



Regaining Self-Worth



When I first came to PV Shelter, I was fresh from recovery. I had a broken spirit, low self-esteem, no self-confidence, no real understanding of being responsible, and had just reconciled with my three children after being separated for 4 years. I didn't think I was capable of being on my own, especially with three children, but I am doing it very well today.

When I moved into my transitional housing apartment, it was the self-esteem boost that I needed to reassure myself that I was worthy of a new life. I worked with my case manager to set personal goals. After reaching them, it would bring my self-confidence up. I now feel that I can accomplish anything that I set my mind to. I have improved my parenting skills by attending parenting classes, being open to suggestions from other parents, and attending family counseling.

Having a great support group to contact on a regular basis and learning to ask for help when I am feeling lost has also been very important when times are difficult. Finally, attending both 12-step and spiritual meetings regularly has helped me stay strong and remain willing to change my life.

In the year that I have been a client at PV Shelter, I was granted full custody of my three children, maintained stable employment, graduated from the Proposition 36 program, concluded my probation, got my drivers license, got a family car, and have maintained a full year of sobriety. I now very active in the church, pay my bills on time, and am learning to cook meals. Today my children have a mom who is a better person and we now have a second chance at a happier life.

Thank you for supporting me and my family!

Naomi Ramirez, PV Shelter client

Shelter Make-Over

Our shelter kitchen is used by as many as 22 people a day and is ripe for a remodel. Paint and new countertops, cabinets, sink, and flooring are all badly needed. With help from donors, we have begun remodeling the kitchen, and hope to have it completed by mid-September.

We would like to thank **Diane and Donald Cooley** of Watsonville and **Jenny Pingree** at the **Gallery of Tile and Stone** in Santa Cruz for their help in making this possible through donations. Jenny was brilliant in arranging for vendors to donate a granite countertop, floor tile, backsplash tile, thin set and grout, a sink, and a faucet! We would like to acknowledge these vendors:

- Pan American Ceramics of Industry
- Ceasarstone Quartz Surfaces of San Leandro
- Marble & Stone Solutions of San Jose
- Butler Johnson Corp. of San Jose
- LJE Inc. of Manteca

Please support these vendors and thank them for helping PV Shelter.

New kitchen cabinets and floor tile!



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.

Notes from the ED

Greetings! I hope that the summer has been a pleasant one for you. In July I celebrated my one-year anniversary with PV Shelter. It was a good year, but busy of course. It has been great working with our staff and Board...all wonderful and committed people. With a new fiscal year have come new goals...



One of my key goals is to take care of some maintenance and repair on our facilities and ensure that all of our housing units have energy and water saving measures in place. Of the greatest need at the moment is our Emergency Shelter. We will begin improvements on it right away. I will keep you informed as we make progress.

This was my first year being involved with the Mother's Day Run for Shelter. It was a beautiful event. It was very successful, raising slightly more money than last year. I think one of the greatest things about the MDR, is the strong support we see from Granite Construction. Granite employees raise money on pledges and donations for the MDR. Mary and Dick Solari then match the money raised by Granite employees. And finally, Granite Construction matches all of this money. In the end, the Granite Construction effort alone raised \$26,000! I would like to extend a personal thank you to Granite Construction, Granite employees, and Mary and Dick Solari for this tremendous contribution to PV Shelter. I also thank the many supportive sponsors, listed further on in this newsletter.

Another goal is to grow our Board of Directors. We have had a strong and committed Board of Directors, but some have exceeded their term of service and have left. Two of our recent departures are Marilyn Palla-Droke and Edda Tusinac. Both of these women were Board members for over 7 years, and have been outstanding contributors to the direction of PV Shelter. They have been immensely available to me as the new ED, and I would like to thank them for their fantastic contribution of time and effort over these past many years. Our hearts are with them, and they have promised to stay in touch.

The hard part now is recruiting new Board members. I ask you for your assistance in helping us recruit new Board members, and urge you to personally contact me if you are interested or know of good candidates. Please contact me at 728-5649 or mark@pvshelter.org if you can help.

Warmest Regards,

Mark

Pajaro Valley Shelter Services

2007 Board of Directors

Jay Petersen, *President*
Attorney
CA Indian Legal Services

Janice Shaffer, *Secretary*
Executive Assistant to the President
Graniterock

Suzie Yost, *Treasurer*
Senior Staff Accountant
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Sisters of the Divine Savior Anti-Human
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John Fry
President and Managing Partner
CDM Real Estate

Marilyn O'Rourke
Management Consultant and Technical
Recruiter
The O'Rourke Group Inc.

2007 Honorary Board

Larry Hazen
Retired
Granite Construction

Tony Bruscia
Account Executive
InterWest Insurance

Staff

Mark A. Riley, *MPA*
Executive Director

Annette Melendrez
Case Manager

Laura Solis
Shelter/Property Manager

Yesenia Zavala
Office Manager

Carmen Balandran
Shelter Supervisor

Diana Vasquez
Receptionist

Marisela Becerra
Weekend Shelter Asst.

Angelica Gomez
Weekend Shelter Asst.

Congratulations Annette!

Annette Melendrez, our Case Manager, has been selected by the Santa Cruz County Women's Commission to receive their Trailblazer Award. The Commission honors local women for their contributions to the community. Annette spent the last 8 years helping homeless families and women overcome the circumstances that led to their homelessness. Many of these people came from backgrounds of domestic violence and/or substance abuse. This amounts to hundreds of people.

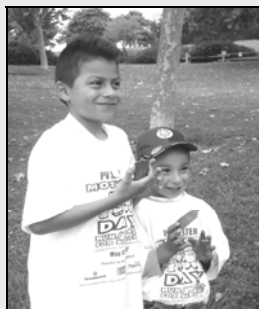
She is a very active participant in Soroptomist, and has strong relationships with people at virtually every health and human service agency in the county. Good work, Annette!





Runner Sponsors

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Thank You 23rd Annual Mother's Day Run Sponsors!

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Special Thanks

City of Watsonville
 Community Printers, Inc.
 D'La Colmena
 Driscoll Strawberries
 Steven Stone, 2007 Mother's Day
 Run Artist
 Ramsay Park
 Santa Cruz Track Club
 Starbucks
 Watsonville Coast Produce
 Watsonville Police Cadets
 Freedom Bakery
 Budget Rent a Car Santa Cruz

PV Shelter Welcomes New Board Members!

We are happy to introduce three
 new additions to the PV Shelter
 Board of Directors...

Sister Jean Schafer, SDS

Sister Jean is with the
 Congregation of the Sisters of the
 Divine Savior. She helped co-
 found the California Central Coast
 Coalition Against Human
 Trafficking. She has served on
 boards of a hospital and high
 school owned by her
 Congregation in WI and formerly
 served as President of the
 Congregation's international
 administrative team in Italy.

Marilyn O'Rourke

Marilyn is a former management
 consultant, technical recruiter,
 and principal of The O'Rourke
 Group. She was also a founding
 member and Executive Director
 of The Benicia Education Fund,
 served on the Benicia Unified
 School District Board of Trustees,
 and was mayor of Benicia for 8
 years.

John U. Fry

John is the President of CDM
 Real Estate Company in
 Watsonville and Managing
 Partner of several real estate
 ventures. He is an adviser on the
 University of San Francisco
 Trustees' Finance and Facilities
 Committees, and has served on
 the Santa Cruz County Historical
 Museum Board at the McPherson
 Center

We look forward to the energy of
 these fine new members, and
 welcome them to our "family".

Contacting PV Shelter

Phone: 831 728-5649
 Email: info@pvshelter.org
 Web: www.pvshelter.org
 Address: 115 Brennan St.
 Watsonville, CA 95076

2007 SC County Homeless Census

Every two years, the county conducts a homeless census. The recent census was released in April, and here are some of the key findings:

- The number of homeless people dropped 24% from 2005 (to 2,789).
- Those that are homeless are experiencing longer periods of homelessness.
- There are more “chronically homeless” than 2005 (“chronically homeless” are alone, living with a disability, and have been homeless for one year or 4 times in the past 3 years).
- The population is more diverse, requiring a wide range of services and housing strategies.
- Domestic/partner violence is increasing.
- Most homeless people are living outdoors or other unfit places.
- More homeless people are accessing government assistance and less are panhandling.
- Most homeless people were living in SC County before they became homeless.

Helping Families Help Themselves

At PV Shelter, the **Emergency Shelter for Homeless Women and Children** and **Transitional Housing for Homeless Families** programs are designed to help families help themselves by learning new job and language skills, linking with community services, and saving money so they can get – and keep – secure housing.

Both of our programs provide women, children and families the opportunity to:

- Stabilize their immediate crisis
- Identify patterns that lead to cycles of homelessness
- Gain assistance from local resources for job training, legal aid, counseling, and more
- Develop and implement long-term strategies and skills for breaking the cycle

Everyday, PV Shelter is home to more than 20 families moving from dependency to self-sufficiency, from self-doubt to self-esteem, and from welfare to work.

A big thanks to all of our valuable supporters for helping make a difference in these families lives!



PV SHELTER **Pajaro Valley Shelter Services**

Ending homelessness – one family at a time

115 Brennan Street
Watsonville, CA 95076

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