



# In Our Community

Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center

March 2009

## Frequently Asked Questions

A message from Carolyn Brodt, Executive Director

FAQs - I thought that I would take this opportunity to answer three questions that are most frequently asked of staff and one new question that we have begun hearing just recently.



1. *Are we run by the government?* No. Although SAEHC receives government funding, we are not run by the government. SAEHC is a private nonprofit that responds to the changing needs of the community by developing programs accordingly. SAEHC applies for each grant that it receives and no funding is guaranteed for longer than three years at a time. In order to receive each grant, SAEHC must prove that it is the most competent and efficient provider and is capable of running the program and repeating outcomes. SAEHC implements rigorous reporting and auditing to ensure the funds are properly spent and expected program objectives are met.

2. *Do government funded agencies still need private donations?* Yes. Government funds do not pay for everything that is needed to successfully run a program. For instance, building repair and maintenance and enhanced children services not covered in our contracts. SAEHC programs are run out of buildings dating back to the 1930s. Without private donations, we would not be able to fix the air conditioning when it breaks, repair a leaking roof, or replace worn carpeting. Additionally, children in our programs need more than playcare. They benefit greatly from educational programs, art classes, and learning to play as a family at our Family Fun Fridays.

3. *Is SAEHC only in Sacramento?* No. While SAEHC is a local nonprofit, our Mather Community Campus program is technically located in Rancho Cordova. SAEHC's 11 other programs are all run in the heart of Sacramento with the majority operating in downtown, Oak Park, and South Sacramento. Although we do not provide direct services in our neighboring counties, we have many clients residing in our programs from Yolo, Nevada, Placer and El Dorado counties. These residents sought support from their local providers who are at capacity and unable to expand. In the future, SAEHC may operate programs in the nearby communities of Elk Grove, North Highland, or Antelope as homelessness in these areas has been increasing and there is a need for services to help these families in distress.

4. *And finally a question that we have been hearing a lot recently: Does SAEHC*

Keeping Families  
Together

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

## Board of Directors

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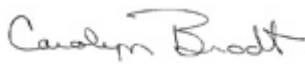
[View SAEHC's BBB Reliability Report](#)



SAEHC is a United Way certified partner. #3091

*run the tent city?* No agency runs the tent city. Many of the people staying in the tent city are clients that we and other local shelters were unable to serve due to lack of space. SAEHC currently turns away over 100 people daily from our emergency shelters. To remedy this problem of more demand than space available, SAEHC is working with City Councilmember Rob Fong and local homeless services providers on a Faith and Families Initiative that would move stable, motivated families into permanent housing after a minimum of a 30 day stay in a shelter with the help of local congregations, synagogues, and mosques. This effort will allow more families to be taken into our program, meaning fewer families must live in areas not meant for human habitation. SAEHC feels that this is the best option to insure that families receive all of the services that they need. For families that need more help than what the Faith and Families Initiative can offer, SAEHC will continue to offer a system of housing and job referrals, credit and budget management, addiction and mental health services, education, case management, and services for the children.

I love hearing from the community and would be happy to answer any question that you have about SAEHC and the programs that we run. I also give tours of our sites, to set one up, please contact me at [cbrodt@saehc.org](mailto:cbrodt@saehc.org) or 916-454-2120 x305.



## Introducing Syreeta Ross!



the services SAEHC provides the families of Sacramento.

I am so happy to be able to join the SAEHC Board of Directors. I live in Sacramento with my husband and young son, and I grew up in a small town not far from here. I have experience working with SAEHC through volunteer events sponsored by my employer Deloitte, where I am a management consultant in health care. I look forward to working with the Board and the agency to increase the impact of

– Syreeta Ross

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

## Agency News and Updates

### Oh the Madness of March

A message from Devon Good, Director of Community Partnerships

The opportunity to participate in athletic activities is integral to the development of children, especially the over 200 at-risk youth we serve in our programs. With the continued rise in childhood obesity and an

increase in cost to participate in school-related athletics, it is even more important that Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center programs provides avenues for participation. Our Mather Community Campus emphasis on involvement in athletics and other leadership activities has changed lives of their young residents, inspiring successes like Lucky's below.

*Lucky lived at the SAEHC Family Shelter and Mather Community Campus with his family from 2002 to 2004. Through the support of his Youth Development Specialist, recreational and community involvement-related activities, Lucky went on to play basketball and football at Luther Burbank High School in Sacramento. He played both sports all 4 years while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Just recently, Lucky notified SAEHC that he received a full academic scholarship to Grambling University in Louisiana. (Look in next months newsletter for Lucky's full story.)*

We are excited to announce our Mather Community Campus 2nd Annual Sports Tournament. This year we will start a tradition of a spring basketball tournament for teens in the area's homeless facilities including SAEHC's Mather Community Campus and Family Shelter, Serna Village Permanent Housing, and St. John's Shelter for Women and Children. Initiated by a Youth Development Specialist in our Mather Community Campus Transitional Housing Program, the event will take place April 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the Pacific Gym (3701 Stephen Drive, North Highlands). The objective of these sports tournaments is to reinforce the spirit of community involvement and healthy competition.

Next year we hope to host the basketball tournament on our own Rhino All-Purpose Sports Court, a project we have been exploring for over a year. The Mather Community Campus Sports Court will provide youth the ability to participate in a variety of sports after school and on weekends such as basketball, tennis, badminton, and volleyball. Strong bonds between Youth Development Specialists, parents, and their children have been developed through sports; an appropriate location to initiate these bonds is a necessity to continue these activities.



If you are interested in joining the effort to inspire our youth to succeed, click the links below or contact me at [dgood@saehc.org](mailto:dgood@saehc.org) or 916-454-2120 x304. Thank you for your continued support.

[Mather Community Campus All-Purpose Sports Court](#)

[Mather Community Campus Basketball Tournament Sponsor Information](#)

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## Omega Program Field Trip

The teenagers in the Omega Program took a field trip to Berkeley, CA for a University of California, Berkeley campus tour and an Alvin Ailey dance performance on Saturday, March 7. The Omega Program is a permanent housing program for individuals and families with multiple and severe disabilities. Encouraging the children in the program to go to college is one of our main focuses. The Youth Development Specialist works with the teens on college applications, arranges tours of local schools, and works with their high school to ensure that they are on track to graduating. This is all part of our goal to end the cycle of homelessness that can entrap the children as well as their parents.



## Getting Back on Track After Derailing: Leann Landrith

By Volunteer Pat McConahay

Leann Landrith has a job few women have. She is a train conductor, taking passengers along Amtrak's San Francisco to Gilroy line. But that's not the only thing that makes her special. It is what it took for her to get to this point in her life. A little more than two years ago this 44-year-old mother of four was struggling with drug and alcohol addiction as well as an abusive relationship.

"My life was getting staler and staler all the time and instead of using any energy I had to make the right choices, I used it to make all of the wrong choices," Leann said. "At the time it seemed so much easier to use drugs to numb the pain." In 2006 she lost everything, including her two youngest children who were still living at home. The twin girls were taken by Child Protective Services and Leann was forced to move in with her parents.

While living at home Leann entered a treatment program and got her children back. In April of 2007 she moved to Mather Community Campus, a two-year employment focused transitional housing program for the homeless. According to Leann, MCC helped her and her children in so many ways. "We learned to pull together and become a family again." The program taught her basic life skills, including positive parenting and healthy eating. "The classes were awesome in the way they taught us appropriate discipline techniques," Leann said.

She and her now 8-year-old daughters were also pleased with the MCC living arrangement. She said the two-bedroom, furnished apartment was bigger than any place she had lived in before. "The program even gives you dishes and food to get you started." Leann added that her daughters thrived under the MCC children's programs. She took full advantage of the job counseling services and talked extensively with fellow residents about training and potential career paths. That's how she decided to enter a program to become a train conductor. She was so motivated that she completed the 18-unit course in just a semester and graduated near the top of her class.

Today Leann and her family rent a house in San Jose close to family who can help out with daycare duties. Leann is on-call so her work hours can be erratic. But she loves her job and knows that she would not be

toodling down the tracks if it were not for the SAEHC and the Mather Community Campus program.

## Community Involvement

Thank you to the **Sacramento Legal Secretaries Association** for hosting February's Birthday Wishes at our Family Shelter. They threw our lucky birthday girls and boys a Disney themed party complete with a musical, magical clown.

The CSU Sacramento co-ed fraternity **Alpha Phi Omega** threw a Family Fun Friday for our Family Shelter. The kids and students took advantage of beautiful weather and played games outside. Indoors was a trivia game, snacks and prizes. Thank you!

Thank you to the employees from **Intel** who completed two painting projects and sorted the food pantry at Mather Community Campus.

### March Donation Drive: Bras

Many times, women come into our programs desperately in need of supportive undergarments. This is not just an issue of comfort, but of respect and dignity; especially for women who are looking for work. For the month of March we are collecting new bras in all styles and sizes. Help provide some much-needed support for Sacramento women in need.

Sometimes dreams come true if you verbalize them, so here is our dream this month: a restaurant-sized ice machine for our Family Shelter. This will help the families stay cool this summer with iced drinks at meals and throughout the day. If you or someone you know can help, please contact us at [donations@saehc.org](mailto:donations@saehc.org) or 916-454-2120 x302.

### Muralist Update: Stella Calles-Norris

Back in November, we mentioned that Stella Calles-Norris was volunteering her skills to give a beautifying touch to our CPS Home Finding Program Group Home. Well, the mural is complete and Stella has created a picture perfect interpretation of our dream seascapes mural. Thank you Stella!



## Volunteer of the Month: Naomi Amaha



After spending a Saturday evening at a Girls Night In event at the Women's Refuge, Naomi Amaha was inspired. She organized a donation drive at the Capitol where she works for California State Assemblymember Joe Coto. Naomi also planned a spa day for the Women's Refuge on February 28th with another Capitol employee, Larry Vasquez. Larry generously provided his haircutting services to the women while Naomi treated them to a veggie tray and sparkling juice. Naomi has a great rapport with the women and they are instantly comfortable with her.

*(Naomi, right, with a newly made-over client)*

## Employee of the Month: Robert Brown

Robert Brown has been part of our staff for six years. He has recently begun working as Support Staff at our CPS Home Finding Program's Parkside location and has become a superstar employee. Our CPS Home Finding Program is for families with open and active CPS cases that have recently been reunified. We offer them housing to complete their case requirements; allowing them to regain stability in their families lives. This program is run out of two locations, our group home in Oak Park and an apartment complex that we own in South Sacramento.

