

NOVEMBER 2012



# REST

## REGIONAL EMERGENCY SHELTER TEAM NEWSLETTER



### FINAL COUNTDOWN: Winter Season Starts November 24th!

We are less than two weeks away from the start of the 2012-13 REST winter shelter season. Early indications point to a greater use of the REST shelter than ever before. Our close partner, Hands of Hope, has experienced unprecedented numbers of families coming through their doors throughout the summer and continuing into this fall. Past history has shown that what REST sees during the winter months closely correlates to the Hands of Hope traffic. Final preparations are being completed to assemble cots and obtain sleeping bags and bedding. Everything is proceeding on schedule but **we still need volunteers to sign up for overnight supervisor and morning portal duties.** PLEASE take care of this as soon as possible by clicking right here on [www.lotsahelpinghands.com](http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com)!

If you are new to volunteering your time, and want to help, don't wait! We need you now. Please contact Val Loewen

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### Hands of Hope Annual Turkey Trot *Mark Your Calendar* **Saturday November 17th!**

Make plans to join in the annual Hands of Hope 5K run/walk on November 17th. This is the major fundraising event for Hands of Hope. Visit the Hands of Hope website here to learn how to register and get involved. Or call them at 755-3491.

**WHEN:** Saturday,  
November 17th.  
8:00 am Registration

([dvloewen@hotmail.com](mailto:dvloewen@hotmail.com)) or Leah Ewen ([leah@cip-ca.com](mailto:leah@cip-ca.com)) to find out how to get plugged in.

## Volunteer Spotlight:

### *Dave Loewen*

This month's volunteer spotlight is focused on our REST Board President, Dave Loewen. Along with his wife Valerie, Dave is one of the foundational members of REST. Born in British Columbia, Dave spent his childhood in Abbotsford, BC. He first attended Trinity Western College before going on to earn his Bachelor's degree and teaching credential at the University of British Columbia. While at TWC, Dave met his future wife and moved back to her hometown of Yuba City shortly after their marriage.

Dave and Val are longtime members of Cornerstone Church and have raised three grown children. Their two girls

are living in San Diego while their son has completed the family life circle by working on his doctorate at UBC.

Dave never moved ahead with a teaching career but anyone who knows him can visualize that he would have had a successful experience with a profession which requires patience and understanding. Instead, Dave took up the



Opens  
9:00 am Run/Walk  
Begins

**WHERE:** Stadium at River Valley High School in Yuba City.



## St Joseph Catholic Church Joins REST!

We are very excited to announce that St. Joseph Catholic Church of Marysville will be joining our team and hosting homeless guests at their facility this winter. St. Joseph is located at the corner of 7th and C Streets and joins St John's Episcopal and First United Methodist Church as the third Marysville church partnering with REST.

**Media Techies Needed!**

home and commercial renovation business. Helping with his father-in-law's company, Dave ran their Grass Valley location for many years. That experience ultimately led Dave to take over the entire business. Hawkins Exteriors now specializes in windows, siding and patio covers and keeps both Dave and Val on the run.

Dave's passion to serve people was fanned by Val and together they sought to make a difference in the Yuba Sutter community. Dave maintains a scriptural approach to his faith and notes that Christ taught about caring about people without questioning or judging their missteps or poor decisions. Looking for an opportunity to serve, Dave and Val responded to a newspaper ad asking for volunteers to work providing a winter season shelter. That organization became FEWS which utilized the empty Walton fire station to house homeless families during the winter of 2009-10.

FEWS largely broke apart after that season, but Dave and Val and a couple others met to form another organization that would bring area churches together in partnership to provide a rotational shelter. The Regional Emergency Shelter Team (REST) was incorporated as a faith based nonprofit and is now entering its third season. With Dave's leadership, REST has been extremely successful providing over 4,300 beds and many more meals for single women and families who have nowhere else to go.

Dave frequently expresses his

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!!

### 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. 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. THANK YOU!**

"Everyone deserves a warm bed and meal. We all need to get over the stereotype that are often played out in our culture. These are just people who need someone to talk to and offer a

appreciation for the contributions by the many dozens of volunteers that make REST work. Although still a fledging organization, he recognizes the need for REST to look ahead and try to better serve the homeless population with a possible year-round shelter. However, he expresses the view that this can only be done "without making REST overly burdensome to its volunteers and especially to those who are very heavily involved with the organization." Dave and Val have worked tirelessly and are instrumental to the growth and success of the REST organization. The Yuba Sutter community has been very blessed by their efforts.

caring attitude."

*Deanna & Lester Jennings  
REST Volunteers*

**WARMTH \* NOURISHMENT  
\* COMPASSION**

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