

Shelter News

Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center (916) 454-2120

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Individual Highlights:

Shelter Update	2
FTTAH Recap	3
Housing Services	5
Holiday Wish List	6
Halloween	6
New President	6

Seasons Greetings by Bonnie K. Hyer, Executive Director

Each holiday season, as well as through the year, we try to provide a comfortable atmosphere for our participants. During the holidays we make an even greater effort to make it festive, a time of remembrance and a time of reflection. With this in mind we are asking for your help. In addition to gifts and food baskets we are asking for cash donations to help us fill the gaps in funding that occur not only during the

holiday season but throughout the year.

Every year, SAEHC serves over 1,600 women and children as well as single fathers with children. Between our two shelters and our transitional and permanent housing programs, staff are busy throughout the year providing much needed services to our participants on their path to self-reliance. Besides

the holidays, each month we celebrate children's birthdays with a cake and a gift for each child. When our participants leave our shelter, we provide them personal items such as shampoo, soap, and toothpaste to get them through the first few weeks. Donations are what make this possible. Your generosity makes this possible. Please support us in supporting our participants.

Diane's Story

Because SAEHC offers such a variety of programs, sometimes we see clients through the initial shelter phase and the transitional housing phase.

Diane came into SAEHC at our Women's Refuge program for single, homeless women. She transitioned to our Extended Shelter Program where six women who have completed a shelter stay can live in a house together for up to four months while looking for something more permanent.

Diane found more permanence at Mather Community Campus (MCC), the two-year, employment focused transitional housing program run by several agencies, including SAEHC. Clients leave MCC with stable jobs and the ability to rent (or even purchase!) their own home.

Diane's story is representative of SAEHC's mission to not only help women and families with children in times of crisis, but to work with them and assist them

towards stability and self-reliance.

Women's Refuge Staff,

*I love and miss you all.
I'm doing great here. I
love it and I will
succeed.*

*Love,
Diane Maher*

*Thanks for all your
support!*

Continued on Page 5

Dead Ends by Scott Leigh, Shelter Program Director



*"I do not believe in
'dead ends'."*

*Scott Leigh,
Shelter Program Director*



Every journey in life involves choices. Every time we come to a fork in the road we choose one way over another.

To be homeless is seldom a choice, but more a result of choices that we have made in our lives. Often the clients at both the Family Shelter and Women's Refuge feel that they have arrived at a dead end in their lives because of the choices that they have made or because of unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances.

What about those dead ends?

In English, the expression is used to describe a chosen path that ultimately leads nowhere is "dead end." In Spanish, it's usually described as a "callejón sin salida." The difference in emphasis is interesting. The English expression stresses that there's no way to move forward, that all our hopes for the journey are dashed. The Spanish phrase says it's a street with no way out, no exit.

Both ways of looking at the same disappointing situation are correct and

both could benefit from a little optimism.

We are all about optimism in the Shelter Programs! Often that optimism comes from a variety of sources.

The following are some recent examples:

- As a result of good case management at both shelters, clients not only frequently receive employment, but temporary and permanent housing as well.
- As a result of good companies such as Deloitte (who are again holding workshops for clients this fall), resumes are being produced and coaching on job interviews continues.
- Because of organizations such as the Sutter Medical Center, a local Elementary School, and others... winter coats and blankets are being donated in November.
- As a result of a hard working maintenance crew, what were thought to be fatally damaged hardwood floors at the Family

Shelter became beautifully refinished and renewed.

- As a result of SAEHC working collaboratively with outside agencies, more and more resources are available for clients.
- As a result of an ongoing evaluation of group meetings in the Shelters for clients, outside professionals are contributing their expertise to serving those in need.

When you get to a dead end, you're frustrated because it's unexpected it impedes you from going the direction you wanted. But if you're willing to cut your losses, bite the bullet, and admit you made a mistake, you can always retrace the steps back to that fork in the road and then make a new, and hopefully better, choice.

In fact, if you really want to go somewhere, there's no alternative. You have to back up, choose a new direction, and go full-speed ahead. It's really the only way to break through the dead ends. All of us at SAEHC are grateful to be a part of that process.

Fairytale Town After Hours a Huge Success! by Natalie Kuffel, Executive Assistant

The 14th Annual Fairytale Town After Hours fundraiser proved to be a tremendous success. Not only did the event reach its goal of raising \$70,000, but it was a great party. After having some light rain at the start of the event, the weather was cool and comfortable. We estimate that about 500 people attended and the crowd was lively.

We had the most auction items we've ever had this year and they ranged from weeklong get-aways to a behind the scenes package with the Sacramento Kings. We also had numerous spa treatments, pieces of jewelry, bottles of wine and champagne, children's bicycles and toys, pet packages, and even home improvement goodies. A heartfelt thanks goes out to the 144 businesses and individuals who donated

items to our silent auction.

Twenty-one restaurants, catering companies, and local markets contributed delicious food. Beverages from twenty-two wineries, three breweries, and a coffee company were featured. K-Dog and the Putah Creek Crawdads entertained the crowd.

In addition to individual volunteers, employees from Bank of America assisted. The Fairytale Town Committee, Fund Development Committee, and members of the SAEHC Board of Directors form the core of the event's planning committee, and preparations for next year's party on September 14, 2007 will be beginning after everyone catches their breath. It is the work of the committee and volunteers that keeps the costs down and makes it

possible to spend only ten percent of our income on expenses.

The beneficiary of all this effort is the SAEHC programs that assist families with children and single women towards self-reliance. Our shelters are located in Oak Park, we have transitional housing programs located in Oak Park, South Sacramento, and Mather Field and permanent housing sites are scattered throughout the Sacramento area. The silent auction and the gate receipts account for about a third of the revenue realized from the event, and underwriters bring in the majority of funding. We'd like to acknowledge Biba Caggiano for her years of support to the event and our shelter programs.

Continued on Page 4



K-Dog



The Putah Creek Crawdads

Food Contributors

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 Vino Con Brio
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Fairytale Town After Hours Continued from Page 3

SAHEC would also like to thank the following generous sponsors:



The Auction Table



(from left) Attorney John Taylor, Former County Supervisor Tom Sheedy, Board Member Lynn Robie, and Councilmember Sandy Sheedy



Former Mayor Anne Rudin

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Building the Foundation for Success by Mark Orth, Housing Services Director

Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center (SAEHC) is proud to have several programs successfully helping homeless families gain the skills to find and maintain safe, secure housing. Although this is a long and difficult process for the families, dedicated staff have helped the transition from the streets to housing become a reality for many families.

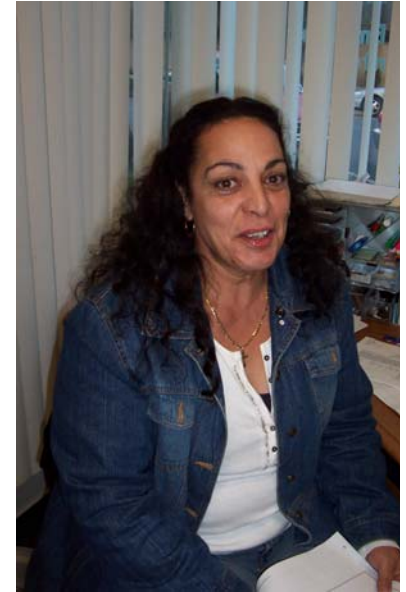
One program that has continued to have an impact on the homeless community the past several years is the Child Protective Services Home Finding Program. This program offers homeless adults the chance to reunite with their children. Or, in the cases where families are about to become separated due to homelessness, adequate housing is provided to keep them together.

A family that is fortunate enough to be accepted into one of the five rooms at the group home or one of the eight apartments the program has to offer will be given a safe environment and a staff member to help work on their court appointed case plan. The clients also develop a budget to save enough money to secure safe and affordable housing for their family. Due to the energy it takes to survive on the streets, many families would not be able to complete their case plans if it were not for this program. Even if they were able to accomplish the goals of the case plan, the parents still may not get their children back do to lack of appropriate housing.

Here at SAEHC, our goal is to see participants obtain safe and secure

housing. Housing Services Specialist, Annette Osborne, helps us achieve that goal.

Annette's role in the agency is to work with single women and families from SAEHC shelter programs who are ready to move into independent housing. Not only does she help them find housing, she also helps them through the moving process and provides small household items, food vouchers, and miscellaneous furniture. Annette follows-up with the participants for up to one year, going over their budget and any housing concerns that they might have. The CPS Home Finding Program and our dedicated Housing Services Specialist have helped participants to create and maintain a **Foundation for Success.**



*Annette Osborne,
SAEHC's Housing Services
Specialist*

Diane's Story Continued from Page 1

My name is Diane Maher. I first came to Women's Refuge on January 12, 2006. I was escaping from an abusive husband and I didn't know where to go. Someone referred me to Women's Refuge. I called and got in that same day. I was scared and broken. I was also an addict, but I lied and said I was clean and sober. I got a job and moved over to the ESP program

and within a month I did a total tailspin. I went out one night, took a Valium, got drunk, and wrecked my jeep. I was arrested with a DUI. The next day I was asked to leave the ESP program, which I did with my tail between my legs.

I was clean and sober until I went into recovery, where I stayed for 52 days. I had let Tahirih (the Women's Refuge and

ESP Supervisor) know where I was and what I was doing. So when I got out of recovery, I went right into the Women's Refuge. I was embraced with so much love and support. They saw that I had changed. Tahirih did everything possible to get me in to Mather Community Campus. I did my share of hard work because she had let me go back over to ESP with

a very strict contract that I had to follow to a tee. I had to attend all classes, a meeting daily, and meditate regularly. I did it all every week. I moved into Mather on September 13, 2006. I'm glad that there are people besides my family that still believe in me. I wouldn't be here without Tahirih and the great staff at Women's Refuge. I love them all.

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saehc@saehc.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.saehc.org

Holiday Wish List

Our agency provides all of our clients with special food and holiday gifts, whether they are in one of the shelter programs or in one of our five transitional or permanent supportive housing programs. You can help us make these holidays special for people in need by donating some of the following items:

- Knit hats
- Gloves
- Sweats (all sizes)

- Tube socks
- Underwear (new)
- Back/day packs
- Regional transit passes
- Toiletries- small soap, shampoo, conditioner & lotion
- Gift certificates (grocery, fast food, and department stores)
- Games for

- children/families
- Stuffed toys for young children
- Unwrapped gifts
- Single use cameras
- Gifts for adults- umbrellas, alarm clocks
- Turkeys/ food baskets
- Wrapping paper and ribbon

If you can help, please call 454-2120 or email donations@saehc.org

Halloween Costumes

Children of all ages love dressing up for Halloween. Unfortunately, children in the shelter system do not always have the resources to obtain a costume. That is why SAEHC's Family Shelter is starting a costume closet full of fun children's Halloween costumes that can be worn and returned every year. If you have a new or gently used costume that you would like to donate, please call Natalie at 454-2120 ext. 100

New Board President

Dave Mowery, recently retired from the Department of Human Assistance, was recently selected as our new Board President. Welcome Dave!

Dave replaces Jason Wagner, IMA Technologies, as the Board President. Jason will continue serving on the Board of Directors. Thanks Jason for doing such a great job for the past 2.5 years!

SACRAMENTO AREA EMERGENCY HOUSING CENTER

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