

JULY 2016

Stockton Shelter for the Homeless

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

32nd Annual Festival of International Cuisine

You're Invited!



Save the Date

October 8th 2016
Church of the Presentation
Community Hall
Starting at 6:30pm
Tickets available now
\$100 each
Send check or call
(209) 465-3612



A Community that Cares

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 STORE**
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!



Last month, the San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury released its report on homelessness in our region. I had no idea they were working on a report, and to be honest I didn't know this was something a Grand Jury did. Like a lot of people I talk to, it's clear that the men and women of the Grand Jury wondered why it seems like homelessness is getting worse in our community. What they concluded is that we have inadequate communication and collaboration between agencies serving the homeless, primarily non-profit organizations and government agencies run by San Joaquin County and the city governments. While I think that there may have been more truth to that statement in the past, what I have seen recently is an unprecedented increase in the amount of collaboration amongst local officials and organizations to address homelessness in Stockton and San Joaquin County. One of the things I found so encouraging after reading the Grand Jury report is the fact that all of their recommendations for an improved response to homelessness in our community have already been discussed, and in many cases are already being enacted. We didn't need a report from a Grand Jury to tell us that we need to do more, and that low income families and the mentally ill, for whom homelessness is a constant threat, need help from their community now more than ever.

While I think it is true that by comparison to neighboring communities we are behind the curve in addressing homelessness, what I see is a community taking the necessary steps to solve the problem in a way that is realistic and compassionate. What I also see is a community still recovering from the bankruptcy of its largest city and County seat. The repercussions of one of the largest civil bankruptcies in American history continues to reverberate, not just in Stockton but throughout San Joaquin County and the region. Our ability as a community to provide real, humane solutions to homelessness requires two things: the collective will of our citizens to help, and the necessary resources to provide that help. The “resources” part is always the hardest; there are so many problems a community faces and never enough money to address them all. That is even more true in our community after the bankruptcy, which only ended in February of 2015. We must be patient and remember that it will take a long time for us to get back to “normal”.

The good news is that the will to help the homeless already exists and will continue into the future. We see the struggles of those who hold signs in the medians of our streets pleading for help, and we see the camps full of people with nowhere else to go and no hope for a brighter future. We, as a community, realize that we cannot simply ignore the plight of the homeless, and by helping those among us who need it most, we are making the entire community a better place for everyone who lives here. That's why I am so proud to be a part of this community, and so proud to be CEO of Stockton Shelter for the Homeless. I am also proud that the Grand Jury cited Stockton Shelter for the Homeless as a model for providing “effective and humane” services for the homeless in San Joaquin County. That means what we're doing is working, and that has only been possible with support from a community that cares about the homeless and wants to partner with us to make a difference in their lives. With your help, we are making strides for homeless families, and I am so excited for what the future holds!

For more information about what you can do to help, visit our website at stocktonshelter.org, e-mail us at info@stocktonshelter.org, or call (209) 465-3612.

~ Adam Cheshire,
Chief Executive Officer



Since 2008, Sierra Health Foundation has awarded approximately \$7 million through the Responsive Grants Program in support of community-driven efforts to improve health, promote access and reduce health inequity throughout our 26-county funding region.

The Responsive Grants Program continued in 2016 with grants up to \$15,000. In June, they announced 36 grants totaling \$500,000. Stockton Shelter for the Homeless was one of the organizations awarded.

Thank you! This will help improve the quality of the shelter rooms through renovations to the Family Shelter.

Working at Shelter Thrift



I started working in the Pacific thrift store in 2010. I just wanted something part time to add on to my already full-time job. I'm a single mom and will do whatever it takes to support my daughter. Even if that means that I have two jobs instead of one.

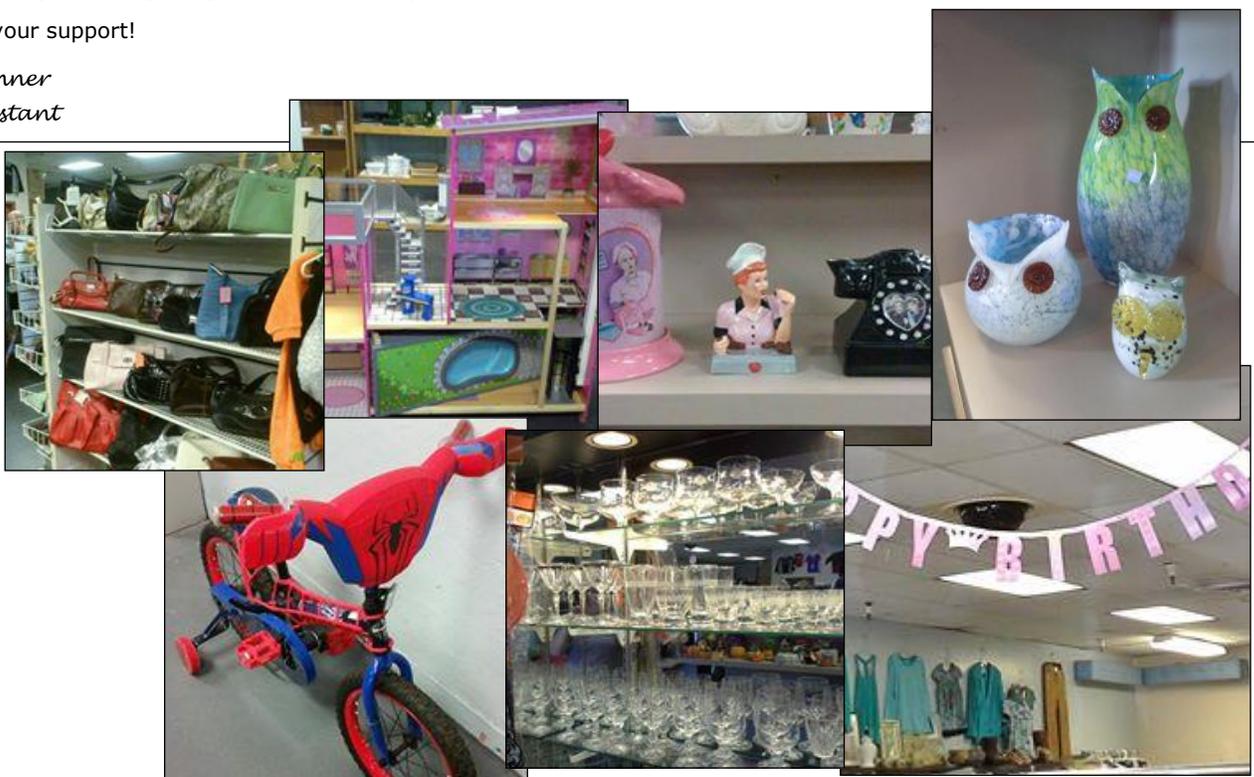
I loved the job at the thrift store from the start! This was unlike any other job I had ever had. I had been working in retail for about 10 years and had never experienced anything like it. It was so different from big box retail. I loved the idea that I got to price things and set items on the shelf where I wanted them. Making my own displays. The only other place I had ever been able to do that was when I was little and I would help with family garage sales.

After about two months on the job I was asked if I wanted the supervisor position. My other full time job had started cutting our hours back and so I said yes. Eventually I was able to quit the other job and work at the thrift store full time.

Let me just say, the customers are amazing! I loved getting to know all of my regulars. I was promoted in 2014 to work at the Shelter itself as the Executive Assistant to the CEO. I do miss the store sometimes, but am very happy doing this job at the very heart of the organization, seeing what a huge difference we make in this community everyday. And I know that a large part of that difference is made possible by the profits made through Shelter Thrift.

Thank you for your support!

Elizabeth Skinner
Executive Assistant



Have a **Happy 4TH of JULY** 

Shelter Thrift & Donation Center

7540 Pacific Avenue (in the Hammer Ranch Shopping Center)
"Where the entire community can help the homeless!"


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

Coupon expires July 31, 2015

Check out our ad in upcoming Current magazine editions!





Like us on Facebook!



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Stockton Shelter
for the Homeless
P.O. Box 4803
Stockton CA 95204
Phone: 209-465-3612
Fax: 209-939-9733
Website: stocktonshelter.org

Proud Partners



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

- Laundry Detergent
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Sports Bras
- Baby Play Pens
- Towels
- Diapers (all sizes)

FOR THE THRIFT STORE

Gently used items of any kind including Furniture.

MAJOR PROJECTS

- New flooring in Family Shelter
- Remodel Front Lobby/Family Shelter
- New Box Truck w/Liftgate
- New roof for Family Shelter
- New Paint Inside Facilities

SHELTER FACTS AND FIGURES FOR LAST MONTH

- 45 families with a total of 95 children were provided food, clothing & shelter
- The singles shelter averaged 142 men and 28 women per night
- The HIV/AIDS program assisted 3 families and 3 single adults with transitional housing
- Four homeless veterans enrolled in our enhanced Veteran Services Program