Sky’s the limit for young family

Jose and Corinna came to Stockton Shelter with their two young children because, like so many others, they lost their jobs, then their savings, and finally their home.

We asked Jose to share his experience with us and the following is his story:

Hi, my name is Jose and my family lives at Stockton Shelter for the Homeless. My family consists of my wife, Corinna, my two children, Johan (8 years old) and JessaLynn (5 years old) and me. We were evicted from our apartment in Lodi due to being laid off our jobs. We tried our best to keep things going and it just got overwhelming.

We made the decision to “start fresh” by moving to the shelter and getting help. Since coming to the shelter we both have gained a job and life is starting to “look up” for us. Our number one priority now is to get a roof over the heads of our children. I have never been at a shelter before but I didn’t expect a family atmosphere like there is here at the Stockton Family Shelter.

I’ve learned a lot of things since I’ve been here at the shelter. One thing is that for sure there’s help out there - you just have to reach for it and put in an effort. Help isn’t just going to fall out of the sky, it’s up to you to make it happen, the sky’s the limit!

With Jose and Corinna’s positive attitude and work ethic, there is no doubt that their family will reach all their goals. They know that a caring community has their backs.

Make no mistake—Volunteers do make a difference

On the following page, we highlight four of our many regular volunteers. In honor of Mother’s Day, we chose these women because of the special gifts they bring to the shelter. There are hundreds of volunteers who come here to help in this most worthy of causes. Our clients (as well as staff) are overwhelmed and uplifted by those who give up a little of their lives to make other lives better. We have never had so many groups and individuals step forward to assist our efforts. Their contribution makes this a progressive, inspiring and transforming place instead of a warehouse for the disenfranchised.

Every now and again I hear disparaging comments from uninformed individuals when they learn that I work with the homeless. Mostly about their perception that the homeless are lazy and don’t want to work. I can tell straight away that these individuals have never worked with the homeless population. I invite them to tour the shelter and talk with the clients. This is not a place for lazy people. It is too dynamic, too much going on, and too many chores to complete for the likes of a lazy person. No couch here!

The average stay at the shelter is less than six weeks. That’s not a lot of time to re-group. But with the help of our many volunteers, the homeless get back on track.
Volunteers!

Claudette Hill has been volunteering at the Family Shelter for nearly three years. She dedicates 16 hours a week working at the front desk, answering phones, receiving donations, and just about anything she is asked to do! Claudette loves helping others - charity and giving back makes her happy. Claudette is always smiling and she shares her happiness with everyone around her. Her favorite quote is “Do not judge me for my past, I don't live there anymore.”

Julia Scott volunteers every Tuesday evening reading books to the children at the Family Shelter. Julia is excited about what she is doing for the youngsters - “After I read stories to the children, I see many of them picking up the same books to read them on their own. It's nice to think I might be able to contribute to a child's love of books.” The children look forward to “Julia’s Story Time.” Their excitement and wonderment is something special to behold!

Diane Park volunteers her services two days a week at the shelter. She works as a Volunteer Coordinator scheduling the many people and groups who volunteer at the shelter. She is energetic and enthusiastic about giving back to her community, and she shares her enthusiasm with those around her. Diane says, “Helping at the shelter has been a privilege and a pleasure. Everyone is so friendly and caring - I felt welcome right away.”

Lynne Hogan has spent one day a week at the Shelter for the past year and a half. She works closely with, and assesses the developmental levels of our pre-school children. The opportunity to spend time with the children and their families has been very rewarding for Lynn. She just graduated from UOP in Early Childhood Education and believes each child deserves the chance to reach their highest potential. Lynn quotes Garrison Keillor, “Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.”
Most people have a safety net consisting of a combination of savings, investments, home equity, available credit, family, friends, and/or church affiliations that get them through rough times. A few have exhausted these resources and some have no safety net at all. These are the people we serve at the Stockton Shelter.

The **Stockton Shelter Safety Net Team** is made up of generous donors who have donated or pledged a yearly financial contribution of $500 or more to the Shelter. **THANK YOU** to the members of the Safety Net Team. Without your support, we would not be able to provide services to the homeless.

**STOCKTON SHELTER SAFETY NET TEAM**

For those with no safety net - we will provide one!

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KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE

Shelter Wish List

For the Thrift Stores
- Formal and Prom Dresses
- Purses and Shoes
- Women’s Clothing
- Men’s Clothing
- Children's Clothing
- Home Décor
- Kitchen Utensils
- Jewelry
- Books, CDs, and DVDs

Major Projects & Costs
- Room Remodeling (adopt-a-room) - $2,000 ea.
- Linoleum Flooring for the Drop-In Center
- Landscaping Tools
- Computer, Monitor & Printer - $800
- Back packs
- New Sleeping Bags
- Reading Glasses
- Toilet paper
- Diapers & Baby Wipes
- Bars of Soap
- Financial Assistance