

Shelter Matters



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O, What a Night!

The 2016 Celestial Nights was held at La Gran Terraza on the beautiful University of San Diego campus. Guests enjoyed an evening of inspiration and awards. Special guest speaker, Inocente, imparted a strong message of hope and thankfulness for the help her homeless family received. Now safely housed, Inocente, is an aspiring artist and advocate for the homeless.

#25 organizations and individuals received awards for helping ISN's homeless clients. Many have been involved with ISN's programs for more than a decade, providing their time and talents to benefit the homeless. ISN is deeply grateful to recognize them for their service.



Master of Ceremonies Cliff Albert, KOGO News Director



Beautiful USD glows as the evening comes on.



Applause for this year's awardees.



Auctioneer Frank Parra with guest speaker Inocente.

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EDITOR

Nancy Petitti

CONTRIBUTOR

Trisha Brereton

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Please consider putting Interfaith Shelter Network in your will.

Interfaith Shelter Network:
www.interfaithshelter.org

Shelter Update

Four of our seven branches are now open, with the rest opening by the first week in January. Welcome to our new congregations, St. Catherine Laboure Catholic (Clairemont) and St. Michael's Catholic (Poway), joining us this 2016-17 shelter season.

In a great example of team work, the First Congregational Church in Escondido has stepped up and made their facility available to fill an unforeseen 2-week gap in available shelters over Christmas.

Several other churches in the rotation have agreed to staff the shelter



as a group effort, with each church staffing the shelter and providing meals for one or two nights. Crystal Lopez from Trinity Episcopal will be coordinating this extraordinary group.

2016 Grants

ISN received grants from the following private and corporate foundations this year.

- County Employees Charitable Organization
- The Cushman Foundation
- The Domanica Foundation
- Samuel I. & John Henry Fox Foundation
- The Gold Diggers
- The Langston Family Foundation
- Lennar Charitable Housing Foundation
- Lion's Club of San Diego Welfare Foundation
- Price Philanthropies
- SDG&E Employee Giving Program
- SD Unified School District Community Service Association
- SEMPRA Energy
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- The Walter J. & Betty C. Zable Foundation

Thank you to all our Foundation Partners!

El Nido News

As El Nido prepares for the holidays, it gets plenty of help from our generous partners. Thanksgiving dinner was donated by Hands Across the Bridge. This year's holiday party, scheduled for December 13, will be hosted by the TLC, who will provide gifts for the families. The Catholic Daughters and Catholic Junior Daughters of Santa Sophia will provide dinner and activities for the children. The evening is crowned by a visit from Santa, who will be making a special stop in San Diego that evening.



Rapid Re-Housing Headlines

More than 108 households have now been successfully housed with the help of this program. ISN is currently contracted to provide rapid re-housing services within the City of San Diego only.

The search for County-wide funding continues as of this date.



El Nido Transforms

Things were shaken up at El Nido this year. Not literally at the program site, but behind the scenes, where agency planners sit. After twenty years of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) support, the Transitional Living Committee – TLC - of which El Nido was a part, lost its funding.

Washington's new Housing First philosophy directs housing dollars to go towards programs that quickly place people in permanent housing. Consequently, transitional housing programs such as El Nido saw a reduction in HUD funding this year.

"El Nido has relied on HUD support for so long that it took some re-thinking on our part," says ISN ED Trisha Brereton. "We need to replace one-third of the program budget with other funding in 2017. On the up side, we no longer have to comply with restrictive HUD rules and can now alter the program to better meet our client's needs."

For instance, HUD limits the clients El Nido can serve to women with children, eliminating childless battered women.

Back to our Roots

We turned to our network – the people who know how important the El Nido program is – and they responded. Members of the *El Nido THC* (transitional housing committee) leapt at the chance to help. And one special donor stepped forward with a generous \$10,000 matching gift to spur giving.

"After touring El Nido and seeing the needs of these women and children, I was convinced that programs like this are needed for the future of our children and families" says Claudia Allen, who provided the match.

"Battering has been a forgotten element of society. People don't want to face this huge problem."

ISN's new *NestBuilders* monthly giving campaign was launched in October, meeting its initial \$10,000 matching goal in just three weeks. Some of El Nido's strongest supporters have become founding members of NestBuilders, and the club is growing in popularity as people learn the benefits of monthly giving.

About her gift, Mrs. Allen says that she is very happy to have been able to help generate the passion to give. "It always means a lot to know that your gift was used where it was most needed.

"I feel very dedicated to this effort to help El Nido now," Mrs. Allen states. "I want to see this program sustain itself. I'm very happy to be a part of it."

Building the Nest

Most people find that small monthly gifts are affordable for almost any budget. Those made by automatic payment also benefit the supporter by eliminating time and mailing costs. Here are some examples of what these payments can do:

\$.33/day = \$10/month. Pays for emergency food for one family.

\$.50/day = \$15/month. Pays for telephone lifeline for 1 family.

\$1.00/day = \$30/month. Pays for 1 monthly bus pass for youth to attend school.

\$1.50/day = \$45/month. Pays for one week of childcare.

Monthly gifts benefit the program by providing the steady, ongoing support needed for future planning. They ensure that program costs will be covered and services will be there for all who need them.

"Every member of *NestBuilders* is invested in building a better future for these traumatized families and for our community." Trisha Brereton states. "We're breaking the cycle of domestic violence here – one family at a time."

It's easy to sign up on-line! Simply go to www.interfaithshelter.org/nestbuilders.

Spotlight on Claudia Allen

Claudia Allen cares deeply about giving back to the community. She and husband Bill feel that those who have been fortunate have a duty to do so. Their long success as owners of the Crystal Pier Hotel in Pacific Beach has brought them much joy and a strong involvement in the San Diego community.

“As business owners, we see the effects of poverty and crime on our community. Domestic violence affects us all, although it’s a forgotten element of society. It has stunned me to learn about this problem and meet some of the families affected first hand.”

“Bill and I have been looking for a way to make a difference in our community. When we found El Nido, it was a prayer answered.”



Bill and Claudia Allen

Servicemen & Women Keep on Giving

On Tuesday November 29 (Giving Tuesday) ISN participated in the Charity Fair at Navy Medical Center San Diego (Balboa Naval Hospital). This event was in conjunction with the Combined Federal Campaign.

