

April 2013



## REGIONAL EMERGENCY SHELTER TEAM

**WARMTH \* NOURISHMENT \* COMPASSION**

*The Regional Emergency Shelter Team or REST, an organization based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, partners with participating churches, congregations and other community and faith based organizations to provide cold-weather shelter and meals to single women and families who are homeless in the Yuba-Sutter community.*



### ***By the Numbers:*** **Season Ending Summary**

The third season of REST ended on April 6th and the need for shelter in our community continues to grow. This Yuba-Sutter winter has been relatively mild and dry. Nevertheless, we had almost 2,900 beds utilized by single women and families this season, which represents a 16% increase as compared to last year. Looking back to our very first season in 2010-11, the increase is a staggering 55%!

The number of children coming to REST also edged up in 2012-13 from 31 to 36. Especially discouraging is that we continue to

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### **Message from REST's Board President:**

REST has completed its third year as a rotating church winter shelter

for the homeless. As we review our program in the coming months, we continue to have to ask ourselves is REST making a difference in the lives of those who find themselves without the basic necessities of life. Food and shelter are at the top

see a high number of the very young. Of the 36 children seeking shelter at REST this winter, over a third were four years old or younger.

***A Shifting Need:***

We are seeing a continuing trend of families, single women and couples staying at REST for longer durations. On the average, each individual stayed less than 13 nights at REST during the 2010-11 season. This has increased to an average of over 20 nights during 2012-13.

The implication of this trend is that REST is becoming more of a transitional shelter where guests stay for long winter time periods rather than a facility targeting people who have experienced emergency dislocations and are in need of temporary shelter as a stepping stone to a permanent housing solution. This summer, the REST Board will be looking at this trend and take whatever steps necessary to adjust the REST mission to deal with this reality.

***We Need Your Help Next Year:***

The last evening of a REST season is always a bitter sweet date for REST volunteers. We are just faced with going back to our normal routines, perhaps getting a bit more sleep or doing more work on personal projects. But for many of our guests, this date represents

of that list but I have constantly been amazed how the REST community has become a source of inner support for many of our guests.

I want to thank all of our volunteers who have taken the time and effort to befriend those that have come to us from such difficult situations. Many of you have shared hope without even knowing it. Your laughter, tears, hugs, prayers, insights, instructions, corrections, frustrations, encouragements and generally sharing your life has made a difference. You are often their mentors.

Is there always instant change in the lives of our guests? No, there seldom is. However, I have to be reminded how Christ responds to my own slow response to change. Even though I have every opportunity to thrive in my relationship with Him, I often choose to take the path of least change. His patience, forgiveness and instruction keeps me coming back. He is my mentor. You have made a difference for those who need you, just as Christ did!

Thank you for all you do,  
Dave Loewen



***VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:  
DIANNE BRYANT***

a terrible reality as they scramble to find housing or shelter. For many, the options are limited and often very difficult.

Please help REST expand our season next year. In addition to your service, we need your ideas, we need your friends and relatives to get involved, and we need *your* church to open its facility to the greatest degree possible. Our sheltering churches have done a great job this winter in providing compassionate, safe and warm shelter and meals. Others have done amazing work to fill the gap with meals despite having small congregations. We continue to have additional churches step up to help. We need you to challenge your church leadership to become part of REST. The REST program works and the numbers prove it!

### ***Our Church and Community Partners***

**The following churches opened their doors to the homeless this winter and provided a safe, friendly and compassionate refuge:**

- \* Cornerstone Church (2 weeks)
- \* St Andrew Presbyterian Church (2 weeks)
- \* St John's Episcopal Church (2 weeks)
- \* River Valley Christian Fellowship Church (2 weeks)
- \* St Isidore Catholic Church (2



As we conclude another winter shelter season, it is time to highlight the work of Dianne Bryant. Dianne has served on

the REST Board for two years and has been one of the most active volunteers from the beginning of this area's efforts to provide winter season shelter.

Dianne is a native of Yuba City and, with the exception of a two year stint in Sacramento, has lived her entire life in the Yuba-Sutter region. Dianne and her late husband met in Sacramento and decided to return to Yuba City and raised a family with two daughters. Both are living in Northern California, Nicol in Modesto and Lori in Clear Lake and are happily close enough for Dianne to be able to frequently enjoy being with her two grandchildren.

Along with raising a family, Dianne worked at Sam's Club for over 15 years. She still enjoys gardening but has had to set aside her longtime passion of playing tennis. For many years she was a fixture

weeks)

\* First Presbyterian Church of Marysville

(2 weeks)

\* North Valley Calvary Chapel (2

weeks) \* Seventh Day Adventist Church of Yuba City (2 weeks)

\* Church of Glad Tidings (1 week)

\* St Joseph Catholic Church (1 week)

\* First United Methodist Church of Yuba City (1 week)

**The following congregations and organizations, both large and small, played essential roles in providing hot evening meals:**

\* St. James of Jerusalem

Episcopal Church of Yuba City

\* Yuba Sutter Home School Group

\* First United Methodist Church of Marysville

\* The Bride Church of Yuba City

\* Hope Point Nazarene Church of Yuba City

\* New Earth Market of Yuba City

\* Kingdom Message Christian Center of Marysville

\* Cornerstone Church

\* Beale AFB Catholic Church Youth Group

\* St Andrew Presbyterian Church

\* Seventh Day Adventist Reformed Movement of Marysville

\* St John's Episcopal Church

\* Seventh Day Spanish Church of Marysville

\* St Isidore Catholic Church

\* River Valley Christian Fellowship

at the Yuba City Racquet and Health Club.

Dianne has been a major contributor to the REST mission, serving as an overnight supervisor over 20 times during the 2011-12 season, and she was the Overnight Supervisor Coordinator this past winter. In addition to ensuring that every evening was staffed by a volunteer, Dianne worked more than 12 nights herself.

Dianne truly has a servant's heart: she is also heavily involved with the American Cancer Society and the "Mother Hubbard" food closet at her church, St Andrew Presbyterian where she serves as an elder. Dianne will readily express her feelings of "being blessed by God to have the available time to glorify Him through helping those in need." Dianne finds her work at REST extremely satisfying and has enjoyed becoming acquainted with our guests and watching their self-esteem grow over the course of their stay at the church shelters. She says, "In addition to providing shelter and meals, REST creates a place where the homeless become members of an extended family, which gives them the sense of belonging that many are desperate to have. I think that by being included in this network, we see

Church

- \* North Valley Calvary Chapel
- \* First Presbyterian Church of Marysville
- \* Church of Glad Tidings
- \* Seventh Day Adventist Church of Yuba City
- \* St Joseph Catholic Church
- \* Peach Tree Church of Christ of Yuba City
- \* Faith Christian School of Yuba City
- \* \* The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints of Yuba City provided all of the snack bags for the entire season and breakfast supplies.

**THANK YOU!**



## BLANKET DONATION!



A big Thank You to the Cornerstone Youth Group and Pam Hallford's Titus 2 ladies from Cornerstone Church! These groups made 30+ blankets for our guests at REST and they were loved by

many come to realize that 'I can do better.' Like many of our volunteers, Dianne would like to see REST grow into resource center that could teach and counsel guests to help in the transition to a better life. She believes that the REST model of utilizing volunteers gives the organization a more loving and compassionate staff. "It also serves as a great blessing and education for those in our community who step up to help each year." Dianne's tireless service in her various volunteer roles is an inspiration to all who come to know her. REST is lucky to have her!



**You Can Help In Many Ways**  
If you know some one who might be interested in learning about REST and homeless issues, you can help by forwarding this newsletter to them. Just click the "Forward email" link below.

Warmth \* Nourishment \*  
Compassion



**REST**  
is an all volunteer

all!

The blankets helped to provide a cozy, homelike feel to our shelter as you would see them on the cots! The guests were able to keep the blankets at the end of the season - a very treasured gift! Thank you for sharing God's love through the warmth of these blankets!

**WARMTH**

\*

**NOURISHMENT**

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**COMPASSION**

**Media Techies Needed!**

REST needs volunteers who are skilled in web site design and maintenance, as well as any creative video gurus. If you have these skills and wish to REALLY help the REST mission, contact Dennis Green at 701-1585. Thanks!!

**non-profit  
corporation and each  
donation is  
tax deductible.**

**Donations can be sent to  
REST at P.O. Box 688, Yuba  
City CA 95992  
THANK YOU!**



**VOLUNTEERS ARE REALLY  
NEEDED!**

**Volunteers provide the life blood  
for REST. *It's that simple.***

Without your assistance, we cannot continue to offer emergency winter shelter in the 2013-2014 season. If you want to help but have not attended our 90 minute training class, let us know. We will do what is necessary to get you ready to go. But you must take that first step. Volunteering just once or twice a month goes a long way in keeping REST functioning. Jump in right now!

Contact Val Loewen:  
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