

# HOMeward BOUND

NEWS FROM THE HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER  
Summer 2007

## Your Donation Can Change a Life at the Rebele Family Shelter

*Joe and Maria and their kids Chris and Teresa (not their real names) had been staying on couches and sleeping on the floor at the homes of relatives... and then living in a garage. Joe had a drug problem and couldn't keep a job.*

*Then they moved in to the Rebele Family Shelter... everybody in the family had a safe, comfortable place to stay with health care and meals provided through the shelter program. Chris and Teresa were able to attend school on a regular basis. As part of the condition of staying at the shelter, Joe agreed to attend AA or NA meetings regularly and to submit to frequent drug tests. He soon got a job in construction and they began saving money.*

*6 months later, Joe has been clean for six months and has a new job at a large supermarket... and Maria, Chris and Teresa are happy to be living with Joe in a one bedroom house in the Santa Cruz area.*

In 2006, 50 families completed their stay at the Rebele Family Shelter. **Of those 50 families, 47 moved to a permanent housing or an appropriate transitional housing situation.** During this period we assisted more than 180 homeless individuals including 103 children with secure housing, meals, and comprehensive services. 95 percent of the families were able to either sustain existing income or increase their income during their stay. Of the parents with substance abuse challenges, 88 percent made progress in dealing with that challenge. We are helping change lives every day.

## Volunteers Making a Difference

Every week dozens of volunteers play a key role in making our programs work. Some serve meals in the Family Shelter, some host homeless clients spending the night at local churches, others drop off food and clothing at our donation office, and still others help raise funds for our services.

One exemplary volunteer who wishes to remain anonymous worked for months to improve sanitation and organization in and around our food pantry. Another works at least once a week staffing the front desk at the Rebele Family. And just this summer a group of student volunteers from the Quaker Center in Ben Lomond helped clean up the kids play yard at the Family Shelter and sorted through thousands of packages and cans of donated food. Thank you, volunteers!

If you'd like to join in, please call 458-6020 extension 2123.

## Soupline Supper Success

This year's Soupline Supper was our most successful ever with more than 400 HSC supporters in attendance and more than \$65,000 raised to support the programs and services of HSC. The silent auction was better than ever and service by our celebrity servers and other terrific volunteers was outstanding. The soups, breads, desserts, salads, and beverages were all donated by local restaurants and businesses.

A big "thank you" to all our donors and volunteers and to all of you that attended.

## Simplicity and Savings

Would you like to make your life simpler and less cluttered while helping us save money and resources? If the answer is yes, you can help us convert to a communication process that uses more email and less postal mail. All you have to do is either send back the enclosed blue slip with your email information OR send an email to us ([shaver@scshelter.org](mailto:shaver@scshelter.org)) with a note requesting that we use email as our primary method of communicating with you. We promise we will not share your email address with any other organization.

We want to say a special thanks to our Pillar of Support Sponsors:

