



# In Our Community

Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center  
December 2009

## A Bountiful Thanksgiving

Thank you to Deloitte Consulting and Premier Access for helping make a memorable Thanksgiving for 500 clients! Deloitte Consulting dropped off boxes upon boxes of goodies on Friday before the holiday; their donation provided dinner for 52 families and 18 single women. Premier Access came to Mather Community Campus on Monday the 23rd, delivering dinners for 50 families living independently on campus.

We also welcomed 15 volunteers who prepared and served Thanksgiving brunch and dinner to our Family Shelter, Women's Refuge, and Wilma's Place program participants. Thank you to those who took time away from their families to assist those in need, and give our cook the night off!



## Holiday Update

SAEHC is still in need of gift cards for our families at Mather Community Campus. We are requesting \$25 gift cards to Target, Wal-Mart or K-Mart and \$50 gift cards to Safeway or Raley's so that our clients can experience shopping for their children at the holidays. For those interested in adopting specific children in SAEHC programs, a giving tree has been set up at the Stein Mart in Rocklin with our children's information and their wants and needs.

Keeping Families  
Together

SAEHC runs the only shelter in Sacramento that accepts two parent households, single fathers, and sons over the age of 14

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[View SAEHC's BBB Reliability Report](#)



Thank you to everyone who signed up to serve the Christmas meals at the shelters. We have now filled our roster! If you would still like to help on Christmas Day, we are in need of holiday desserts. They can be brought to the Family Shelter (4516 Parker Ave., 95820) by 4:00 pm on the 25th. Homemade desserts are welcomed.

SAEHC wishes everyone a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year!



## Birthday Magic Expands to MCC!

The Birthday Magic Program sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Sacramento has brought great joy to the youth who reside at Mather Community Campus. The program started in October with 12 children celebrating birthdays. The parties were divided into 3 rooms to accommodate the different age groups. The volunteers came ready to party and were just as excited as the children. They decorated the rooms, made goodie bags, played games and served pizza. Each age group had an amazing cake that was made by one of the volunteers. Every child who celebrated a birthday received gifts from their own personal wish list. This was truly a wonderful experience for the children, SAEHC staff and the Volunteer Center of Sacramento(VCS). The word is out and everyone is anxiously awaiting their birthday month to come. Thank you again so very much to all the volunteers who have made this wonderful event possible!

- Mary Anne Wheeler , MCC Children's Services Program Supervisor, SAEHC

VCS is in need of more Sponsors. The cost is \$125 to provide a birthday party for a child to enjoy with their friends. Contact Christine Wallace if you would like to become a Birthday Magic Sponsor- [cwallace@volunteersac.org](mailto:cwallace@volunteersac.org) (916) 567-3100 x106.

certified partner. #3091

Check out our website for a full list of [wish list](#) items.

Donations are accepted Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
2411 Alhambra Boulevard,  
Suite 110  
Sacramento, CA 95817

Or donate [online!](#)

If you have questions regarding donations email us at [donations@saehc.org](mailto:donations@saehc.org) or call 916-454-2120 x302

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**Support Community Partners Mentioned in this Edition:**

[Access Dental](#)  
[Barnum & Celillo Electric, Inc.](#)  
[Camellia Waldorf School](#)  
[S.D. Deacon, General Contractor](#)  
[Deloitte Consulting](#)  
[Ikea](#)  
[Premier Access Insurance](#)  
[The Siding Specialists, Inc.](#)  
[Stein Mart](#)  
[Volunteer Center of Sacramento](#)

Agency News and Updates

## Wilma's Place Continues to Improve

By Devon Good, Director of Community Partnerships



In August, SAEHC received \$5000 from SD Deacon to increase the energy efficiency of Wilma's Place including replacing an in-wall air conditioning unit and installing new, double pain windows. Their effort did not stop with a check, however, and Karla Turner (our SD Deacon liaison) began connecting our Agency with sub-contractors willing to assist with the project.

In came Fred Barnum of Barnum & Celillo Electric. His company was asked to assist with the rewiring and installation of a new air conditioning unit but Fred understood that there was more needed to complete the project, asking the magic question "What is it that you really need?"; Mark Orth and Devon Good answered in unison, "A central heat and air unit". We soon after received a \$5000 check from Barnum & Celillo for the cost of the unit, as well as ample personnel to make the installation.

Next we were connected with Tim and Trudi Dick from Siding Specialists to assist with the window replacement. Their willingness to assist was overwhelming and not only did they commit to assisting with Wilma's Place, but they also installed a window in our new Winter Overflow Shelter. Like Fred, Tim and Trudi called in favors from their friends in the industry to help the entire project come together.

Thank you to these three incredible companies. We could not continue to provide assistance to families with children and individuals while they reach self-reliance without their assistance.



Devon Good, Community Partnerships Director  
[dgood@sahc.org](mailto:dgood@sahc.org)

916-454-2120 x304

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**SAEHC Assisting with Winter Shelter**  
A message from Carolyn Brodt, Executive Director

Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center (SAEHC) has added 12 beds to our



emergency shelter for homeless families this winter. SAEHC is doing everything that it can to ensure that as many families as possible are out of the cold. SAEHC is also running the Sacramento Motel Voucher solution for Winter Shelter that serves individuals and families who are unable to access an emergency shelter due to family configuration (couples with children, men with children, or families with teenage boys over 14) or not being able to stay at a shelter due to a contagious illness, disability or medical fragility, or being over the age of 60.

For more information about the new Winter Shelter solutions, please see this week's [Sacramento Bee article](#).

## A Heartfelt Thanks from a Client in Our CPS Home Finding Program

I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to live here with my children. I'm involved with the CPS family re-unification program. Before moving into this program, I was living at a shelter. This program has given me the tools to think and move ahead. I managed to save my money so that in the future we could have a place of our own. It's such a wonderful feeling knowing that there are places you can count on for a temporary stay without feeling down on yourself. This place became my home. I was safe with my babies, happier than I have ever been. It was so nice being close to my children and I am thankful that we are together again. Today we have our own apartment and I feel great about this. We have been given a second chance. I'm ready to fulfill my dreams and goals.

## Community Involvement

### Thank You!



A special thanks to Child Care Consultant (and former SAEHC employee!) Brenda Turley for creating a children's reading area in our Family Shelter Day Room. The room is filled with children's books and

inspirational posters to encourage our young readers. Brenda will be restocking the library weekly as we are encouraging the families to take the books with them to be part of their permanent collection.

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Come see SAEHC's Gingerbread House creation at Camellia Waldorf's School's Winter Faire on Saturday, December 12th from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm at 5701 Freeport Blvd. And you and your family can participate in activities like Eco-Yoga, Puppet Shows, Face Painting, Crafts, and much more!

### December Donation Drive: Blankets

Thank you to everyone who has brought or bought a blanket for our IKEA blanket drive. And thanks to Good Day Sacramento's Mark S. Allen for his promotion of the drive during the show. Footage of Mark and SAEHC's own Devon Good can be seen [here](#).



If you haven't had a chance to stop by yet, you can still bring either your new or gently used blankets to IKEA West Sacramento until Sunday, December 13th.

## Volunteer of the Month: Charleen Pfanner



Charleen has become our go-to-girl for these events, which provide a Saturday night of fun for the ladies in our Women's Refuge program. She has hosted three back to back events in October and November and has two more planned in December. She has also signed up to serve meals on Christmas day with her family. When not volunteering for us, Charleen volunteers at Shriner's Hospital working with the children. Charleen is a great role model for all of us during this season of giving! Here is what Charleen says about why she volunteers:

*"I am on the road to realizing my dream of getting into medical school. Unfortunately though, I've spent so much time working and studying that I briefly lost track of the real purpose of medicine: helping people! My past volunteer experiences have been more one on one and even though I enjoy it I was looking for something that allowed a greater impact on my community. I wanted to be there for more people this time around. I had the desire to hopefully make a difference in people's lives but I didn't want to wait until med school to do it!*

*Spending various Saturday nights at the Women's Shelter is a great way for me to put myself out there and connect with the women on a variety of levels. This seemingly small activity is wonderful for the ladies but I also benefit greatly from the experience. I am so glad to be volunteering at Girl's Night and would love to continue giving as long as I possibly can!"*

## Employee of the Month: Spring Ackerman

Since the fall, Spring has been the sole employee of the LIGHT (Linking Individuals, Goals, & Housing Together) Project. The LIGHT Project has already served hundreds of households in the capacity of rental assistance, utility assistance, and motel vouchers, while linking the recipients to other partners in the community that can provide food, clothing, and employment assistance. Spring spends time with all recipients, helping them better understand their current situation and assist in developing goals to regain their self-sufficiency. Here is what Spring says about why she does what she does:

*"The truth is that I can't imagine ever "doing" anything else, or with any other population. Each day I am invited in to the lives of truly incredible human beings. Each person that I meet with has a story that they trust me with— sometimes it's the first time they have ever trusted a person with that information. Often, people who are not as familiar with the social service field will say to me, "oh, you work with the homeless? That must be such a rewarding job- to help people." It's not rewarding because I am allowed to "help" people, it's rewarding because each of these individuals teach me something about the world, the community, life, myself. While they each have a different story and different set of circumstances, each has an unmatched amount of courage. Each day I am allowed to empower people to create the lives they each want to lead; I am afforded the opportunity to be a small part of their journey. There's a quote by Ghandi that says, "You may never know what results come from your actions, but if you do nothing there will be no result." I am not willing to sit by and wait for something great to happen in the world (like human equality), instead I am acting on what I believe to be right. Long story short, I do what I do because it's the "right" thing to do. I come to work smiling because I am genuinely excited to see who I get to meet; I drive home smiling because I am happy that my life has, yet again, been enhanced by a person I've met with."*

