Former client keeps hope alive

Once you choose hope, anything is possible.  
(Christopher Reeve)

Sue Ann is a former client who knows first-hand that having HOPE makes anything possible. She found hope in the form of Stockton Shelter for the Homeless. She arrived here in despair, after suffering the most agonizing trauma a mom could endure - the death of her son while serving our country in Iraq.

Sue Ann was practically paralyzed by the weight of her grief and ended up at Behavioral Health Services after a suicide attempt. She was later transferred to our Family Shelter, where she found a safe haven with a warm bed, healthy meals, appropriate resources, and the opportunity to heal surrounded by people who cared.

Several months ago she moved into her own home. In a recent letter from Sue Ann she said, “I will forever be grateful, thankful, and truly blessed for having been given another chance at life at Stockton Shelter for the Homeless...I continue to heal, and move forward everyday.”

Sometimes people want to help but don’t know how

With Thanksgiving over and Christmas approaching, calls are coming in from caring members of our community wanting to know what they can do to help the homeless. Some find it helpful that we have a “Wish List” on the back of our newsletter and on our web site. Others want to provide something special for the holidays such as gifts for the children, decorations for the shelter, or gift cards for families living here so they can get what they need and have a little fun too (e.g., movies, bowling, fast food, ice cream parlors, Target or Walmart etc.).

We will be sheltering 55 to 65 families and upwards of 250 single men and women per night this winter. Think of the cart of groceries you fill up for a family of 4 or 5 each week. Now imagine what it takes to fill the food and supply needs of 400 to 500 people. My point is that everything your family needs, our families need. In particular, we need coupons for turkeys and chicken. We need cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items in mass quantities. We also need blankets and sheets, cotton towels, jackets and coats, sleeping bags and back packs. Furthermore, we need funds to pay all the bills.

Here are some suggestions:

> Ask your holiday party guests to bring something for the homeless (example: hotel/motel sized soaps and shampoos).

> Ask your company if it would sponsor a food, blanket or clothing drive.

> Ask your church to place the shelter needs list in the church newsletter.

> Be creative, involve others, have fun and consider the impact of your efforts.
Chaos reigns during the holidays at the Family Shelter - and that’s just the way we like it! Here are photos of some of the early December parties and activities. We invite you to join the fun and help the shelter at the same time. Adopt the shelter, a homeless family or a child and bring on the smiles!
With great appreciation we thank everyone who helped bring a little more joy to the children and families at Stockton Shelter for the Homeless - below are just some of the organizations who helped bring joy to the shelter early on in the holiday season:

- Aeropostale
- Starbucks-Wilson Way
- Lathrop Christian Center
- Girl Scouts Junior Troup at Rio Calaveras
- EMMI Physician Services
- Prayer Shawl Group of Presentation Church
- Hollywood Beauty College
- Greater Stockton Employer Advisory Council
- Girl Scout Troup 3973
- Fil-Am Seventh Day Adventist Church
- The Breakfast Club
- First Student School Bus Transport
- Stockton Sikh Temple
- Clifford Oto and friends
- Tim Ulmer
- Ripona School
- Dorfman Pacific
- Target
- Carlotta Silva
- Weston Ranch High School
- Toys 4 Toddlers
Support The Shelter

Stockton Shelter for the Homeless
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Website: stocktonshelter.com

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KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE

FOR THE THRIFT STORES
Formal and Prom Dresses
Jewelry, Purses and Shoes
Women’s Clothing
Men’s Clothing
Children’s Clothing
Home Décor
Kitchen Utensils
Furniture
Books, CDs, and DVDs

MAJOR PROJECTS & COSTS
Room Remodeling (adopt-a-room) - $2,000 ea.
Computer, Monitor & Printer - $800
Funds to Replace Mattresses - $185 each
Paint and Volunteers to paint the Family Shelter

FOR THE FAMILY SHELTER
Back packs
New Sleeping Bags
Pillows and Blankets
Reading Glasses
Diapers & Baby Wipes
Bars of Soap
Financial Assistance

United Way
San Joaquin County