



◆ In This Issue

**HEARTH Act
Initiates Change**

**Affordable Housing
In Guerneville**

**When It's Freezing
Outside**

**Help Needed For
Homeless Count**

**No One Dies
Of Exposure Here**

**October In Paradise:
Thanks to You**

**Health Care For
The Homeless:
Progress &
Opportunities**

**A Sad Loss &
A Kind Bequest**

Planned Giving

**Task Force Work
in Progress:**
- Advocacy
- Emergency Food
& Shelter Funding
- Homeless Court
- Resource Guides
and more

**Service Agency
Wish Lists**

HEARTH ACT INITIATES CHANGE

By Georgia Berland, informed by Jenny Abramson,
Sonoma County Continuum of Care Coordinator

On November 20, 2010, the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act went into effect — the first significant change in federal law addressing homelessness since 1992. The HEARTH Act significantly alters how we assist homeless people to stabilize their lives.

The HEARTH Act mandated “Opening Doors”, the first ever Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, released in July and reviewed in this Summer’s *Reporter*. The Plan details objectives to end homelessness for chronically homeless people and veterans within 5 years, families with children within 10, and sets a path to ending all homelessness. In September the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released an Implementation Update, naming three USICH Deputy Directors responsible for specific Plan Objectives, and as liaisons with particular federal agencies. The full Plan, a concise Overview, and the Implementation Update are all available at www.usich.gov.

continued on page 4

AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMING TO GUERNEVILLE

By Nancy Lisk

November 5, 2010 was a momentous occasion in the community of Guerneville. In a big, flat bulldozed field on 5th Street, near the corner of Mill Street, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for a new affordable housing complex, that will be called Fife Creek Commons.

A tent with open sides and folding chairs had been prepared. Speakers included John Lowry, Executive Director of Burbank Housing Development Corporation, West County Supervisor Efren Carrillo, Kathleen Kane, Executive Director of the County Community Development Commission, Paula Cook, Executive Director of Community Housing Sonoma County, and numerous others. Many people were acknowledged for the parts they had played over the years to bring this project to fruition.

The dignitaries wielded shovels. The ground was hard, and broken only by the shovel tips, but the gesture was symbolic of what begins in earnest now. Construction will begin on 48 apartments, which will provide a variety of much needed affordable rental housing for the Russian River area. The apartments will serve those with low, very low and extremely low income. Twenty-four of the 48 total units will be designated for special needs households, including persons

continued on page 3

**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

Larry Hall

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.

Executive Officer

Georgia Berland

Reporter Editor

Operations Manager

Fawn Moran

Reporter

Layout & Production

Webmaster

John Harnish

Health Care Program

Assistant

Sally Ember

Volunteer Program

Assistants

Susan Baker

Chris Dahl Silva

Dialogue...

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

Dear Friends,

Recently, I had the great privilege to attend Venerable Bodhi's presentations on the integration of our spiritual awakening with com-action-passion in the world. It was quite timely for me. Just two weeks ago, I had the thought to organize participation to provide food to the homeless members of our Sebastopol community. I came up with an exciting idea, only to brush it aside thinking, "How can I manifest this when I am going on retreat in only a couple of weeks?"

Then I came across one of my homeless friends in Sebastopol. He told me that if he could get \$1.50 a day, he could get a 6-pack of Top Ramen and that will keep him full. If he could get \$3.00, he could probably get some bologna and bread, even better. He sleeps down by the Laguna, where he was recently washed out with all of his belongings in the rains.

It just broke my heart. And I thought, I'm such a fool - here I am wanting to train as a monastic so that I can give more selflessly in the world, and the opportunity is right in front of me to give, and I brushed it aside because "I don't have enough time" since I'm going to become a monk. Just a little ironic. I realized I did not act because my vision of how to give was not realistic. Yesterday I came across a quote that read, "Our job is not to save the world, but only to mend that which is within our reach." So, if I can give even once before I move to Abhayagiri, (a Buddhist Monastery) I can at least have that one time to look back on. And even one action may inspire others.

"In giving food, one gives five things to the recipients: one gives life, beauty, happiness, strength, and mental clarity. In giving these five things, one in turn partakes of life, beauty, happiness, strength, and mental clarity, whether in this world or in the heavenly realm." - Anguttara Nikaya 5:37

Therefore, tomorrow two lay devotees of the Buddha and I are going to cook some food and have a picnic offering in the Sebastopol square. Perhaps Sebastopol can have a local branch of Buddhist Global Relief that not only provides food for our needy, but opportunity for Right Livelihood and long-term solutions for our local food system. There are so many progressive programs in this area that can be grafted onto. My hope is that we can call-in more support for this to continue since I am moving very soon. I wish you all deep wellness and strength in all the causes that lead to happiness.

Big Love, Soheil Javanshir-Majd

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.

Next Publication Date

Winter/Spring 2011

Submission Deadline

January 31

WHEN IT'S FREEZING OUTSIDE

By Fawn Moran

It's 27 degrees outside and you have nowhere to go. You've been to the nearest shelter but all the beds are taken. You have one warm sweatshirt you scrounged from a dumpster, and the backpack you took with you when you lost your home.

"Did you hear? It's going to be in the 20s tonight."

"What are you going to do?"

"I'm staying awake. That way I can't freeze to death."

"How do you do that?"

"Keep walking."

"All night long?"

"If that's what it takes."

This is the way many of our homeless Sonoma county neighbors must live. To help them through the long wet winter, we distribute warm winter coats and jackets, sweaters and sweatshirts, hats, gloves and scarves, rain gear, tarps, tents, backpacks, blankets and sleeping bags. This year we're also collecting new socks to keep overworked feet warm and dry and prevent foot ulcers that could lead to serious medical emergencies.

Last winter, through the wonderful generosity of many Sonoma County businesses, religious groups, agencies, and individuals who conducted donation drives, we were able to distribute 2,666 items. If you would like to collect these items through your workplace, place of worship or other group, give us a call. We can supply flyers personalized for you and a warehouse where you can drop off items. We will in turn distribute these items to homeless people through service agencies throughout the county. Call us at 575-4494 or email scfhmls@pacbell.net.

Affordable Housing...continued from page 1

with mental disabilities or HIV/AIDS, teen parents, and people who have experienced domestic abuse. Fife Creek Commons will include one, two and three bedroom apartments. A resident manager will live on site. A concrete podium structure about 16 feet tall will locate living spaces more than two feet above the level of the 100 year flood. Apartments will open onto an outdoor plaza with trees in planter containers, and outdoor seating areas. A laundry area and large community center will also be on the plaza level. Most of the area beneath the concrete podium will be devoted to parking, and a play space for school age children will be on the ground level. Staircases and an elevator will connect the ground and the podium levels where people will live.

Services on site, utilizing the community center, may include classes on parenting, domestic violence and child abuse prevention, an after-school homework club and tutoring, and supervised recreation. Additional services for special needs tenants will be provided by Sonoma County Mental Health, West County Community Services, and Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network. Over \$20 million dollars of financing is in place to create this housing, from such diverse sources as the County Fund for Housing, Redevelopment, County HOME CDHO, Mental Health Services Act, Wells Fargo Bank and others.

For several years I served on numerous committees and boards for the purpose of bringing affordable housing and homeless services to low-income people of the Russian River area. It gives me great personal satisfaction to know that construction of these apartments will begin now. It is hoped that the apartments will be ready for occupancy within one year.



Project Mgr. Chaney Delaire, CHSC Chair Margo Merck, BHDC Exec. Dir. John Lowry, Consultant Craig Meltzner, 5th Dist. Supervisor Efrén Carrillo, CHSC Exec. Dir. Paula Cook, Wells Fargo Bank VP Margaret Schrand, Wells Fargo Investments VP Tim McCann, and SCCDC Exec. Dir. Kathleen Kane break ground for Fife Creek Commons.

HEARTH Act...continued from page 1

Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention are cornerstones of the HEARTH Act. Federal Emergency Shelter Grants will become Emergency Solutions Grants, with funds for temporary housing vouchers and first month's rental assistance supplementing those for emergency shelter. The point is to get people as quickly as possible into the most permanent housing available. Services are offered, but not required prior to accessing housing. A broader federal definition of homelessness is anticipated but not yet final. It's expected that people will be considered homeless if they have no fixed residence, including people staying in motels or with friends or relatives, groups not previously included. Not only disabled individuals, but also families with a disabled adult may be considered chronically homeless if they've been homeless for a year or four times in the last three. They would then qualify for HUD-funded Permanent Supportive Housing with services. Client eligibility and documentation requirements are still being written however, and may be more stringent.

The emphasis on families, youth and children brings more coordination with the Department of Education and locally with the Sonoma County Office of Education, whose homeless liaison officers now operate at shelter sites. The Continuum of Care Planning Group, composed of the jurisdictions, departments and agencies addressing homelessness, is now codified into law rather than established by regulation. It's work to plan and coordinate services and secure HUD funds for Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing and Services has depended on local resources. Now the Continuum will be federally funded for the first time. An additional 3% (c. \$75,000 for Sonoma County) of awarded federal funds (now c. \$2.5 Million) will be allocated to coordinate the Continuum. That rises to 6% if a "Qualified" Continuum of Care chooses to administer their local contracts. Our Continuum will explore what option makes the most sense for our community. Finally, federal outcome goals for housing and services have been updated, and the Continuum will soon convene a working group to revise local system-wide outcome goals.

HELP NEEDED FOR THE HOMELESS COUNT

The 2011 Homeless Census and Survey is scheduled for January 28th, 2011. All counties that receive HUD funding for Permanent Supportive and Transitional Housing and Services are required to conduct a Point-in-Time Count every two years in the last week of January. Sonoma County agencies receive almost \$2.5 Million in HUD funds through our Continuum of Care. ASR, the Watsonville-based research firm that conducted Sonoma County's 2009 Count will again oversee this project.

100 Community Volunteers with vehicles are needed. For more information and links to sign up, see http://sonoma-county.org/cdc/cdhomeless_count.htm. The project will again rely on homeless people to act as paid guides to reach encampments and places where homeless people gather. Homeless service providers will recommend people for the guide positions. Trainings will be scheduled for the week of January 17th, final dates will be posted at the above website as soon as they are confirmed.

There will be a general informational meeting on the Count on Friday December 10th from 9:30 to 11:30am. A special informational meeting for youth and youth service providers only will be held to discuss the Youth Count on the same day from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Both will be at the County's Community Development Commission, 1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa.

NO ONE DIES OF EXPOSURE HERE

By Clara Else

Many people in West County have no permanent roof over their heads. Tarps and tents in creek beds work in the summer, but are wholly inadequate in the wet and cold winter months when tents leak and creek beds flood. CHOW is dedicated to providing safe haven for all homeless members of this community. This has been the stance of Community Housing Options West (CHOW) for the past four years.

The persistent rains mean that the Emergency Winter Shelter should have opened by November 1. Weather predictions suggest it should remain open until the end of March. But budget restrictions this year mean the shelter will be open only from December 1 through February 28.

Still, progress is being made. CHOW is renting St. Hubert's Hall from the Catholic Church for the winter shelter. CHOW, Community Housing Sonoma County and West County Community Services are working to establish a permanent supportive housing site on Mill Street for formerly unsheltered people. And on November 5, groundbreaking took place for Fife Creek Commons, a complex due to open in fall 2011, which will provide apartments for low-income people.

There was a lot of community discussion about unsheltered people in Guerneville this summer. A committee of the Russian River Chamber of Commerce asked that no services be offered to unsheltered people in Guerneville's downtown area. Some merchants see the unsheltered as a detriment in a tourist resort, and want them gone. CHOW has tried to convey that services provided to those most in need would help the local economy, not hurt it. Permanent supportive housing allows formerly homeless residents to bathe and wash their clothes, and do the basic grooming that those who are housed take for granted. Housing vastly increases their chances of getting jobs.

The winter shelter can also enhance the relationship of the homeless to the community. If a person has no place to bathe or wash their clothing they quickly become identifiable as a "homeless" person. It is hard to maintain dignity when your clothing is dirty, wet and tattered, and you are treated with disdain. This loss of dignity and respect directly affects how an individual treats their environment. For example, if there is no restroom available, it is not such a huge issue to use the riverbank in the park. Why should you care if some tourists are offended by your panhandling, if you've been cast out of the community?

CHOW feels that providing a hot meal, shelter and some dry clothing can help restore a measure of respect to the unsheltered. In other communities, sheltered people give back by helping keep streets clean and performing small tasks for local merchants. We hope to convey to the merchants that the whole town will benefit when it provides a safe haven for all its citizens.

PLANNED GIVING FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY

Planned Giving offers the opportunity to leave a meaningful legacy and/or gain valuable tax advantages during your lifetime as well as for your heirs. The Task Force hopes to offer a workshop next spring to share ways we can plan how our estate or investment can continue to serve the causes we care about as well as serve ourselves and our heirs. Meanwhile we encourage you to discuss the possibilities with your attorney or financial advisor.

Task Force for the Homeless

General Meetings First Monday of Every Month
Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7 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 20, 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!

OCTOBER IN PARADISE - THANKS TO YOU ALL

By Fawn Moran

Thanks to you, our generous sponsors, donors, attendees, and auction buyers, our 16th annual October in Paradise was a wonderful success. Thanks go to Reverend Gene Nelson, our warm and lively MC who made us all feel welcome. Kudos to Ernie Carpenter, auctioneer extraordinaire, who secured bids for spectacular treasures and getaways. Our silent auction tables were laden with fine wine, adventures, art, sports memorabilia, ceramics, dining and spa certificates, handmade jewelry and more, thanks to the generosity of our donors, many who return each year. We're grateful to Steve Godfryd of Pacific Auction Company who advised and assisted us and brought many wonderful auction items. Bidding was brisk, even for the opportunity to donate to the Task Force. Our community and volunteers made the whole event run smoothly. It couldn't have happened without all of you.



Gale Brownell and OIP revelers hear Nick Stewart introduce Gale as our 2010 Marijke Byck Spirit of Community Awardee.

We were proud to honor Dr. Michael Kozart, who built the A Street Clinic into a vital resource for homeless people in Santa Rosa. Our \$500 check for a nonprofit selected by the Spirit of Service Awardee went to the Clinic. Gale Brownell, a passionate, effective advocate who served as Housing Program Manager for the City of Santa Rosa for over 20 years, then retired to help lead the Task Force Board for nine more, was our Marijke Byck Spirit of Community Awardee. All the work it took to put on this event evaporated in the glow of appreciation for these dedicated individuals whose vision and hard work have improved the lives of countless homeless people and will continue to be felt for years to come.

We're profoundly grateful to Paradise Ridge Winery, Sonia Byck-Barwick and Rene and Walter Byck, who not only graced us with the use of their elegant winery but worked hard to help create the event, honoring the memory of the late Marijke Byck, who served on our Board for fifteen years and served vulnerable and homeless people all her life. We appreciate Martha, Denise and the Paradise Ridge staff who've always gone the extra mile. The Blue Moon Rhythm & Blues Dance Band, as well as Jazz with a Twist by Brulée, entertained us with fabulous music. The dance floor was swinging until evening's end.

Despite the economy, we raised about \$45,000 — about a third of our annual budget, including an extremely generous \$10,000 donation from the Barbara Ross Charitable Trust. Driving home in the moonlight, I thought of what October in Paradise represents. It's a reminder of our caring community, of the importance of meeting the most basic needs of our friends and neighbors who have lost their homes, struggle to eat every day, and often live without adequate health care. Renewed and inspired, **We Thank You All!**

OCTOBER IN PARADISE ISN'T OVER YET!

We still have several wonderful auction treasures perfect for holiday giving:

1.5L '03 Artist Series Cabernet Sauvignon from Kenwood Vineyards, 3L '08 Unoaked Chardonnay from Toad Hollow Vineyards, two night stay at Doubletree Hotel Sonoma County, bronze desk lamp from 14 Feet, handmade designer purse from Bess Nathan Rice Jewelry, ceramic wall hangings & art cards by/from Margaret Bolt, collectible comic book indexes from Jan de Wald, "Zoom!" In-Office Teeth Whitening from David Etchell, DDS, salon hair care baskets from Fandango Salon, beaded fish amulet necklace by/from Linda Hollywood, Playmobil Wedding Scene from The Toyworks, women's Timex from Time Factory Watch Outlet, \$25 gift certificates from Silpada Designs, on location portraiture from Penman Photographic Artists, cheese platter from McCoy's Cookware and more.

Please contact Fawn at 575-4494 or scfthmls@pacbell.net between November 30 and December 22 if you're interested in learning more about any of these items.

HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS: PROGRESS & OPPORTUNITIES

By Georgia Berland

Our Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative is taking advantage of several new and exciting opportunities to expand and integrate services and assure that homeless people receive the full range of assistance they need. The Health Care Access Program that the Collaborative designed is working with pilot test agencies to implement Screening and Care Standards to identify people's housing and health needs. It's setting up an Integrated Client Support System with a new online information tool for case managers and counselors, and a listserve for agencies to share immediate client needs and service resources. We're also launching a face-to-face conferencing system to personally collaborate on complex client situations. While the set-up is taking more time than anticipated, we are resolving issues that will make interdisciplinary collaboration more effective in the long term, such as confidentiality, client participation and empowerment, and technical and logistical concerns. We'll assess our results next spring before rolling out these tools countywide.

We hope for support in that process from a proposal we're writing to the County Medical Services Program (CMSP) that provides health insurance to medically indigent adults in 38 California Counties. CMSP is releasing a Request for Proposals to evaluate the efficacy of integrated care similar to the system we're now testing. We plan to apply for this two-year grant, and to include several of the program components we're currently testing.

The Collaborative is also supporting a consortium of local Health Centers to apply for federal Health Care for the Homeless (330H) funding. Santa Rosa Community Health Centers (SRCHC), is the lead agency for this proposal, and will provide support to its own A Street Clinic as well as West County and Petaluma Health Centers to provide care and outreach to homeless people. These funds (several hundred thousand dollars per year), are ongoing once approved. If our health centers are successful this will give a huge permanent boost to the availability and integration of mental health, dental, and substance abuse services with primary health care. It will assure that people with chronic or severe conditions have consistent care and a medical home.

Within the next few months, the A Street Clinic will be moving to the former Brookwood Shelter site at Brookwood and Sonoma Avenue. The new site offers far more space and amenities, and should serve A Street's growing patient population well. Plans are in the works for the Medical Respite Program run by Catholic Charities to also move to the Brookwood site next year. This would allow the program to offer up to 22 beds so that more homeless people can be released from hospitals and receive vital recuperative care. Catholic Charities has also been working with our local hospitals to assure the financial sustainability of the Medical Respite Program, which was seeded by a grant from Kaiser Permanente Northern California Fund for Community Benefit that will run through January 2011.

A SAD LOSS AND A KIND BEQUEST

We are deeply grateful that the late Charles Edward Cockelreas and his family thought to include the Task Force for the Homeless in his estate. Mr. Cockelreas' generous bequest will make a big difference in sustaining our work on behalf of local homeless people in the coming year. We mourn the loss of such a caring and committed person to our community.

TASK FORCE WORK IN PROGRESS

Committee and Project Updates

ADVOCACY AND FUNDING COMMITTEE: The State Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) was authorized in the State Budget for the first time since 2007 after statewide support, including from the Task Force. We are recommending that people contact our Senators to assure that the full current federal allocation of \$200 Million, is included in the 2011 House Budget, is approved in the Senate, which so far has recommended only \$150 Million. One quarter of current funding would be a great loss when so many of our residents are losing their jobs and homes and desperately need assistance. We continue to distribute information on local policy and funding hearings, and on state legislation. Contact Georgia Berland at gberland@aol.com or 431-7559.

EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP) FUNDING: We are processing a few end of year spending category shifts for 2010 among our 22 funded programs and beginning to plan our funding process for 2011. We are hoping to receive approximately the same funding amount as last year, c. \$365,000, if Congress allocates the full \$200 million nationally for 2011.

EDUCATION: We offer information on issues activities affecting homelessness, presentations to community groups and speakers at our monthly General Meetings. To secure a speaker or get involved, contact Fawn Moran at sctfhmls@pacbell.net.

PUBLICATIONS:

REPORTER NEWSLETTER: We invite input and submissions (500 words or less) for our Winter 2011 issue by Monday January 31st, 2011 at gberland@aol.com.

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

BOARD ELECTION: At the Task Force's 2010 Annual Membership Meeting and Board Election September 13th, we elected Larry Hall as a new member. Continuing members Florence Corcoran, Jan de Wald, Sandra Kates, V.J. Lopez, Nick Stewart, and Grace Villafuerte were all re-elected. Our officers were also re-elected at our October Board meeting, with V.J. Lopez as Chair, Jan de Wald as Vice-Chair, Grace Villafuerte as Secretary, and Mary Varley as Treasurer. The Task Force continues to recruit potential Board members to fill vacancies. Please contact Georgia Berland at gberland@aol.com.

OFFICE/STAFF: Our office is open only half time (generally 10am to 2pm or 11am to 3pm), since we've recently lost several volunteers as well as Subsidized Employment staff due to the closure of the SEP Program. We are recruiting and training new volunteers, but until they are on board please understand if we are only open mid-day. Our Operations Manager Fawn Moran is .5 FTE, and our Executive Officer works part time and 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 US:

The funds that keep the Task Force functioning 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 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. Task Force funds come entirely from these 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.

Task Force Work In Progress...continued from page 8**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. Workshops from all National Health Care for the Homeless Conferences are available free online at www.nchc.org.

WINTER WARMTH: We've started distributions of Winter Warmth items, including coats, jackets, blankets, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, backpacks and rain gear, (2666 items given out last year) and are beginning to receive items from local business, church, and community drives. We are seeking more men's items (especially men's large sizes) and new socks. We are grateful to the Presbyterian Church of the Roses for their contribution to buy new socks. Please contact Fawn Moran at 575-4494 or scfhmls@pacbell.net.

SHOE DISTRIBUTION: We still have some of the wonderful donated shoes from Rainsong Shoes and NAOT, the manufacturer – mostly larger or smaller sizes, but a few in between. Please contact Fawn Moran at 575-4494 or scfhmls@pacbell.net and we can send you an order form with photos and sizes to obtain shoes for specific homeless women.

COURT HOMELESS PROTOCOL PROJECT: This comprehensive re-entry program supporting Homeless defendants run by Project Intercept of California Human Development, did not receive the hoped for grant from the Second Chance Act, and is seeking other funds. Meanwhile they have had to suspend client intake. We are working to support this program which serves needs defined by Judge Gary Nadler and a criminal justice, health, and homeless services consortium coordinated by the Task Force and hope to help it revive its very effective services. Contact Georgia Berland at gberland@aol.com.

HOMELESS COURT: We are working with Judge Gary Nadler, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, and Court Director of Operations Lesley Allen, to re-design and revitalize the Homeless Court. Ms. Allen has researched similar programs and made excellent recommendations to upgrade ours. We plan to hold meetings in January with the Public Defender, District Attorney and others to assure that all are involved and to define the program and their roles in it.

HOMELESS RESOURCE GUIDE: The draft of the popular Homeless Resource Guide has been compiled this year by the Task Force with improved formatting, and is ready for verification of listings by programs. The final copy will be translated into Spanish. The Resource Guide will go online as soon as its completed at www.sonomacountyhomeless.org. Once we know the length and cost of the Guides we will raise funds to print them. We gathered information from the 2-1-1 system, along with previous Guides and our own database for our draft. 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 current online version, 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 pays the phone bills for the active and growing Voicemail Project operated by the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Rohnert Park. The phone system has continued to exponentially expand its usage in 2010. Homeless people use the free voice mailboxes to help secure housing, employment, and stay connected to family and friends. 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 project helps to achieve the goals of the Ten Year Homeless Action Plan approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2007.

SERVICE AGENCY WISH LISTS

By Mary Varley

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 & Russell Avenue Shelters, 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: Office supplies: multi-feature copy machine, laminator, copy paper, pens, pencils, Post-Its, white out, 5-drawer filing cabinet with lock, storage boxes for files and records, letter size file folders, letter size hanging file folders, 1" box bottom hanging file folders, small office size refrigerator, microwave. Kitchen & Cleaning supplies: dishwashing & dishwasher soap, laundry detergent, bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, plastic gloves, 409, hand soap dispensers and refills, Brillo pads, cleanser, furniture polish, Windex, room deodorizers, Febreze, Lysol disinfectant spray cans, sandwich size plastic bags, dishtowels. Bedding supplies: plastic pillow protectors, mattress covers for single size beds. Clothing: infant & children clothes, children's pajamas (boys & girls to age 17). School supplies: notebooks to craft supplies, backpacks. Outdoor supplies: backpacks, sleeping bags, winter caps & gloves, men and women warm socks. Food supplies: Cup of Soups, plastic spoons & forks. Grooming supplies: disposable razors, toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste, travel size shampoos and conditioners.

Community Housing Opportunities West, Jan DeWald, 478-3718: volunteers (shelter supervisors, cooks, data entry), donations of money, warm socks, clean blankets and sleeping bags, sweat pants, sweat shirts, rain gear, tarps, backpacks, breakfast hand-held food, coffee, food supplies for hot meals served in the shelter, access to laundry and shower facilities. (Note: The emergency winter shelter in West County is scheduled to be open Dec. 1 - Feb. 28.)

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, 484-5110: 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, Transitional Training, Marissa Johnston, 484-5110: 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, Stony Point Commons, Michael Hvidt, 696-7927: 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, 765-6530 x125: Chest of drawers and/or dressers, armoires, throw rugs, twin and full size sheets, blankets and comforters, sleeping pillows, hotel size

Service Agency Wish Lists...continued from page 10

toiletries, pots and pans; New backpacks for boys, girls and adults; Gift cards for children's clothes shopping (Kohls, Ross, Kmart, Payless Shoe's) and haircuts; Healthy snacks for Children's Programs ie: fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, yogurt, string cheese, graham crackers, ritz crackers; Large plastic containers with lids for dried food storage for the Petaluma Kitchen.

COTS Petaluma Kitchen, 778-6380: Canned vegetables (green beans, corn, mixed, #10 size is best), spaghetti sauce, pasta, salad dressing, mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, canned stews, pork & beans, tuna, hot dogs, lunch meats, ground beef, ham, turkey, garlic powder, ground black pepper, coffee, Dawn dish soap, liquid bleach, stainless steel dishwashing scrubs, mops & brooms. Drop off at 301 Payran St., Petaluma.

Interlink Self Help Center, Mary Simmons, 546-4481: Sleeping bags, warm coats, rain ponchos, umbrellas, hats, socks, jeans, razors, combs, toiletries. Drop off at 1033 4th St., SR.

Interfaith Shelter Network, (12 transitional houses) Carmen Bonnin, 546-7907, x10: Twin blankets, twin sheets, twin comforters, pillows, towels, DVDs, board games, umbrellas, socks, gloves, scarves, beanie hats.

The Living Room, (drop-in center for women & children) Tara, 579-0138: City and county bus tickets, taxi vouchers, Gift Cards for gas, grocery stores, Dollar Tree stores & telephone cards, umbrellas, women's socks, watches, disposable razors, small size deodorants, baby/child strollers, diapers (sizes 5 & 6) and baby wipes.

Redwood Gospel Mission, Don Cobb, 542-4817: Heavy cotton socks, practical shoes (men & women), sweat-shirts/sweatpants (for men or women, all sizes), stocking caps, warm coats, women's PJs (size M through XXL), personal size toiletry items, prepaid phone cards, City Bus Ticket Book, 20 Ride FastPass for Adult Zone 1.

The Rose, (women & children's shelter), Sandra Kates, 573-0490: Women's PJ's (M-XXL), slippers, new underwear, socks, sweats, postage stamps, phone cards, city bus passes, umbrellas, coffee, cereal, twin sheet sets, towels, bath rugs, twin comforters.

Manna Home, (women's recovery program), Laura Clark, 576-1471: AA & NA books, gift certificates, postage stamps, note cards, stationery, phone cards, umbrellas, socks, 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 A Street Clinic, Jeanne Kelly, RN & Dr. Michael Kozart, 546-6479: Ophthalmoscope(s), back packs, tents and tarps (for weathering the rain), bus passes (or money for bus passes only), large garbage bags (for protecting belongings in the rain), jackets, hats, shoes and socks for men and women.

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.

Task Force for the Homeless, Fawn Moran, 575-4494: Warm winter coats, jackets, sleeping bags, blankets, tents, backpacks, scarves, hats, rain gear, new socks for unsheltered homeless people (We can help you find local drives that benefit us), funds to help produce Homeless Resource Guides.

Women's Recovery Services, Laura Brown, 527-0412: Band-aids, 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, and bicycle/tricycle helmets. We would also like a handy man/woman for small carpentry jobs.

Thank You!

