Reporter Editor

Operations Manager

Fawn Moran

Reporter

Layout & Production

Webmaster

John Harnish

Volunteer Program

Assistants

Celosia Arcadia

Kisa Doss

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.

CHOW RESPONDS TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

By Jan de Wald

Community Housing Options West (CHOW) is a dedicated group of volunteers who've operated emergency winter shelter for Western Sonoma County residents for 4 years. Recognizing that the community's need extends far beyond emergency shelter, CHOW started searching for a location for permanent supportive housing. Community Housing Sonoma County graciously agreed to take the lead and help CHOW acquire a site. Over 130 properties were evaluated in a 2-year search.

This is an open letter to the community regarding the proposed purchase of a 10-bed home on Mill Street close to the heart of Guerneville. The Russian River Chamber of Commerce circulated a petition declaring opposition to supportive permanent homes or homeless services of any kind within the downtown area, stating this was inappropriate in the tourist-driven business district. This is CHOW's reply. A longer version was read aloud at an open community meeting in late July.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

CHOW's Board Members all live or work in Western Sonoma County, have lived in Guerneville, and have deep bonds with the area. We understand why people choose to live here, and why people who don't live here visit. Guerneville is one of those special places on earth. It is not always an easy place, in part because of the very things that make it beautiful. Winters can be long, wet, and cold. But people of all walks of life appreciate what is here and choose to live here. Some of those people are not currently in homes.

One of Guerneville's draws is its unique social climate. We open our arms to a wide variety of people. Signs announce "Hate Stops Here". Rodeo riders, Big-Bears, Tri-Athletes, Jazz lovers and Civil War Re-enactors all are welcomed. It's one of the reasons people love Guerneville. We pride ourselves on being a truly accepting community. Missing however is a full range of housing

continued on page 6

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 scfhtmls@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

Fall 2010

Spring 2011

Submission Deadlines

Oct 18

TBA

OCTOBER IN PARADISE - RICH IN FUN & TREASURES!

By Celosia Arcadia

You are warmly invited to join us for our 16th Annual October in Paradise dinner, dance, auction, and awards event on Thursday October 14, from 5:30-10 pm. Our wonderful community of supporters who are passionate about ending homelessness will celebrate our progress and honor those who've made outstanding contributions to this work.

We've amassed some awesome gifts this year for our live and silent auctions. We're thrilled to announce that Ezulwini Game Lodges has donated an amazing African Safari! The winning bidder will experience 6 days and 5 nights of elegant, exotic luxury bungalow accommodations for two, with viewing decks, pools, all meals featuring local cuisine, and daily Photo Game Drives to enjoy the stunning wildlife in magnificent Greater Krueger National Park in South Africa. This is sure to be a spectacular adventure. Get your camera ready!

If you're not able to travel half-way round the world, maybe you'd like to visit the island of Maui to enjoy a 5 night stay in a charming studio across from the beach, with a pool, spa, tennis courts, BBQ, and all the wonderful Aloha of this tropical paradise! Other getaways include a lovely house in Mendocino where privacy and exquisite views abound, a hot tub overlooks 43 private acres and a freshwater lagoon, and you'll enjoy access to nearby hiking trails. Or a stay at Serendipity House in Gualala will offer a chef's kitchen and every amenity and view imaginable! This Craftsman style house includes luxuries like a sauna, a closet full of plush bathrobes, and a telescope for whale watching. You can smell the ocean already! Or escape for a night of pleasure and relaxation at the renowned Hotel La Rose or MacArthur Place.

You'll be delighted at our exceptional selection of fine wines and special wine packages. You'll discover works by major artists, historical and sports memorabilia, jewelry, designer hats, spa treatments, portrait sittings, water conservation and landscaping consultations, and so much more. And outstanding experiences at the Santa Rosa Symphony and at great restaurants from Healdsburg to Sonoma to Petaluma await your winning bid.

We're extremely grateful to our many donors. Your generosity is a testament to our community's caring for those of us in greatest need. We hope you'll patronize our generous business donors. It's just weeks now until we'll all be swinging to the music of the Blue Moon Rhythm and Blues Dance Band, catching the gorgeous sunset from the decks of Paradise Ridge Winery, enjoying delicious cuisine, sipping great wines, and taking in all that awaits at the 16th Annual



Local residents await your visit to Krueger National Park, South Africa



Kalepolepo State Park, Kihei. Your "home beach" across from your Maui condo.

October in Paradise! We can hardly wait, and hope you're excited too! Tickets are \$70 in advance and \$75, if available, at the door. Just call us at 575-4494, register online or download a mail-in Reservation Form at www.sonomacountyhomeless.org. We'll see you in Paradise!

Opening Doors to The Future...continued from page 1

Collaboration is an overriding theme, with technical assistance planned to “help align our collective resources to eradicate homelessness for the 640,000 homeless” Americans counted in January 2009, and the many who’ve lost their homes since. The goals and objectives in the Plan will guide future federal homeless funding.

Adequate permanent supportive housing and services, and increasing the stock of affordable housing are primary goals. Chronic homelessness, a criteria for entry to permanent supportive housing, has been re-defined to include families that have been homeless for more than a year or four times in the last three years in which an adult is disabled, in addition to single disabled people in this situation. While a new federal definition of homelessness is still being developed, the Plan hints that it will finally include people temporarily staying with friends or relatives or in a motel.

Rapid Re-Housing is another theme. Emergency shelter is envisioned to become a short term crisis response system, with clients moved to long-term housing as quickly as possible, and program services continued after they are stabilized in housing. This approach has had great success across the country. Accordingly, federal Emergency Shelter Grants are becoming Emergency Solutions Grants including rapid re-housing. The Administration is vowing to preserve existing shelter funding in the foreseeable future, while adding funds for permanent housing placement and services.

The Plan includes 10 objectives and 52 strategies addressing collaboration, capacity-building, affordable housing for the most vulnerable populations, permanent supportive housing and services, employment; access to mainstream services and income supports, discharge planning from hospitals and criminal justice facilities, targeted services for youth, and rapid re-housing. Still, which agencies are responsible for each objective is sometimes vague. And advocates are concerned about where the funds will come from. The Plan Overview notes that in this economic climate fiscal discipline must be applied and decisions about incremental funding will be made annually. Yet the Plan is based on a growing body of quality research that demonstrates the effectiveness of “targeted comprehensive solutions”. The full Plan, special target population discussions, and the Overview, Goals and Strategies are available at www.usich.gov.

Spirit Awards...continued from page 1

were effective in preventing and ending homelessness. She intervened in difficult community issues such as homeless people in libraries and in Railroad Square, bringing people together to solve problems cooperatively. Gale is a founding member of the Sonoma County Housing Coalition, and active in producing Affordable Housing Week in Sonoma County.

Gale didn’t stop at official duties. She can still often be seen in her truck collecting and delivering warm clothing, rain gear, and supplies. Though she left the Board in late 2009, Gale continues to help raise resources and awareness, and is always willing to consult with Board and staff to share her wisdom and experience. We’re delighted at the chance to honor Gale Brownell and her many contributions to ending homelessness.

Michael Kozart (MD University of Pennsylvania; PhD Anthropology, UC Berkeley), has been Medical and Site Director for the A Street Clinic for nearly five years, while serving as a psychiatrist with the County Mental Health Department. The Clinic started in 1999 to treat our growing homeless and indigent population with multiple health problems. Michael fostered the clinic’s expansion from a four hour per week operation with less than forty clients a month, to 16 hours per week (and growing) serving close to 200 patients/month and drawing participation from mental health, substance abuse and veterans services as well as volunteer clinicians. He helped develop service partnerships to better integrate the clinic with other homeless services, and oversaw



continued on page 6

MEDICAL RESPITE UPDATE

By Gloria Eurotas

If you've ever been a hospital inpatient, you know the only thing you think about when leaving the hospital is going home, getting in your own bed, and resting. Our neighbors who happen to be homeless and discharged from a hospital have that same desire, to go "home," get in bed, and rest and recuperate... something impossible when you are homeless. At the same time, medical providers are reluctant to discharge patients who do not have a place to recuperate, a place of respite.

It is for these reasons that the two major homeless shelter agencies in Petaluma and Santa Rosa developed alternatives for medical respite within their shelter programs. Due to advance work by the Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative, facilitated by the Sonoma County Task Force for the Homeless, a \$150,000 grant for Catholic Charities was funded by Kaiser Permanente Northern California Fund for Community Benefit to improve current respite services, develop a regional program, and identify sustainable funding. Catholic Charities requested and was granted a three month extension to continue the work and complete grant goals by January 31, 2011.

Program highlights to date include:

✓ A Nurse Intake Coordinator began work in May to coordinate patient admission, care, and discharge. Integral to her role is working closely with hospital discharge and social workers to determine appropriate candidates for respite. This model of medical respite is predicated on a strong partnership and regular communication between the respite center, hospital personnel, and work with the extensive services available through the homeless services programs in both cities.

✓ COTS completed improvements at their Mary Isaak Center site with a new area set aside to accommodate special respite client needs.

✓ Catholic Charities completed improvements at the Nightingale site by relocating to a nearby facility with more amenities. This reflects a major improvement and convenience for patients.

✓ The grant also funded long term planning for respite services. A regional Sonoma County network for medical respite is under review, using a main site in downtown Santa Rosa that would offer up to 22 beds. Under consideration is co-locating the respite center with a community clinic. It is expected that this co-location would be mutually beneficial. With a clinic located on site, medical services would be more available to patients in respite care. Homeless services providers would continue to offer social programs and non-medical assistance in a proposed co-located site. Proposals for financially sustaining a regional respite program are in development and will be presented to area medical providers over the next months.

Gloria Eurotas is Division Director for Catholic Charities and Project Manager for the Medical Respite Program.

WINTER WARMTH: NEW SOCKS?

In response to requests from the community, our Winter Warmth program will be starting a little earlier this year - in late October - before the rainy season hits. Thanks to generous donations received last year, we have many wonderful, gently used items to begin the season, but we need to replenish our supply of men's warm outer wear, rain gear, and new socks.

As CHOW has pointed out (see article page 9), wet socks lead to serious foot problems that need medical attention. A new pair of dry socks can make all the difference. If you have items to donate, please call 575-4494 or email us at sctfhmls@pacbell.net.



CHOW Answers Community Concerns...continued from page 2

opportunities. A disabled person who needs support cannot maintain housing in Guerneville unless they can afford in-home care. CHOW aims to provide the opportunity to a small number of people to be housed with dignity and support.

CHOW is currently working on two separate and distinct projects — 1) a site for the winter shelter and 2) permanent supportive housing on Mill Street. There is confusion regarding the Mill Street project – a small permanent home with support for homeless residents who meet the federal definition of chronically homeless. This approach has been successful nationwide in stabilizing lives. We're working with Community Housing Sonoma County, an experienced organization that has successfully developed a number of permanent supportive units in Sonoma County.

The Mill Street project is not a shelter. These permanent apartments combine affordable accommodations with services like health care, job training and placement, mental health and substance abuse counseling, community activities, and help with skills like cooking and money management. Prospective tenants must uphold their lease terms, and are screened to ensure they can live independently, and are interested in becoming housed, healthy and good neighbors. Services are available only to permanent residents.

Supportive housing looks like other types of housing because it is. In West Hollywood, it can be rehabilitated bungalows; in Ohio, six two-unit houses; in New York, an old hotel restored to house hundreds. What's important is that supportive housing is integrated socially and physically into the community, and maintains quality property management.

There is both statistical and anecdotal evidence that property values increase due to supportive housing. There's no evidence that they diminish. Common sense supports this notion since sponsors turn blighted buildings into attractive new housing or build on abandoned lots that are frequently magnets for illegal activity. Supportive housing helps people who want to help themselves. It provides a caring, nurturing community, not unlike your own home. Permanent housing with access to services allows residents to put their lives back on track.

We understand there are concerns associated with this project. We hope this information has addressed them, and that this letter has put to rest the erroneous information and resulting controversy regarding the proposed use of the Mill Street property. CHOW is committed to working with neighbors, businesses, the homeless population and all others to provide housing options that benefit our entire community. This proposal is, on a small scale, an opportunity for our community to do its part in caring for our own residents in need. They are, in fact, already our neighbors

Sincerely,

CHOW Board of Directors:

Amber Twitchell – President
Clara Else - Vice President
Micah Andretich –Treasurer
Kathy Smith – Secretary
Sam Barnhart

Wesley Barry II
Jan de Wald
Suzanne Marshall
Elizabeth Middleberg

Spirit Awards...continued from page 4

the clinic's incorporation as a satellite of Santa Rosa (formerly Southwest) Community Health Centers. Michael's warm personal style his wealth of knowledge, and capacity to serve both mental and physical needs of his clients have made him the go-to person in the county for homeless patients with difficult health situations. We're pleased to recognize Michael's depth of commitment, energy and accomplishment.

HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS TESTS ACCESS SYSTEM

The Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative (HCHC) is beginning the pilot testing of its Health Care Access System for homeless people. With the support of a grant from Kaiser Permanente Northern California Community Benefit, the Task Force is working with other HCHC members to be sure that each homeless person is identified at health and human services agencies, and that their health needs are assessed and handled through cross-referral and coordinated services. Case managers will share resources and work together to solve complex client issues. \$10,483 of this \$16,000 grant is going to help increase staffing, reduce wait time, and improve patient services at the A Street Clinic. The remainder will allow the Task Force and the HCHC to implement the Health Access System pilot test in a minimum of 5 agencies, though more may be included.

All three major hospitals, as well as one or two clinics, one substance abuse and two or three homeless services agencies are interested in testing our Screening and Care Standards and Integrated Client Support Systems. By the end of June 2011 we hope to have analyzed the effectiveness of our system, made necessary adjustments, and be ready to roll it out community-wide to assure that wherever a homeless person may present themselves, they will gain access to the full range of needed services.

The Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative is also gearing up to apply for County Medical Services Program (CMSP) funds for integrated care this winter that could assist us in taking our Health Access System countywide next year. We're supporting an application as well for federal Health Care for the Homeless funds that could greatly enhance care countywide for years to come.

SHOES! SHOES! SHOES!

By Georgia Berland

"The shoes are pretty and comfortable all at the same time and I am so grateful for the pair I received. I think they gave me the confidence I needed, as I got a job!" said Donna, 52.

Gwen, 47, is seeking an entry-level job. "I am walking all over the city of Petaluma looking for a job and I just love the walking shoes I received. I feel like I'm walking on air!"

Melinda, age 50: "I'm on my feet all day and these shoes are the best I've ever owned. They look smart and are made to last. Thanks so much!"

Thanks to Ronnie Kemper of Rainsong Shoes, Naot, a well-known Israeli manufacturer, and a referral from Jennifer Gray of Ursuline High School, in June the Task Force received 96 pairs of wonderful summer shoes in 16 different styles to distribute to homeless women. These are sturdy, comfortable, fine leather shoes that are turning out to be a great support to women walking around all day looking for work or housing, caring for their children, and going to classes and workshops.

We photographed and logged each style, color and size, and circulated order forms so agencies could request shoes for the specific women who need them. Most who ordered got their first or second choice. After several rounds of notices and distributions we still have a number of larger and smaller sizes, so if you are an agency serving a homeless woman in need of good shoes, please contact Fawn at scfhmls@pacbell.net, or call 575-4494.

FOSS CREEK COURT OPENS IN HEALDSBURG

By Georgia Berland

Located behind the Rite Aid shopping center and only a short walk to downtown Healdsburg, Foss Creek Court opened with a celebration on August 20th. Representative Mike Thompson, Mayor Jim Wood, and Eden Housing Executive Director Linda Mandolini addressed the crowd, along with representatives of Rep. Lynn Woolsey, State Sen. Pat Wiggins, and US and Silicon Valley Banks. Foss Creek Court adds 64 units to the strong and growing stock of affordable housing in Healdsburg, a leader in meeting affordable housing goals. Over 125 jobs were created in its development. The project includes 14 one-bedroom, 29 two-bedroom, and 20 three-bedroom units, plus a manager's apartment. Residents earn 30 to 50 percent of area median income. Ten units are operated by North County Community Services for transitional or permanent supportive housing. The project is fully rented, and includes a large



Congressman Mike Thompson and Healdsburg Mayor Jim Wood cut the ribbon to open Foss Creek Court with City, State, Bank, Builder and Federal representatives cheering them on.



Bikes and play structures await the youngest residents of Foss Creek Court in one of two Tot Lots.

Several residents generously opened their homes to tours. Healdsburg Mayor Jim Wood and District 4 Supervisor-Elect and former Councilman Mike McGuire welcomed all to their new homes on behalf of the Healdsburg community. For more information contact Eden Housing at (510) 582-1460.

Pleasant walkways, charming side lanes, and community facilities grace the new Foss Creek Court.

community building, computer learning center, community garden, two tot lots, and beautifully designed (by BAR Architects) and landscaped grounds on a total of 3.18 acres. The architecture, decks and greenery create an attractive, private and serene environment.

The property is "GreenPoint" rated and includes photovoltaic solar panels, solar hot water, energy star appliances, and water and energy-saving features. This is Eden Housing's fifth development in Sonoma County, and is financed by the City Redevelopment Agency, which bought the land for \$3.4 Million. Total Development cost was \$21,375,000 financed in a difficult economic environment by Silicon Valley Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank, and U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation. Midstate Construction was the General Contractor.



CHOW EMERGENCY SHELTER NEEDS HELP

CHOW (Community Housing Options West) plans to open the Western Sonoma County emergency winter shelter on November 15, 2010. We're negotiating with St. Elizabeth's Church for use of the St. Hubert's Hall site. Resources are very scarce this year, and we expect that increased demand, rent, utilities, and supplies will exhaust our funds by the end of February, forcing the shelter to close a month early.

Last year CHOW fed up to 50 people a hot dinner every night from November through March. Up to 35 adults slept on yoga mats on the floor of the Veteran's Hall Bar Room. Some stormy nights people were packed so close it was difficult to roll over. The shelter had to close at the end of March even though the rains continued, and people unfortunately suffered. This year resources are even more limited, and demand at local free food programs is demonstrating there is an increased need for shelter in West County.

CHOW needs your help! We need volunteers to donate food, prepare and serve meals, greet residents on arrival, fill out the Homeless Information Management System paperwork, and help clean up the shelter each morning. We need donated bedding and warm shoes and socks — lots and lots of socks. Rain soaked feet turn into medical emergencies such as foot rot when people have no dry shoes and socks.

If you can help, please contact Jan de Wald at jandewald@ymail.com or 707-494-2714. Thank you for your kind consideration.

UNITED WAY OFFERS PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARDS

United Way of the Wine Country is offering free Familywise prescription drug discount cards for agencies to distribute to people with no insurance or who need medicine not covered by insurance or Medicare. The cards cover all prescription drugs and are accepted at most pharmacies nationwide. All the person needs to do is present the card and the prescription at a participating pharmacy. The average savings is 35%, but they should be sure to check the pharmacy's retail price as well to be certain it's not lower than the savings with the card. Consumers have saved over \$2.5 Million using these cards in Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino Counties, making our United Way number one in the nation for this program! To request a supply of cards for your agency's clients, just call Jenny Chamberlain at United Way of the Wine Country, 528-4485, ext. 136.

STOVE AND SOFA FOR CLOVERDALE?

Wallace House, the shelter and transitional housing program run by Cloverdale Community Outreach Coalition, needs an electric stove and a small sofa or loveseat. If you can help, please contact Gloria Higginson at 707 894-7558 or ghigginson5@msn.com.

Task Force for the Homeless

General Meetings First Monday of Every Month
 Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6 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

Oct 15, 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!

TASK FORCE WORK IN PROGRESS

Committee and Project Updates

ADVOCACY AND FUNDING COMMITTEE: We provided support to the Speaker of the Assembly on AB 1625, to release unspent Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) funds for immediate shelter rather than reabsorbing them into the ailing State Budget. We also supported AB 602. In 2008, a court misconstrued a 25-year old law that had been supported by cities, housing advocates, and for-profit builders. The court decision gave only 90 days to hold localities accountable for meeting their housing element obligations. AB 602 restores long-standing citizen enforcement of local government's obligations to zone residential sites and remove governmental constraints to providing housing opportunities for all members of a community. We and many other agencies testified to the Board of Supervisors in support of continuation of the County Human Services Commission and its \$588,000 in funding to essential non-profit services. The Board chose to restore both in their 2011 budget. We distributed information on local policy and funding hearings, and on state legislation. To get involved, contact Georgia Berland at gberland@aol.com or 431-7559.

EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP) FUNDING: We reviewed and submitted 2010 Interim Reports and Second Payment Requests to the National Board for our 22 funded programs.

EDUCATION: We offer presentations to community groups and speakers at our monthly General Meetings. Recent topics included the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, Local Unmet Needs Planning, & Food Stamp Outreach. To secure a speaker or get involved, contact Fawn Moran at scfhmls@pacbell.net.

PUBLICATIONS:

REPORTER NEWSLETTER: We invite input and submissions (500 words or less) for our Holiday 2010 issue by Oct 18th at gberland@aol.com.

Our **WEBSITE**, www.sonomacountyhomeless.org offers issues of the Reporter, the Homeless Resource Guide for download or online use, any current Requests for Proposals for EFSP funds, information on the Task Force board, staff, and activities, facts on homelessness, service directories (soon to incorporate our links to local resources), and ways to get involved. We're continually updating and improving the site. Please send content suggestions to gberland@aol.com.

BOARD ELECTION: The Task Force's 2010 Annual Membership Meeting and Board Election is Monday, September 13th, at the First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery. Board members standing for re-election include Florence Corcoran, Jan de Wald, Sandra Kates, V.J. Lopez, Nick Stewart, and Grace Villafuerte. The Task Force continues to recruit potential Board members to fill vacancies. Please contact Georgia Berland at gberland@aol.com.

OFFICE/STAFF: The Subsidized Employment Program that brought us six months of support from Program Assistants Kisa Doss and five from Celosia Arcadia has sadly ended. We will miss them both greatly. We appreciate Kisa's and Celosia's excellent work, and are pleased that Kisa will continue to volunteer with us for a bit longer. We are interviewing for new volunteers. We are also working with Meredith Imries, a Masters student from Sonoma State University, this semester to help identify funding opportunities and prepare materials for proposals. Sally Ember will be working with us to help implement the Health Care Access System Pilot Test. Operations Manager Fawn Moran is .5 FTE, and our Executive Officer works part time off site. Please phone us at 575-4494 before you stop by to be sure staff is in the office.

FUNDRAISING — HOW YOU ARE SUPPORTING OUR WORK:

The funds that keep the Task Force running come from your memberships and donations, as well as our October in Paradise event. The Task Force participates in iGive.com (please join - merchants donate as you shop online), and gratefully accepts Vehicle Donations. We invite you to consider Planned Giving as well

Task Force Work In Progress...continued from page 10

as tax-deductible donations for program operations. Or consider designated gifts to our Fund for The Homeless for services such as Voicemail, Resource Guides, and annual Spirit of Service awards. The Task Force maintains a prudent operational reserve. Funds come entirely from private donations and events, except for Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) administrative funds, and special grants to support the Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative. Financial reports are available at 575-4494 or sctfhmls@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. Please also note that workshops from the excellent National Health Care for the Homeless Conference in June are available free online at www.nhchc.org.

WINTER WARMTH: We're gearing up for this year's collection and distribution of coats, jackets, blankets, sleeping bags, and rain gear, (2666 items given out last year) and seeking more men's items and new socks. Please contact Fawn Moran at 575-4494 or sctfhmls@pacbell.net.

SHOE DISTRIBUTION: See article page 7.

COURT HOMELESS PROTOCOL PROJECT: Project Intercept of California Human Development runs this comprehensive re-entry program supporting Homeless defendants, and is awaiting the results of a grant proposal for Second Chance Act funding. We are working to assure the program originated by Judge Gary Nadler with help from the Task Force and implemented by Project Intercept will continue and grow. Contact Georgia Berland at gberland@aol.com.

HOMELESS RESOURCE GUIDE: The Guides remain extremely popular. Material for the English version, compiled and re-formatted this year by the Task Force, is almost ready for proofing by listed programs. The final copy will then be translated into Spanish. Once we know the final length of the Guides we hope to raise funds to print both versions. The 2-1-1 system provides information on services, but many unsheltered people live far from phones and the Guide helps them see the range of assistance available and when to call. We prioritize the printed guides for unsheltered homeless people. Until the new Guides are completed you can use the online version at www.sonomacountyhomeless.org, or download the booklet format, cut it to size and staple it for distribution. The updated Guide will be posted as soon as it is finalized. Contact Fawn at 575-4494 or sctfhmls@pacbell.net.

VOICEMAIL PROJECT: The Task Force pays the phone bills for the fast-growing Voicemail Project operated by the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Rohnert Park. The phone system was recently updated, and received 116% more calls for homeless people in the first quarter of 2010 than those received in the last quarter of 2009. People use the free voice mailboxes to help secure housing, employment, and stay connected to family and friends while they are homeless. Please report system problems or make inquiries to Fawn Moran at 575-4494.

CONTINUUM OF CARE: The Task Force participates in the Sonoma County Continuum of Care. Jan de Wald represents the Task Force on the Steering Committee. The Health Care for the Homeless and Court Homeless Protocol projects help to achieve the goals of the Ten Year Homeless Action Plan approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2007.



**SONOMA COUNTY TASK FORCE
FOR THE HOMELESS**
Safe, Secure, and Affordable Housing for All
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