



# PV SHELTER

## Pajaro Valley Shelter Services

Ending homelessness – one family at a time

115 Brennan Street ♥ Watsonville, CA 95076 831-728-5649

Emergency Shelter,  
Transitional Housing,  
Educational & Support Services  
for Homeless Families

## News from PV Shelter

~Distributed Three Times a Year~

Fall 2010

## Young Shelter Resident a School Leader

Summer-Grace Lewis, a bright, engaging 17 year old is one of the young residents at the Pajaro Valley Emergency Shelter. She came to the Shelter with her mother Eva, and sister Cheyenne. Her mother had married young and been a stay-at-home mom. But when her husband left the family in 2004, Eva suddenly had to learn skills to support the family. She went to Cabrillo, starting working toward her AA degree and found work. Then in 2008, Eva lost her job and eventually could not pay the rent. The family was evicted from their home earlier this year. But none of these circumstances get in the way for Summer-Grace! She is Senior Class President at Watsonville High School, meeting four out of five lunch periods every week to plan the prom, the senior trip, graduation and graduation night. And if that isn't enough, she is also Chief Editor for morning class news, on the water polo team, plans and participates in school Spirit Week events, maintains a position on the honor roll, takes salsa dance classes at Cabrillo, volunteers at the



Monterey Bay Aquarium (for the past 6 summers), has logged over 500 community service hours in the last three years, and is

heading to either the University of San Francisco or to U.C.S.C. to pursue her love of biology.

About living at the Shelter at this juncture of her life, she says, "I've met so many different people and I've made some good friends."



## Young Donor Learns About Giving

Conor Bagchee lost his temper at school and was sent home. His good parents gave him a choice of two consequences: grounded from electronics and cool stuff for two months or raise money for a charitable organization. When you are 11 years old, that's a no-brainer—don't want to be grounded. So Conor collected bottles and cans...about 540 of them...to raise \$27. "I couldn't do my regular chores to get my allowance and that was a lot of money!" he confessed. PV Shelter was selected as the beneficiary of this donation. Conor was reluctant to come to the Shelter. He said, "I didn't want to give up all my money." But after visiting the Shelter he felt good about making the donation, "because it went to a good cause". And he was impressed by the gratitude he received. "I didn't expect that response." Now he wants to donate some of his toys that he no longer uses to the kids in the shelter. Sometimes we become donors from an unusual experience!

## Children Helping Others

These wonderful young women are part of **Girls On The Run (GOTR)** at Valencia Elementary. Each year **GOTR** must choose a community project and for the past two years have chosen the PV Emergency Shelter. They made gift baskets and hand-made Mother's Day cards for the children of the shelter to have something to give their mothers on that very special day. They also had a bake sale at their school and raised \$170 for the Shelter.

*Your generosity in this season of giving makes all the difference in our ability to help others less fortunate in our community. Please consider the giving opportunities outlined on page three.*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Granite Construction Company

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 Susan Olson

## PVSS Welcomes New Board Members

Three new board members bring diverse skills that will help with the diverse aspects of the PVSS organization: marketing, business, property management. All three are members of the Development Committee.



**Chris Wolfe** is the Equipment Administration Manager for Granite Construction Company. He brings over 30 years of construction industry experience and skills in finance. He has been involved with the Santa Cruz County Work Force Investment Board, Mission Trails R.O. P. and Ukiah Valley Chamber of Commerce before coming to Santa Cruz.



**Amy Martín** is a Labor Relations Manager for Granite Construction Company. She brings skills in contract research and analysis, and negotiations. Her educational background focused on chronic poverty and women's issues. Amy is also involved with Youth N.O.W. , a Watsonville youth organization serving middle and high school students.



**Renee Mello** is a Real Estate Broker with Keller Williams Realty. She has been involved with the Rotary Club of Watsonville, the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Santa Cruz Association of Realtors. She brings skills in marketing and business.

## PVSS Board Sponsors Annual Donor and Family Partnership BBQ

Over 125 people attended this fun event honoring both the families who have gone through the PVSS Transition Housing Program and on to stable lives, and the donors who helped to make this success possible through their ongoing support. Hosted by Jim Booth, there were raffle prizes, ceramic tokens of appreciation, music by the Surf City Slackers and by Sam Nigh & the Dew Wopps, great food, face painting and an all around great time.



*Paul and Terese Abbott, members of the Wagner family, came all the way from Connecticut to attend the picnic.*



*BBQ attendees listen to acknowledgements of honorees while staff "get down and boogie" to Sam Nigh & the Dew Wopps.*



## We need your help to continue ending homelessness one family at a time!

Here are some ways to donate and support Pajaro Valley Shelter Services:



**Birdies for Charity:** This is a wonderful fund raising opportunity provided by the Monterey Peninsula Foundation in association with the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro Am Golf Tournament held every February. Beginning on November 1, 2010, donors may make their donations through this event and PVSS receives both the donation AND a 15% match from the Foundation! If you are interested in making your donation count even more, please indicate on the form below and send to PVSS in the enclosed envelope. We will make sure you receive all the information to participate in this great and fun event.

**Make A Legacy Gift:** There are many easy and comfortable ways to do this, from insurance policies to leaving property. We will be happy to provide more information and discuss these options with you. Just let us know. One great way is to leave a legacy for PV Shelter Services and confer important tax benefits to your family at the same time. When it is time to choose a beneficiary for your retirement plan, savings account or life insurance policy follow these three easy steps: 1) Write Pajaro Valley Shelter Services as your partial or full beneficiary; 2) Use tax I.D. # 94-1393418 in place of a social security number, and 3) write "non-profit organization" for the relationship.

**Join the Silver Circle:** The Silver Circle was started by Diane Cooley and Mary Solari, two of PVSS' long-time and wonderful supporters as a way to lay a foundation for financial stability for PVSS into the future. Members of the Silver Circle commit to giving a minimum of \$1,000 a year for at least three years. In its first year, 2009, the Silver Circle generated \$44,000; an additional \$5,200 was added by 5 new donors this year. Let us know if you would like to join.

**Make a Regular Commitment:** Many of our donors have committed to making regular donations monthly or quarterly. We can make this option easy for you: either mailing you envelopes or making regular charges against your credit card per your instructions. Please inform us how you might like to do this by indicating on the form below and returning it in the enclosed envelope.

**Donate through our Website:** Visit our website regularly at [www.pvshelter.org](http://www.pvshelter.org)! It is frequently updated and there is always an easy way to make a secure donation online through PayPal. Just click on "DONATE TO PV SHELTER" in the upper right hand corner on any of the website pages.

### I am interested in donating as follows, please provide me with the necessary information:

- I want to make a donation utilizing the Birdies for Charity 15% match, please send me the information to do this.
- I want to join the Silver Circle, please send me the brochure and other information. *This can also be done through regular monthly or quarterly payments.*
- I want to become a regular donor, please send me envelopes, or
- charge my credit card: Visa, MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_
- Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years
- Send me information about the different and easy ways to make a legacy gift.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_



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115 Brennan Street  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
www.pvshelter.org

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Watsonville, CA  
Permit # 5

Return Service Requested

## In this issue:

**Children Helping Children**

**Welcome New Board Members**

**Great Ways to Give and Make a Difference**

**BBQ's celebrate back to school, donors & families**



*“Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action.”* W.J. Cameron

### **Mission**

*To assist homeless women, children and families obtain stable housing through temporary shelter and services.*

### **Vision**

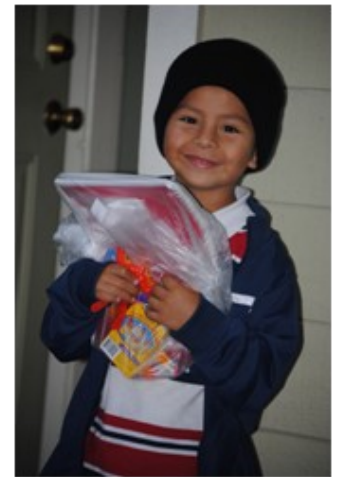
Pajaro Valley Shelter Services aspires to be a model program that helps women, children, and families end the causes and cycles of homelessness - one family at a time. By lifting their dignity, identifying their barriers, and helping to set their goals, homeless families will develop the skills and attitudes necessary to move on to stable housing and improved personal and economic self-sufficiency.

## A Little Help From Our Friends... *For current donation needs, go to [www.pvshelter.org](http://www.pvshelter.org)*



**Barbeques** are big in the summer and fall. The first PV shelter BBQ this year was for the current and former families of the Shelter Services programs. Not only is this a time for families to get together and enjoy some home cooked BBQ but for all the students to receive new backpacks and school supplies. These supplies and backpacks were rounded up and donated by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and by United Way's "Fill The Bus for Back to School".

The second PV Shelter BBQ of the year was the annual board sponsored "Donor and Family Partnership BBQ". An acknowledgement of the families who have gone through the PVSS programs and become self-sufficient and successful, and of the donors who have helped to make this possible. *See page 2 for more.*



**Pajaro Valley Shelter Services has been helping to end homelessness in South Santa Cruz County for nearly 28 years. Here are some unsolicited comments from a few of our donors:**

*“We are both strong believers in Pajaro Valley Shelter Services and all the AMAZING things they do to help women and children (and men, by the way). So keep up the awesome work.” Ann*

*“First and foremost the 4 years I served on the board were some of the most rewarding years of my life. Raising money for the Shelter was a privilege. Knowing how it makes a difference in the clients lives and seeing that they can be successful is a great reward for me.” Betty*

*“What an incredible effort you and the Shelter have put forth! God Bless.” Phil*