



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**

www.pvshelter.org

News from PV Shelter

~Distributed Three Times a Year~

Spring 2010

Victor and Teresa Gonzalez – Success and Gratitude

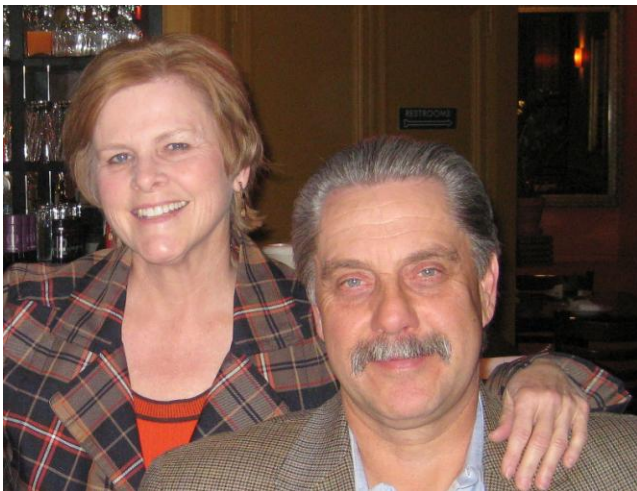
Teresa and Victor Gonzalez were thriving. Victor's income from his construction work was such that Teresa gave up her daycare business. Then, Victor sustained a severe injury at work, the money ran out and they and their children became homeless. They sought help from Pajaro Valley Shelter Services and the Transitional Housing program. "One of the greatest gifts about the Program was being able to find peace. When you are about to lose your home there is so much stress – worrying about what are you going to do with your children. Not worrying about being homeless meant we could do the things we needed to improve our situation." Teresa commented. The Gonzalez' were successful in the Transitional Housing program, although it was hard at times.



"It was hard to save money, but you should be saving money, even if you only have \$20," said Victor. "We were making really good money before and spending it right away, then after the accident it ran out. In the Transitional Housing Program, we learned to change our habits about spending money. And we learned to appreciate what we have, and we tell this to our children, because it can all go away in a moment."

The Gonzalez family is self-sufficient again, living in Hollister, running a daycare and a successful network marketing business.

Mary and Rudy Bergthold Generous Friends



Mary and Rudy Bergthold have been supporting Pajaro Valley Shelter Services since 1999. Their commitment has not only been ongoing, but they have increased their level of support over the years. When asked about this, Mary commented, "We like to donate to places that we know and that take care of our local community. We visited the Shelter Services to get an inside look and decided to give our support."

The Bergtholds support numerous local good causes and a few non-locals like Doctors Without Borders. Rudy is busy with his work around the world as Chief Technical Officer for Cupertino Electric. He is also a high school football official. Mary, a retired mortgage lending manager, stays actively involved in the community. She volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for neglected and abused children. She recently completed a two-year term on the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury. They raised two sons in Santa Cruz County and have three granddaughters.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kirt Vojvoda

President

Fire Captain/Fire Prevention Officer
City of Watsonville

Carol Schmidt

Vice President
Retired

Tina Lau

Secretary

Environmental Specialist
Graniterock

Mary Lou McKenney

Treasurer

Minister
All Saints Episcopal Church

John Fry

President & Managing Partner
CDM Real Estate

Tom House

Attorney

Lola Maldonado

Administrative Analyst
City of Watsonville

Bert Post

Retired

Pajaro Valley Unified School District

LeAnne Stewart

Senior Vice President, CFO
Granite Construction Inc.

Juana Uribe

Office Manager
St. Patrick's Church

Suzie Yost

Senior Staff Accountant
Granite Construction Inc.

STAFF

Susan Olson

Executive Director

Carmen Balandran

Shelter Supervisor

Suzy Hunt

Development Director

Annette Melendrez

Family Support Services Advocate

Laura Solis

Office Manager

Adriana Sosa

Housing Navigator

Christina Sosa

Family Housing Services Manager

Welcome New Board Members

Two new members join the PVSS Board of Directors, Bert Post and LeAnne Stewart.



For the past 20 years, Bert Post has served in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. He held several positions including Assistant Superintendent, Principal at Lakeview Middle School and an administrator at several other schools in the district.

His interests include growing a vegetable garden, his two grand children, and golfing.

When asked why he wanted to serve on the PVSS Board, "I wanted to give back to the community that has given me so much and the shelter does great work. We have been contributors to PVSS over the years. So it seemed like a good fit." Bert has also served on the LULAC board.

Bert is taking a major role this year in involving schools in the annual Mother's Day Run. "It is a great way to get the entire family out for some exercise while making a meaningful contribution to a worthy cause."

LeAnne Stewart moved to Santa Cruz County two years ago when she accepted the position of Senior Vice President of Granite Construction and was then appointed Chief Financial Officer.



In addition to serving on the PV Shelter Board, she also serves on the Board of Trustees of the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota where she received her undergraduate degree. LeAnne's interests include working out, cooking and baking, wine tasting, knitting, reading and playing golf.

"I am very impressed with PVSS and the contribution it makes to the community. I think it's important for all of us to give to the communities in which we live and this is an opportunity for me to do so." She looks forward to assisting with the Mother's Day Run.

NEW CHILD CARE FUND ESTABLISHED

Thanks to the generosity of long time supporter Joan Lane, sister of Dick Solari, Pajaro Valley Shelter Services has a new child care fund. The funding will be used to provide childcare for women in the Emergency Shelter and Transition houses. Childcare helps to remove a barrier that so many young women face in realizing a new direction in life. This gift will enable these women to go to school, get job training, or get a needed respite. We are very grateful to Joan for this thoughtful gift.



PV SHELTER

Pajaro Valley Shelter Services
Ending homelessness – one family at a time

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:

- **Run, Walk or Sponsor the Mother's Day Run – May 9th**
- **Family is Grateful for PVSS**
- **Two New Board Members**
- **Two Big Grants for PVSS**



*"Expect to have hope rekindled. Expect your prayers to be answered in wondrous ways. The dry seasons in life do not last. The **spring** rains will come again." Sarah Ban Breathnach*

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.

Help from our neighbors . . .

For current donation needs, go to www.pvshelter.org



Monterey Peninsula Foundation Awards Grant

Monterey Peninsula Foundation, host of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro Am, awarded a grant of \$36,000 to PVSS after the pro team of Brandt Snedecker and Joe Oglivie won the Birdies for Charity "Shoot Out". Local amateur golfer George Milder qualified PVSS for the Shoot Out. *(Pictured: left -Brandt Snedecker who hit the winning ball in the pocket and right -George Milder).*

Soroptimists International of Watsonville Hold Spa Day

The Soroptimists once again treated PV Shelter women to a spa day, styling hair, giving massages and facials, doing make-up and manicures. They also donated gently used clothes and toys for the women and children. Everyone enjoyed a continental breakfast and lunch. Special thanks to Donna Pierini, owner of Bella Donna European Hair Design, Bridget Smith owner of Beyond Bliss Massage, Jessica Chambers with Mary Kay Cosmetics, and Elise Gordon, Lisa Cottle and Angie Muhlenhaupt who gave manicures.



San Jose Mercury News Wish Book Fund Award

Readers of the Mercury News responded to PVSS' wish for new beds for the Emergency Shelter. The old beds had been the same for many years. A \$6,000 grant enabled the purchase of new bunk beds that sleep three people each and the provision of new closets in the bedrooms. *(Photo left)*