

MAY 2012



REST

REGIONAL EMERGENCY SHELTER TEAM NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our May REST e-newsletter. We are sending this to you because you have shown an interest in what REST is accomplishing or because you have rolled up your sleeves and volunteered your time, resources and energy to making REST's second year a success. We hope you find this newsletter filled with good information about our communities' homeless issues and what REST has been able to contribute in providing emergency shelter services.

REST: End of the Season Notes **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

REST volunteers are awesome! This year we had more people than ever step up to help with the REST mission. Can you believe that over 220 people jumped in this winter to serve as overnight supervisors, drivers, evening intake and morning portal staff, transporting cots and bedding between church shelters, and helping to provide over 2,000 meals and snacks? We want to get everyone together in late October for an evening of appreciation and kick-off for the 2012-13 season. More details about this will be forth coming.

THE NUMBERS

If it seemed to you that this season was busier than last winter, you were right. REST filled 2,500 beds this winter which represents a **34% increase from 2010-11!** Our numbers were up almost across the board: children at REST increased by 22% including six little ones less than a year in age; single women increased by 9% while the number of different families remained constant at 19. Only the number of couples declined from 44

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Volunteer Spotlight: **Jacquie Bockius**

For our season ending newsletter, it is most appropriate to highlight the work of Jacquie Bockius. Jackie is a former REST Board member who worked tirelessly last season to first get REST up and running, and then to help in a HUGE way as an overnight supervisor.

While not currently serving on the Board, Jacquie again stepped up this winter to work more overnight shifts than any other volunteer.

Jacquie comes from an Air Force family spending much of her early life in the Shreveport, Louisiana area. She experienced homelessness herself as a

last year to 23 this past winter. We have also seen many new guests who were not with us last year. Of the 142 different individuals that utilized REST this season, only 17 were with us last year. Clearly the need is growing.

SUCCESS STORIES & CHALLENGES

We have been excited to see at least four families placed in permanent housing. Other single women who have utilized REST have also found a path to escape living on the street. REST is excited to continue partnering with Hands of Hope and to work with that sister organization to enhance their newly created mentoring program.

But as we have mentioned before, challenges still abound. Most of you are aware of the pending Willow Island project soon to get underway by Yuba City. This project will provide the Yuba Sutter community with an additional park area, bike and walking trails. Unfortunately, many homeless camps will be eliminated forcing as many of 200 people to leave the area and seek other camp sites in Yuba County or look for shelter within Yuba City. Facing this reality, REST will be needed more than ever. While we are not sure what the future holds, the potential for REST to grow is entirely in the hands of our wonderful volunteers and supporters. God has greatly blessed this organization and we ask that you continue to pray that we keep moving ahead in a manner that is faithful to His desires.

Volunteer Leaders for 2011-12

Here are the top volunteers for each of our tasks:

Overnight Supervisor

Jacquie Bockius - 38 shifts

Ronnie Amaro - 36 shifts

Ron Crites - 35 shifts

Dianne Bryant - 20 shifts

Morning Portal

Geneva Williams - 52 shifts

Mike Mannshardt - 38 shifts

Lynn Jepsen - 38 shifts

Bernie Van Hal - 32 shifts

Evening Intake

Dave and Val Loewen - 60 shifts

young adult and headed out to San Francisco in the turbulent '60's and '70's. However, Jacquie returned to Louisiana where she completed course work at Louisiana State University specializing in Ornamental Horticulture. She then followed her sister to Northern California settling first in the Gold Country and then in the Yuba Sutter area. Jacquie worked as a Nursery Manager for a major home improvement chain before becoming disabled. Moving to this area, Jacquie and her late husband bought a home and raised their three children, a son and two daughters.

To just say that Jacquie has a passion to serve the homeless would be a major understatement of her deep and firmly held beliefs. She often refers to her dedication as a "journey" and sums up her feelings by asking, "How can we turn our backs on any of God's created children?" To her, volunteering is a not an option but a matter of life.

Tamie Russ - 45 shifts
Lou Castro - 36 shifts
Leah Ewen - 29 shifts

Driving

Dennis Green - 44 shifts
Manuel Castro - 38 shifts
Bob Lavy - 26 shifts
Barbara Newsone - 22 shifts

HANDS OF HOPE

Although the REST season is over, the need continues for volunteers to step up and lend assistance at **Hands of Hope**. As many of you know, Hands of Hope is a year round facility that works closely with REST during the winter months. Whereas REST can be viewed as a five month sprint, **Hands of Hope** is a 12 month long distance race.

Open Tuesday through Thursday, **Hands of Hope** provides homeless women and families with lockers, showers, laundry facilities, mentoring, limited financial assistance and much more. But the need for volunteers is acute. Please consider helping out one day a week or every other week. The work shifts run from 11 am to 2 pm or from 2 pm to 5 pm. A little bit of your time goes a long way. Contact Monique at yhandsofhope@sbcglobal.net or (530) 755-3491 to get involved.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY DONORS!

We greatly appreciate all the donations our local businesses have made in support of REST. If you would like to make a donation, of any size, we greatly appreciate it. REST is a non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to REST, P.O. Box 688, Yuba City, CA 95992.



However, she understands why others may be hesitant or unsure where to get plugged in. Her advice is to just "jump in." She explains, "Do it (volunteer) once and put your fear or hesitation aside. The homeless are just people like us. Lifting them up will lift up our entire community. The need is so great and there is so much to be done."

Like many of our volunteers, Jacquie would like to see REST grow into a year round shelter operating from a fixed facility. She also sees REST as placing greater expectations on those homeless guests who are more capable of improving their current living conditions. As we all work toward those goals, you can bank on Jacquie being at the forefront of REST as long as her health permits.

REST Hosting Churches

St John's Episcopal Church
- Marysville

St Andrew Presbyterian
Church - Yuba City

Church of Glad Tidings -
Yuba City

River Valley Christian
Fellowship Church - Yuba
City

Cornerstone Church - Yuba
City

Seventh Day Adventist
Church - Yuba City

First Presbyterian Church -
Marysville

First United Methodist
Church - Yuba City

St Isidore Catholic Church -
Yuba City

North Valley Calvary

Chapel Church - Yuba City

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