

# Shelter News

Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center (916) 454-2120

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## Corporate Generosity by Natalie Kuffel, Executive Assistant

### Bullivant Houser Bailey

#### Deloitte

In the months of May and June, SAEHC had some extremely positive and generous experiences with two large firms, Bullivant Houser Bailey and Deloitte.

Bullivant Houser Bailey PC, a multi-service law firm with six offices on the West Coast, recently merged with the Sacramento firm Bartel Eng & Schroder. Because of this merge, the Gold River and Garden Highway branches were moving into the downtown headquarters of Bartel Eng & Schroder.

Office Managers Angela Lee and Terrie Rasica found that they were going to have extra furniture they no longer needed and SAEHC Board member Tami Boeck suggested our agency be the lucky recipient. Executive Director Bonnie Hyer and Executive Assistant Natalie Kuffel visited the two sites and after checking out the

wonderful furniture that was offered to us, felt like two kids on Christmas morning! There was so much furniture, that all of our Directors got what was on their wish list. On May 23rd they delivered the furniture to us (Free of charge!) in two large trucks. The new furniture allows us to make some much needed upgrades to our offices. We now present a more professional appearance for our agency.

Thank you so much to Bullivant Houser Bailey, Angela Lee and Terrie Rasica, Tami Boeck, and the wonderful movers at California Moving and Storage!

Not three weeks later we had another incredible act of generosity come our way. The Sacramento employees of Deloitte chose SAEHC for their annual IMPACT Day after we were suggested by SAEHC board member Andrew Ruggles. Deloitte is a multinational firm delivering services in the areas of audit, tax, consulting, and financial advisory

services. Every year, across the country, Deloitte employees volunteer at local charities on IMPACT Day.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 90 Deloitte employees donated their time, effort, and materials at the Family Shelter, Women's Refuge, and our 34<sup>th</sup> Street site. Workshops were given, stories were told to the children, flowers were planted, painting was done, and the back of 34<sup>th</sup> Street was emptied to make way for our new Administration office! It truly was an eventful day.

Thank you so much to Tina Janda, Christian Elebiary, Andrew Ruggles, and all of the employees at the Sacramento Deloitte!

For more information about Bullivant Houser Bailey or Deloitte please visit their websites at:

[www.Bullivant.com](http://www.Bullivant.com)  
[www.Deloitte.com](http://www.Deloitte.com)



*Omega Program participants  
(from left) Brenda, Tom, and  
Brandon Lukasiewicz.*

## A Father's Day Success Story by Betty MacLeane, Case Manager

Tom Lukasiewicz and his wife Charis came into the Mather Community Campus program in 1995. After two years, they moved to Rancho Cordova with their five children.

In 2000, Charis passed away and the family suffered from the loss of their beloved mother. Tom felt helpless as a single father and began to drink again. Soon, the children were put into foster care. Tom realized that he needed to turn his life around and applied for the Readiness Program. He

was accepted and became a model participant.

In May 2005, Tom was accepted for the Omega Program. He moved into a house in the Rancho Cordova area to be close to his children who were in school there. The children, Brandon and Brenda, were soon returned to Tom on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Brandon is now 13 years old and will be attending the King's basketball camp. He is a cadet staff sergeant at

Mather Youth Academy. Brenda is 12 and is planning to go to softball camp. She plays the flute and enjoys listening to music.

Tom is attending groups and has hosted groups at his home. He meets weekly with his case manager and has excelled in the Omega Program. Through all of the struggles, Tom has overcome his obstacles to become a wonderful father and a valued member of the community.

## A New Addition to SAEHC by Scott Leigh, Shelter Program Director



**Michaela Church**  
Family Shelter Supervisor

This past quarter, the Homeless Shelter Programs at SAEHC was fortunate to receive the gifts and talents of Michaela Church, the new Family Shelter Program supervisor. Michaela was hired because she is perceptive and understands the needs of the homeless.

Raised in Queens, New York, Michaela attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst, graduating with a B.A. degree in Race Relations. She continued her education by

beginning a Master's Program in Public Policy, with an emphasis on Woman's Studies.

Having served the poor in a variety of capacities, Michaela recently worked at Shalom House in Philadelphia as Assistant Manager. Her perspectives in case management enabled her to create a new after care program entitled "Making It". She has sat on various committees in the Philadelphia area that exist to treat homelessness and poverty.

Michaela relocated to California with her children

(ages six and two) and her fiancé Danny, who currently works in public sports broadcasting.

When asked about her work with SAEHC thus far she responded, "I am very excited to take on the challenge of the Family Shelter and in serving the homeless population of Sacramento County. I plan to use my experiences on the East Coast to better serve the clients and staff in this agency on the West Coast!" I think that Michaela will help us improve services in all aspects of the shelter programs.

## The Future of SAEHC by the Administration Staff

Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center (SAEHC) is looking to the future, which includes moving the administrative offices from our current location in a building owned by McGeorge School of Law to a building owned by the agency only one block away on 34<sup>th</sup> Street.

The property on 34<sup>th</sup> Street will require the construction of a 2,000 SF addition as well as interior improvements. SAEHC is working closely with several firms, an architect, and a contractor to assist the agency in navigating through the planning and

permit process. The agency is anticipating moving into the new office space in the fall of 2007.

Architect Darryl Chinn has been an invaluable resource to us over this planning process. He has been donating his services to this project for almost a year and has designed a plan to turn this abandoned space into a beautiful, functional office space. We cannot thank him enough for his generosity.

Walsh & Forster, Inc. has also been instrumental in getting this project off the ground. They have been

shepherding us through this planning process and will be managing the site once construction begins.

Without the work done at our 34<sup>th</sup> Street site to clean the area for the addition and spruce up the exterior, SAEHC would be much further behind in its timeline to move. The before and after pictures to the right tell the story of this building's amazing face-lift.

We look forward to spending many years in our new administrative offices.



**Before**



**After**

## Mather Strengthens Families by Marilyn Valdez-Mann, MCC Program Director

Recently, Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center (SAEHC) received funding from Sutter Health Foundation to implement programming that would increase protective factors and reduce potential risk factors for physical abuse and neglect of children. After researching multiple curriculum/programs, SAEHC decided to implement the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). The SFP is a family skills-building curriculum developed for youth 10-14 and their parents to prevent teen

substance abuse and other behavior problems, strengthen parenting skills, and build family strengths. February 21<sup>st</sup> marked the first session of the SPF. Seven families, all of which currently reside at Mather Community Campus, embarked on an adventure they would not soon forget.

One of the essential themes of the program is "Love with Limits", which for parent participants, really says it all; loving your children enough to

set limits.

Upon completing the program we asked parents and youth to describe their program experience. Collectively, they described an awakening, a discovery of a softer side of one another, a path to uncovering the beauty of loving and being loved unconditionally. They described how they were now communicating better, that they were actually "talking" and taking interest in one another and having regular family meetings.

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## Mather Strengthens Families Continued

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Parents described reconnecting with their child on many levels and in new ways. One described the feeling of falling in love with her son all over again, just as she did the very first time she held him and looked into his eyes on the day he was born. Now, through the baggy jeans and 2XXL shirt, she began to see the little boy that had grown in

to a young man, almost over night. She shared her reflection upon how incredible it was that feet once no bigger the palm of her hand, now had grown to fit a size 12 sneaker and the soft white baby booties that he used to wear were now wrapped in a memory box and stored away. She talked about how through her addiction she had missed many parts of his childhood and that she

knew she could not change their past. She said she now had the tools to build a better future and stronger family.

Our thanks to Sutter Health Foundation for sponsoring the Strengthening Families Program at MCC, for making a difference where it counts, and being a part of the many miracles of Mather Community Campus.

## Bulletins

### ***Fairytale Town After Hours Event***

Sample delicious gourmet fare, taste wines from some of the finest vineyards, enjoy live music, and have the opportunity to bid on an assortment of services and goodies at Fairytale Town After Hours on September 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### ***Sac Bee Grant***

Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center was recently chosen as a recipient of the Sacramento Bee's Sheltering Our Children grant. The \$2,500 contribution will be used to take children in our Family Shelter on fun, educational field trips.

### ***Newsletter Updates***

We're now offering our newsletter electronically! If you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter through email, or if corrections are needed to your name or address please contact us at [saehc@saehc.org](mailto:saehc@saehc.org)

## **SACRAMENTO AREA EMERGENCY HOUSING CENTER**

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