

JANUARY 2016

Stockton Shelter for the Homeless

411 S. Harrison, Stockton CA 95203 • Phone 209-465-3612 • Fax 209-939-9733 • stocktonshelter.org

Happy New Year!



Thanks to our loving community, the children at Stockton Shelter for the Homeless had a fun filled Christmas! Santa came, there were gifts for kids of all ages. Groups came into the Shelter to do crafts with the children and bring food for the families.

What a wonderful way to Start the New Year!



TEN WAYS

YOU CAN SUPPORT THE SHELTER

1. **MAKE A CONTRIBUTION** through our "new and improved" website. stocktonshelter.org
2. **SHOP AT THE SHELTER THRIFT STORES**
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

Making a Difference in 2016



I can't believe 2016 is finally here! 2015 was a very busy year for Stockton Shelter for the Homeless, and a successful one. I feel so blessed and very lucky to have been given the opportunity to help make a difference in our community through working with the homeless of Stockton and San Joaquin County. We made so many great strides last year, from improving our facilities for the safety and security of our residents, to adding a huge new playground for our kids, to providing laundry services for our homeless veterans, the list goes on. This holiday season has been an especially active time for us, and we are so thankful and grateful for everyone who made this time of year a special one for the people who live here. Giving our clients something to celebrate is as important to their health, well-being

and recovery as giving them a warm, safe place to sleep at night. There have been wonderful events and parties here organized with the help of caring and generous volunteers who want to make a difference in someone's life. We rely on support from our community to make these things a reality. There is still so much to do and I am so excited for the opportunity to make Stockton Shelter for the Homeless stronger in 2016.

Although things can get pretty chaotic around here sometimes, we never lost sight of what's important: our mission. We exist to make sure the homeless of our community have somewhere to turn when they are ready to get off the streets and do something positive with their lives. To make sure homeless families have a roof over their head. To provide a safety net for our fellow human beings who struggle daily just to survive. Every day we help people who are homeless because they lost a job, became sick or injured, ran away from a dangerous relationship, and dozens of other reasons. When they come to Stockton Shelter for the Homeless and ask for help, we don't need an explanation as to why. We invite them in and let them stay. Our policy is and will continue to be that we never turn anyone away seeking emergency shelter. There are limits to that policy of course, mostly to ensure the safety of the hundreds of children who call Stockton Shelter their temporary home (in 2015 we provided shelter and other services to 312 children and their families). Most people coming to us for help just need a place to start again. I am so proud to live in this community where that's possible, here at Stockton Shelter.

I believe that homelessness is a problem that can be solved, but no one can do it alone. It takes the combined efforts of an entire community. By supporting Stockton Shelter for the Homeless you are supporting the effort to eliminate homelessness in San Joaquin County. It's a big challenge, and one that requires all of us to participate. I see every day how much we can accomplish as a community by working together towards a common goal. It won't happen overnight, but if we stay dedicated to the mission *it will happen*. Help us reach the goal and make a better world for the homeless children that live at the Shelter and all the children of our community who deserve to live in a place where everyone has a home. **Go to our website** and **click on the donate button** to become a part of the solution. Consider setting up a **monthly donation to lend your support all year long**. **Check us out on Facebook** and see what we do with your support all 365 days of the year, and every hour of every day. Through your support and the support of the entire community, we can make Stockton and San Joaquin County a better place for our children, our grandchildren, our friends and neighbors, *for all of us to live*.

~Adam Cheshire



Our Caring Community



A group of Edison High School students got together over their winter break and bought and wrapped gifts to pass out to the children at the Shelter. An amazing group of teenagers! Thank you from all of the kids here!



A local FedEx group participated in our Adopt-a-Family program. They stopped by on their lunch break to deliver some special presents to a couple families. You guys Rock! Thank you!

Happy New Year! 2016



The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation participated in our Adopt-a-Family program again this holiday season and brought gifts to four families Christmas week. Thank you!

Christmas is the giving season and we sure did feel the giving spirit here at the Stockton Shelter for the Homeless this year! There are too many groups who volunteered their time or donated items to list them all, but we are grateful. We couldn't do what we do without the help and support of our local community. So, on behalf of everyone who lives here we would like to thank you for what you have done this Holiday Season and all year long.

Have a wonderful New Year!

Edna Mackey brought her kids to the Stockton Shelter during Christmas week and they brought us an unexpected donation. She said that the kids collect coins all year long and at the end of the year they donate the money to a local charity and this year they chose the Shelter. They had collected almost \$1,000! Thank you so much for this awesome donation!



in-store savings coupon

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 January 31, 2016



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Contact us at info@stocktonshelter.org if you would prefer to receive our newsletter in an email.



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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

FOR THE THRIFT STORES

Gently used items of any kind including Furniture.

MAJOR PROJECTS

New flooring in Family Shelter
Metal Bunk Beds
New Twin Vinyl Mattresses
Siding for the Buildings
Painting Inside and Out

SHELTER FACTS AND FIGURES FOR LAST MONTH

- **40 families with a total of 70 children were provided food, clothing & shelter**
- **The singles shelter averaged 144 men and 44 women per night**
- **The HIV/AIDS program assisted 2 families and 3 single adults with transitional housing**
- **Six homeless veterans enrolled in our enhanced Veteran Services Program**