

HOMeward BOUND

NEWS FROM THE HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER



The supper not only serves as a fundraiser for HSC, but also pays homage to the generous contributions and hard work of HSC's numerous supporters.

Popular Soupline Supper Returns

Creamy artichoke or Cajun gumbo, hearty chicken or vegan all the way—there's soup for every taste at the Soupline Supper. The Homeless Service Center's (HSC) most popular community event rolls back into town April 27.

Some 25 area restaurants, including Gabriella's Café, Clouds, Bittersweet Bistro, Manuel's, The Farm, Oswald's and many more, prepare their favorite gourmet soups, while almost a dozen other food purveyors provide accouterments, including fresh-made bread, salads and beverages. Holy Cross Catholic Church donates its parish hall and, weather permitting, patio space. Civic leaders lend their support by staffing the event.

"It's really our biggest event that invites the community in to see what we're doing," says HSC board member and event organizer Don Lane. "It's like our annual dinner."

The supper not only serves as a fundraiser for HSC, but also pays homage to the generous contributions and hard work of HSC's numerous supporters. "This is an opportunity to invite volunteers and supporters and thank them for what they do," Cole says.

It all began in 1999, the result of brainstorming session between Lane, a former Santa Cruz mayor and the original owner of

Saturn Café, and HSC Executive Director Ken Cole. The HSC board of directors wanted to host a food-related annual event, and Cole had worked with a soup event in Seattle. Maybe, they thought, a soup dinner would work in Santa Cruz. The response was immediate. Dozens of restaurants and food vendors signed on, and supporters came out in droves. Now in its seventh year, the Soupline Supper will serve up to 75 gallons of soup to an expected 300-350 guests.

"Everyone loves soup," says Cole. "And it has a connection to homelessness in the sense of a soup line, a Depression-era echo, and of helping the poor."

Reservations for this year's annual Soupline Supper are available through the Homeless Service Center. See ad and reservation coupon in this newsletter (pg. 5) or call to reserve your space: 458-6020, ext. 2123.

When: April 27, 5:30pm

**Where: Holy Cross Church Parish Hall
170 High St., Santa Cruz**

Cost: \$20/person; \$40/family

**Reservations and information:
458.6020, ext. 2123**

■ Mail-in coupon on page 5

ISSP Survives, For Now

One hundred fifty supporters raised almost \$140,000 at a benefit holiday party Dec. 17 at the Seymour Center (Long Marine Lab) to keep the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program (ISSP) operating another 16 months.

The party was dubbed "Save and Celebrate ISSP!"

Harriett and John Deck, longtime Homeless Services Center (HSC) supporters, hosted the party.

Gifts ranged from \$25 to \$30,000, and included in-kind gifts of food, drink and music—all the ingredients that make such a party a success.

ISSP Co-founder Paul Lee gave a brief history of the program's 20 years of service to the community; Rev. Paul Pfothenauer, also a co-founder, added his reminiscences; and HSC Executive Director Ken Cole outlined ISSP's contribution to sheltering and feeding approximately 45 homeless persons nightly on a year-round basis. Cole also introduced members of the 17 ISSP participating churches who were present.

HSC hopes to add a loft, which would sleep 45 homeless persons at its 115 Coral St. headquarters sometime in 2006, in connection with a remodel of its hygiene center.

Discussions will also be held with the churches as to the future of ISSP. In its present form, HSC pays for transporting the homeless to and from the churches, screening, counseling, providing monitors, and furnishing mats and blankets. Federal funding for the program ran out three years ago, and the program has been funded since then mostly by private donations.

From the Executive Director

“**Get a job!**” the man in the convertible Mercedes Benz yelled at the man in rags moving slowly through the crosswalk. The tableau is burned into my memory: a hot summer day, a man dressed in too many layers of ragged clothing, the rage that contorted the driver’s face.

Get a job indeed, I thought. The man in rags was light years from his last job and most likely incapable of ever landing another one.

Simple solutions. Our society yearns for quick fixes. Blaming the individual is the foundation for this kind of thinking. Ignore societal and government failures while demanding that the individual take full responsibility for his plight.

On the other hand, the driver did have a point: A job is often the only ticket to housing and an end to homelessness.

At Page Smith Community House we often meet and assist men and women who are busy fighting their way back from years of being homeless. Not everyone is able to return to work. For some finding housing and scraping by on a meager disability

check becomes the goal. For others, the path back runs through the classrooms of Cabrillo College. An entry-level job in a restaurant or a big box store is the way back into society for others.

What most people don’t understand is that this change takes time. It can take years for someone to end up homeless. Sometimes it can take even longer for them to make it back.

The Way Back

Greg knows it takes time. Before arriving at Page Smith Community House he spent nearly 15 years camping in the greenbelts of Santa Cruz County. The surprise is that he was employed the whole time. However, his mostly part-time jobs never seemed to pay enough to get him back into housing. It wasn’t until he moved into our transitional housing program that he finally was able to find better work and save up enough money to secure housing.

It wasn’t easy for Greg and it didn’t happen quickly. I know that he often thought about going back “into the woods” as he struggled to return to a more normal life.



I often wonder how the man in the convertible would do faced with the same challenges.

At HSC, we try and help people like Greg begin the long journey back out of homelessness. In this issue of *Homeward Bound*, read about some of the programs, dedicated staff members and outside support, like the generous food contributions of Niman Ranch, which allow us to keep working toward this goal.

Don’t forget to make your reservations for the annual Soupline Supper! This popular event is one of our favorites, allowing us to thank to all of our supporters and friends while enjoying a delicious soup buffet courtesy of the best restaurants in Santa Cruz County. If you can’t make it, consider becoming a sponsor. Inside you’ll find reservation and sponsorship information.

We thank you for your continued support.

—Ken Cole, Executive Director, Homeless Services Center

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Our Mission		
<p>The Homeless Services Center is dedicated to the coordinated provision of services for homeless persons. The goal of the Homeless Services Center is to provide both emergency and transitional services to homeless individuals and families that will enable our clients to achieve self-sufficiency.</p>		

Philanthropy Starts Young

At just 8 years old Kegan Smith is disarmingly aware of the socioeconomic discrepancies that mean some kids in Santa Cruz County don't have half of what he and his little sister Kyra have. He's also a savvy entrepreneur. And those elements combined result in an inspiring philanthropy that just melts your heart.

One evening in 2004, Kegan, who had started a business making and selling herbal bath salts and aromatherapy eye pillows for a home-school project, told his mother: "I'm really lucky to have my own business. Some kids can't do this. Some don't even have a house or a place to sleep."



(l to r) Kegan, Kirstin and Kyra Smith.

"His dad and I are constantly telling him that this is a privilege—having a business, your own room, all these toys—not everybody has that," his mom, Kirstin Smith, says. "So when he summed it up on his own, I said 'You're right.'"

She showed him an article in a local newspaper about the then-yet-to-be-completed Rebele Family Shelter—a place where kids and their parents could live until they got back on their feet. The article encouraged people to donate \$50 toward the shelter's completion. "Kegan got really excited about that," Kirstin recalls.

And so, after the next craft fair, Kegan came home with his earnings and put \$50 in an envelope earmarked for the shelter. "He wanted to take it down there himself," Kirstin says.

Since that first donation, Kegan, and 5-year-old Kyra, who makes herbal sachets, have donated regularly to the shelter. A summer kids' craft fair and auction netted \$250, and the annual \$50 donations have become a family tradition.

When asked why he'd want to give away his hard-earned money, Kegan



"They need it more than I do," says Kegan Smith about his regular donations to the Shelter.

just shrugs. "They need it more than I do," he says. "I would just spend it on something that would rot my teeth or my mind."

Now a student at the Monarch School in Santa Cruz, Kegan says he'll continue to raise money for the shelter. He's not so sure about the current product line, though; he's thinking about soap, but admits that it requires a science-learning curve he hasn't yet mastered.

"Both of these kids feel quite an investment in this," Kirstin says about her children's interest in the family shelter. "As they get old they'll be there in presence as well."

Programs of the Homeless Services Center

Rebele Family Shelter

Emergency housing for up to 28 families for up to six months. The shelter provides family suites, three meals per day, children's indoor and outdoor play areas, a classroom/meeting room, a central lounge on each floor and laundry facilities. Adults receive counseling, health-care and job-assistance support, and children attend area schools.

Day Center

An on-site day program providing basic services to homeless individuals, such as morning and evening meal service, laundry, mail facilities, showers and social-service referrals.

Page Smith Community House

A transitional housing program for 40 single male and female adults for up to 18 months. Eight co-housing units, individual and group counseling, referrals for social services, job placement and other resources help homeless individuals transition into self-sufficiency.

Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program (ISSP)

Emergency-shelter service and a hot meal for 45 homeless men, women and children at 17 area churches, 365 days a year. Private donations provide screening, van service to and from the sites, and an overnight monitor in each facility.

3,370: number of homeless people in Santa Cruz County

674: number of emergency shelter beds

—2005 Santa Cruz County Homeless Census and Survey

Wish List

Make a wish come true...The managers of Homeless Services Center programs came up with a donations wish list that will make direct impact on the day-to-day operations of these programs.

INTERFAITH SATELLITE SHELTER PROGRAM AND DAY CENTER

Serviceable or new blankets, bath towels

Laundry soap

HSC FOOD SERVICE

1 small stainless steel worktable with locking drawer for knife storage

Industrial electric coffee grinder

New Igloo insulated beverage container

Dairy products (milk and cheese)

Professional knives

Cleaning supplies

PAGE SMITH COMMUNITY HOUSE

2 small sofas

2 small living room chairs

New or lightly used twin sheets, blankets and pillows

3 small nightstands

6-8 small lamps

Small cutting boards

Bath towels

New or lightly used curtains for kitchen (34x42-inch) and living room (64x44-inch)

2 or 3 small bookshelves

Personal hygiene products

Laundry soap

Canned food (esp. protein, soups, stews)

REBELE FAMILY SHELTER

Newborn gifts

Diapers

Toilet paper

Laundry soap

Bus passes

New sheets and towels

For more information about making a material donation call 458.6020, ext. 2123.

ISSP Profile: Messiah Lutheran

The first thing you notice as you enter the parish hall of Messiah Lutheran Church (801 High St., Santa Cruz) on a Tuesday evening is the warm smell of food cooking. Inside, congregation members Mary Tyra and Jan Bachhuber move quickly about the long kitchen, preparing for the visitors arriving soon. It's a synchronized dance they've practiced for more than a dozen years of serving the homeless through the church's participation in the Homeless Service Center's Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program (ISSP).

Members of a dedicated group of parishioners have prepared the dishes, and Tyra and Bachhuber pulled the meal together, as they do every Tuesday night in order to accommodate the homeless women who come to Messiah Lutheran each week for a nutritious meal, a hot shower and a safe place to sleep.

Soon after 5:30 p.m. on this cold January evening, the ISSP van arrives, and 11 women wander in, each carrying a bag and a sleeping mat.



Sleeping arrangements at Messiah Lutheran; Jan, Betty and Mary (below),



Most look tired, ready to rest at the end of a long day's journey in the life of homelessness. "Sometimes they are just exhausted when they get here," Tyra says.

As the women make their beds on the stone-tile floor of the parish hall, Betty Scott joins Tyra and Bachhuber in the kitchen. Scott, who is homeless herself, volunteers as an ISSP monitor Tuesday nights. In the morning, she'll make sure the women catch the 5:30 a.m. bus back to the Homeless Services Center, and begin her workday in the center's hygiene bay.

"We're like a family," Scott says. She understands the women's stories: of hitting hard times after divorce, of struggling with addiction. Many of the women have families who worry about them, she says. Some even have children they left behind. But, Scott says, many are too scared or ashamed to return to their former lives. "There's a lot of heartache here," she says.

Before dinner, Tyra and Bachhuber lead grace. It's a simple touch that keeps the focus on ministry. After the plates are cleared they will host a Bible study group, which is open to anyone who wants to participate.

In addition to lending its parish hall on Tuesday nights, Messiah Lutheran's congregation provides clothing, hygiene items, phone cards, and special things like Christmas gifts for the women. It has also provided furniture and other household items when ISSP participants find housing. Some members give the women rides to doctor's appointments or deliver food. "We help them in any way we can," Tyra says.

As dinner winds down, Tyra and Bachhuber chat with the women who come in and out of the kitchen. "How did you spend your day today?" Tyra asks one. Together they fuss over another woman's hand-woven necklace—just like women everywhere do when they are together.

"Mostly I think they need to talk to someone and have someone listen to them as real people," says Tyra.

Soup's on.

The Homeless Services Center's Annual Soupline Supper will be held April 27, 5:30pm, at Holy Cross Church Parish Hall, 170 High St. in Santa Cruz.

Please join us for one of the county's most popular community events, featuring a delicious array of hearty soups, breads and desserts donated by local eateries, including The Buttery, Café Cruz, Clouds, The Farm, Gayle's, Bittersweet Bistro, Gabriella's Café, Manuel's, Hindquarter Bar and Grill, Trader Joe's and many more.

Reservations required (see reservation coupon below).

Entry costs \$20/person; \$40/family.

R.S.V.P. now for
April 27

Attend or Sponsor the Soupline Supper!

Attend and /or become a sponsor of the Soupline Supper and help the Homeless Services Center provide needed shelter, transitional housing, meals and counseling for the county's homeless individuals and families.

Please fill out this coupon and return with check or credit card information to:

Soupline Supper, HSC, 115 Coral St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060. For information, call 831.458.6020, x2123

A) If you'd like to *attend* the Soupline Supper, please supply the following information. Your reservation(s) will be confirmed.

Total number of guests in your party..... Total cost of reservation (\$20/person; \$40/family) \$

Your name Phone number

B) I will help *sponsor* this important community event. All sponsorships directly support HSC and are fully tax deductible.

My level of support: Soup Bowl (\$1,000) Soup Bone (\$500) Ladle (\$250) Baguette (\$100) Crouton (\$50)

\$..... Total amount remitted (If you are attending and sponsoring the Soupline Supper, be sure to add both amounts.)

I will pay by: Check * Credit card ** Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Name on card Account number

Expires Signature

* Checks should be made out to Soupline Supper, HSC ** Credit card sponsorships may be submitted at www.scshelter.org

Staff Profile: Rebecca Chicoine



Rebecca, 34, and a Connecticut native, first came to the Homeless Services Center (HSC) in 1998 as an administrative assistant. She helped open the Page Smith Community House and, almost seven years later, works as one of its top case managers. She is currently finishing up a master's degree in holistic psychology at John F. Kennedy University in Campbell, and is meeting her required clinical hours with the Homeless Person's Health Project, which is housed on the HSC campus.

She lives in Santa Cruz with several housemates and her cat, Django, and enjoys music and dance, spending time with friends, hiking and riding her cruiser bike around town.

Homeward Bound (HB): What has kept you at HSC this long?

Rebecca Chicoine (RC): I value and respect the people that we serve; they are

“There is a lot of heart in the work we do. I've seen people accomplish amazing things and move on and continue to thrive in the greater community.”

some of the most creative and resilient souls on the planet. There is a lot of heart in the work that we do, and although it can be very challenging, I feel honored to witness and participate in what happens at Page Smith. I've seen people accomplish amazing things in a relatively short period of time and then move on and continue to thrive in the greater community.

I also love the staff team that I work with. There is a lot of support and encouragement and we make each other laugh. This is important because it's easy to feel the heaviness of the work at times.

HB: What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

RC: Seeing the struggles and difficulties people endure that continue to hold them back, especially substance abuse. Drug and alcohol addiction can really get a hold on some great people, and it can be so destructive. And untreated mental illness is a complex problem that continues in this community. Also, helping people find affordable housing with limited income is very challenging.

HB: What has surprised you about working with the homeless population?

RC: The diversity and the extensive range of personality, life experiences and perspective. I also find it remarkable that the difficult circumstances people go through are also the commonalities that bind them; there's a certain level of solidarity. For many, the homeless community becomes their family.

HB: What do you want people to understand about homelessness?

RC: That it's not a choice that people make; it's a consequence of a system out of balance. And it's not a simple solution; there are many complexities and layers within the issue. No one should be homeless and everyone in need should have access to mental-health services, medical care, rehabilitation and other basic resources.

HB: How long have you been interested in social service?

RC: It has been a passion for as long as I can remember. Maybe since I was a little kid on my first trip to New York City and not understanding why there were people sleeping on the sidewalk in the freezing cold while others walked by seeming not to notice. I wanted to do something.

Shelter mural project begins

Beginning in early spring, art-club students from Harbor High School in Santa Cruz will work with clients of the Rebele Family Shelter to create a ceramic tile mural to be displayed permanently at the shelter. The mural will feature drawings and text from a writing component of the project.

The project is sponsored by Woven Stories, Woven Lives, a national public-arts organization with an affiliate chapter in Santa Cruz County. The chapter is also responsible for murals in downtown Santa Cruz and in Watsonville.

“We want to form bridges in the community,” says project co-organizer Bettylou Sturm.

For more information about this project call 831.331.3168.

32%

of county homeless have been so for more than 3 years.

12%

of county homeless live with children under age 18.

—2005 Santa Cruz County Homeless Census and Survey

Our Donors

We'd like to thank our generous donors who make what we do possible. Here are the contributions made to the Homeless Services Center Oct. 18, 2005 through Feb. 20, 2006:

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The Health Connection: Health Care for the Homeless

How do you take care of your health, let alone get proper medical care, when you don't have a home, money or medical insurance?

In Santa Cruz County, since 1989 the Homeless Person's Health Project (HPHP) has helped bridge that gap.

Now housed in a new 4,000 sq. foot, two-story office at the Rebele Family Shelter, HPHP is the bustling center of health services for the county's homeless and marginally housed population.

Under the auspices of the Public Health Division of the county Health Services Agency, HPHP provides access to health care for the homeless—including medical and mental-health care; substance-abuse treatment; dental care; special services for families, women and youth; and help eligible clients to qualify for insurance and disability programs.

"Integrating these services has been a big goal for us," says Christine Sippl, HPHP executive director. "People can come into any service, get some of their immediate needs met, and learn about where they might be able to get more intensive services and start making permanent changes."

HPHP comprises four specific programs:

- **A Health Care for Homeless Adults Team;**
- **A Health Care for Homeless Youth and Young Families team;**
- **Puentes (Bridges), providing mental health intensive case management; and**
- **Project Connect, offering outreach and integrated services for those who over-rely on emergency hospital services for health care.**

HPHP also offers four half-day medical clinics per week with health screening; interim treatments and patient education; prescription medications through a new on-site dispensary; dental services through Dientes to fit eligible clients with needed dentures; and help for eligible clients to apply for Social Security disability benefits, which in turn allow them to receive Medi-Cal health benefits.

HPHP also offers free comprehensive health screening and medical care to families staying at the Rebele Family Shelter.

Last year, HPHP served more than 4,000 clients.

"We're very accessible," says Clinic Manager Renee Robinson. "Our outreach teams are referring people in, and just by virtue of our location here on the corner [of River and Coral streets], and word of mouth, people find us.

"We want people to feel welcome here," she adds. "Homeless people are often not treated respectfully."

Accessibility and a welcoming environment help make HPHP a starting point for many of the county's homeless to begin to find their way back into society.

"Before [we moved into] the new building, we had to see people, patch them up and send them off to other clinics and programs, and hope we'd see them again," says Sippl. "Here, they leave with the medical care they need in the same day, they've also spent some time with a public-health nurse, and they can get linked to other services that could be the key to them not coming back over and over for the same things—instead, some of those problems may be permanently solved over the long run."

115 Coral Street Update

HSC Food Services Department

In January, we served a total of 15,194 meals in the Day Center and 4,590 in the Family Shelter. We have been very fortunate to receive high-quality meats from Niman Ranch for low prices, and the donations from Trader Joe's continue to pour in. Ledyard's offered weekly donations of products with a short shelf life, which we will use as they come in.

Day Center and Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program (ISSP)

The ISSP sites and the National Guard Armory were heavily used this winter. Meanwhile, the day center served as an entry point into HSC for many homeless people. And the Homeless Persons Health Project continued to provide our clients with access to medical and mental-health care and substance-abuse treatment.

Page Smith Community House

The holiday season brought activity and excitement to Page Smith Community House. Special events included a lighted train ride; a field trip to San Francisco; and a wonderful Christmas dinner for residents, alumni, family, partner agencies, friends and neighbors. Spring finds us preparing our community garden—and getting ready to do our annual spring-cleaning.

Rebele Family Shelter

Seventeen families moved through our shelter program, while as many others arrived. We also welcomed our first two newborns. Holiday highlights included a tree-trimming party; a Christmas Eve reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas"; and a Christmas morning complete with presents donated by shelter supporters and distributed by Santa Claus.



Donna Maurillo is a public relations manager in technology. She also writes a food column for the Santa Cruz Sentinel. Today her daughter teaches kindergarten and her son is a college student.

It's a wonder I don't have cracks in my skull. There was a time when I used to pound my head against the wall and wonder how I could have ended up in my situation. There I was, a smart and independent woman with a college education, a former homeowner who had married “until death do us part” —and I'd turned into a single welfare mother who could barely support her kids. It was the worst time of my life.

How does anyone prepare for it? The truth is, you don't. No sane person believes that someday she'll lose her financial stability and literally have to scrounge for pennies. I was thrust into a rocky situation when my husband left after 10 years of marriage. For my long-term survival, the only smart option was to go back and finish my education. As long as I was attending UCSC, I could survive on school loans, work-study jobs, and cleaning faculty homes. But once I graduated, there was nothing. Unlike single grads, I couldn't share housing or take minimum wage jobs because I was responsible for two children.

So I stayed under the radar, living on campus until they realized I was no longer a student. That bought me some time, but by November I was given my eviction letter. Fortunately, I'd found a temp job for the holidays, so I was able to fake my way into a two-bedroom condo by telling the landlady I was employed. But once that job ended a few weeks later, I was standing in the welfare line.

People think you get rich on welfare. You don't. I was allotted about \$350 a month, and all but \$25 of that went toward my rent. My food stamps cost another \$75 a month, so I had to rely on the \$400 I'd managed to save while in school. Each month, I watched that sum dwindle. And I worried.

We economized by keeping the heat turned off. At times, it got so cold indoors that we could see our breath. I didn't have enough blankets, so I piled coats and towels on the kids'

beds to try and keep them warm. I rationed out one bowl of cereal for each of them, and I lost my temper when they ate more. We relied on the emergency food pantry to supplement. Once we ended up with a bag of rice, chocolate pudding and powdered milk. The kids had no boots or raincoats for the winter. And I felt like a terrible mother because they had done nothing to deserve this.

I cried a lot in those days. It was embarrassing to stand in line at the market—a young, fit, intelligent woman—and see how people looked at me when I paid with food stamps. I didn't even tell my mother about my problems because she was not in a position to help, and I didn't want her to worry about me.

The situation would have been much easier for us if there had been a family shelter back then. We could have had free lodging and meals while I looked for work. I could have had job counseling and a warm place to stay. My kids would have felt safer and more stable. Just a few months' help would have made a significant difference.

It's funny how we can end up in such dire circumstances because of a job loss, a spouse's death, an illness, a divorce, or domestic abuse. Too many of us are only a few paychecks away from the street, and it may have nothing to do with stupidity or irresponsibility. It may be a simple matter of bad luck. I certainly didn't expect it—not while I was driving a brand new car, building a stock portfolio, and living in a nice home with my husband, two kids and a dog.

But middle-class security can disappear quickly—or maybe just an inch at a time. It happened to me, and it happens to other people. And it could happen to you. For the sake of everyone in that situation now and in the future, we have to ensure that the Rebele Family Shelter remains as a place to regroup and find a necessary boost. It's an investment with a significant payback for all of us.



Creative kids showing off ornaments they made for the community Christmas tree, at the Rebele Family Shelter tree-trimming party held Dec. 8.

Niman Ranch Delivers

For information about in-kind donations contact Sheryl Haver, 458.6020 ext. 2123.

Belated Irish cheer is provided most years by day-after leftovers from restaurants and food bins, but this March clients of the Homeless Service Center (HSC) enjoyed an authentic St. Patrick's Day feast of corned beef brisket, thanks to Niman Ranch, the acclaimed purveyor of hormone-free meats.

For almost a year the ranch has

sold HSC its beef, sausage, lamb, prosciutto—even prime rib—for “50 percent off wholesale,” according to Niman Ranch spokesperson Elizabeth Hooker. That works out to just \$1 per pound for high-end meats, plus .20 cents per pound for delivery from the ranch's Oakland headquarters. For the HSC kitchen staff, it's a cooking

dream come true.

“We managed to serve the whole crowd here a prime rib dinner last month,” says HSC Food Services Director Sheila Bongiovanni.

The ranch also donates frozen, overstock meats to the Alameda Food Bank, Oakland Zoo, and South Bay area schools and organizations.

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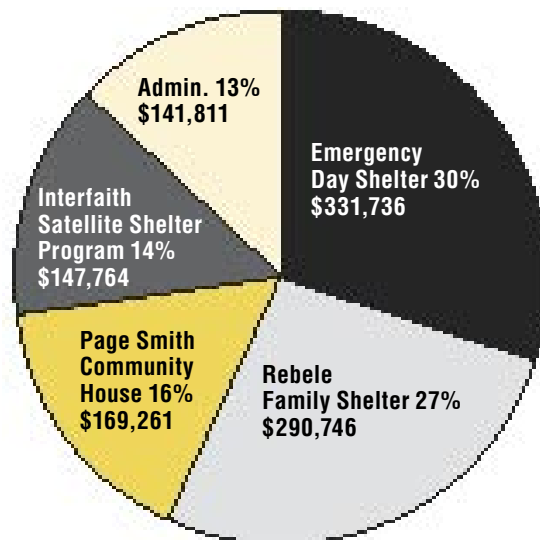
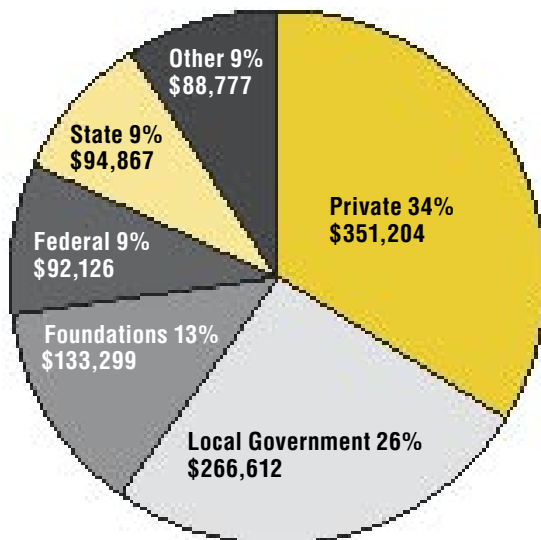
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Spring 06: News from the Homeless Services Center

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