



# Stockton Shelter for the Homeless

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## SHELTER FACTS AND FIGURES FOR LAST MONTH

- 37 families with a total of 90 children were provided food, clothing & shelter
- The singles shelter averaged more than 175 men and 23 women per night
- 3,649 dinner meals were served
- The HIV/AIDS program assisted 4 families and 4 single adults with transitional housing
- Seven homeless veterans enrolled in our enhanced Veteran Services Program



## “Not By Choice”

Working for Stockton Shelter for the Homeless has given me an incredible opportunity to talk to people in the community about what we do: serving thousands of men, women and children every year seeking emergency shelter and other services. Many of my days are a blur of meetings, conferences and speaking engagements. It has been so exciting and I am so grateful to be here. A frequent topic of conversation is about the nature of homelessness itself. Why are people homeless, and why does homelessness exist? It is a deceptively simple question with a complex answer. “People choose to be homeless” is an answer I sometimes hear. “They have made poor choices and now they’re homeless”, “they don’t want to work and now they’re homeless”, they like being homeless, they want to be homeless, *they choose to be homeless*. The truth is no one chooses to be homeless. We are all forced to accept circumstances beyond our control, whether positive or negative. Most of us are given the capacity to navigate those circumstances successfully, but some of us aren’t. It is true that some are homeless because they

have made poor choices, but that is never the whole story. After all, who among us can say they have never made poor choices?

We are all one job loss, illness, injury or financial setback away from potentially losing everything. A home is not guaranteed to anyone. We may occasionally see someone who could have avoided homelessness in some way or another, but for every one we see like that there are three or more who lost their job, got injured, got sick, have a physical or mental disability, have experienced profound trauma and loss (the list goes on) and find themselves unable to work either temporarily or permanently. Without a home and without the support of friends or family, with nowhere else to go, they turn to Stockton Shelter for the Homeless. They didn’t choose to be homeless. For those that “choose” to live on the streets instead of a shelter, they are not “happy” to be there. Their perception of living in a shelter is that being on the streets is a better alternative. It could be they have a behavioral problem that makes it difficult or impossible to be in groups, or they are not yet ready to give up substance abuse, or maybe

they are the partner of someone struggling with these issues and they refuse to leave them in favor of a safe bed and a warm meal. There are as many reasons why people choose the streets over the shelter as there are reasons for being homeless. As a community we need to help these people, not blame them. If we really want to eliminate homelessness we need to make sure that every human being, regardless of circumstances, gets the support they need and deserve.

Your support of Stockton Shelter for the Homeless is how we accomplish this. By helping to make our organization a healthier, happier, safer place to live you are supporting our residents in taking the first step back towards self-sufficiency. Thank you for all you do for the homeless of Stockton and San Joaquin County. Without your support, thousands would be left on the street. With your support, you have provided our clients with a gift beyond measure: the restoration of hope.

~ Adam Cheshire  
CEO

## TEN WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE SHELTER

1. **MAKE A CONTRIBUTION** monthly or otherwise
2. **SHOP AT SHELTER THRIFT**
3. **DONATE** new or slightly used items
4. **REMEMBER A LOVED ONE** with a charitable gift
5. **MAKE A BEQUEST** in your will—there are tax breaks!
6. **ASK YOUR CHURCH** or civic organization to place the shelter needs list in their newsletter
7. **JOIN THE SAFETY NET TEAM** by donating \$500 or more annually
8. **VOLUNTEER**— There are many individual and group projects which would suit your talents
9. **ADOPT-A-ROOM:** do a make-over of a family room (new flooring, paint, fixtures & bedding)
10. **TOUR THE SHELTER** and give us your feedback

# *Thank you for your Support!*

We are so grateful for the support we receive from the community - we can't do what we do without you! We offer our thanks and appreciation to every person and organization that support our efforts to help the homeless. Below are just some of the amazing people who care so deeply and share with those less fortunate.

- First Presbyterian Church - Deacon's Fund
- Little Flock Baptist Church
- Delta Property Administration Trust II
- Rod Johnson Air Conditioning
- Stockton Yacht Club
- UOP Academy of Student Pharmacists
- Junior League of San Joaquin County
- Humphrey's Laurence Drivon School of Law
- San Joaquin County Activity Center
- Community of Christ
- Cintas Uniform Services
- Crete Family Foundation
- Bewely Charitable Foundation
- Romanoff Foundation

## Save the Date

31st Annual Festival of International Cuisine  
October 10th 2015  
Church of the Presentation Community Hall  
Starting at 6:30pm  
Tickets available now  
\$100 each  
Send check or call  
(209) 465-3612



## Towel Donation!

We are preparing to offer clean towels daily to our Men's Shelter residents. This added service will be no small task, but with help from our community we can do it! If you would like to make a donation of towels you can bring them to our main campus or either one of our thrift stores. If you have any questions please call Liz Swan, Executive Assistant at (209) 465-3612 or e-mail at [info@stocktonshelter.org](mailto:info@stocktonshelter.org).



## *ERICA'S STORY*

Hello, my name is Erica. I came to stay at the Stockton Shelter for the Homeless after finishing a program at New Directions Inpatient Rehab. While I was there I learned a new way of life. I had lost my daughter Briyana when she was born. CPS placed her in foster care because I have no family in Stockton. CPS gave me the option to come to the Shelter for stable housing

so that I would be able to get my daughter back in my custody. Having never been in this situation but refusing to give up I checked in to the Shelter. "Wow", I was scared, nervous, all of these thoughts of the stories I had heard about being in a shelter ran through my mind. None of it was true.

After being there awhile I started getting overnights with my baby girl. I stayed focused and completed my after-care in the program. That's all that was required to get my daughter back. I was so grateful for all of the support and help I received from the staff here. During all of this I started having serious health issues. I was in extreme pain and I finally went to the ER, they said I had a mass on my right kidney, it was so large there would be no way to save my kidney. I had to wait to have my kidney removed. During that time I had to have blood transfusions and I had to stop my child visits. At this point I was feeling lost and alone, I knew the place I called home, Stockton Shelter, was all I had. Finally I got the date for the surgery. When it was done the doctor told me if I had waited any longer I wouldn't have made it. They found out it was cancer.

"God has been so good to me". After the surgery they found no traces of cancer and I was able to return to the Shelter. I soon got my own room for placement and started seeing my daughter again. I got help from both case managers and my baby is home with me today. It has been a humbling experience for me. I am so thankful and grateful for the help I get here. This place will always hold a special place in my heart. I am really close to getting my affordable housing so we can move forward. The Stockton Shelter is making it possible for me to be able to bond and grow with my little girl. I will forever be so grateful to everyone here. Helping make it possible for me to move forward in my life to become a successful woman and mother to my child.

"God bless and thank you to all who help in making all of this possible. It means a lot to me".



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Website: stocktonshelter.org



In-store savings coupon  
good at both locations

**SHELTER THRIFT  
& DONATION CENTERS**

"Where the entire community can help the homeless"

7540 Pacific Avenue at Hammer Ranch Center  1242 W. Fremont Street  
1 block east of Pershing Avenue

**20% off**  
one entire purchase  
\* not valid with any other offer \*

Coupon expires April 30, 2015

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Shelter Wish List**

**FOR THE SHELTER**

- Towels & Wash Cloths
- New Sleeping Bags
- Pillows and Twin-sized Sheets
- Twin-sized Blankets
- Sports Bras/ All Sizes
- Diapers (4, 5, 6) & Baby Wipes
- Laundry Detergent
- Financial Assistance

**FOR THE THRIFT STORES**

Gently used items of any kind including Furniture.

**MAJOR PROJECTS**

- Metal Storage Lockers
- Metal Bunk Beds
- New Twin Vinyl Mattresses
- Siding for the Buildings
- Repair/Replace Play Structure

**Resident Spotlight**

We have an average of 9 babies per year coming home to the Shelter. Precious Moments...

