



## Shelter Season Kicks Off

ISN held its annual volunteer training in September amid public concern, political rhetoric and media hype around the issue of homelessness in San Diego. While 2017 was indeed a year of reversals—a surprising increase in the number of homeless in San Diego, for instance—the dedicated volunteers who deliver ISN’s Rotational Shelter Program remain committed to helping San Diego’s homeless.

“Approximately 100 volunteers attended this year’s training,” program manager Bill Zucconi reports. “The Hepatitis A issue was addressed by our guest speaker Kimberly Pettiford from the San Diego County Health Department.”

“We assured our volunteers that the case managers will be making a diligent effort to insure all guests are vaccinated. The San Diego County Health Department will also be providing site visits to our shelters to inoculate those who need vaccinations.”

For the safety of all, ISN has made it mandatory for all guests to be vaccinated, and volunteers are strongly recommended to do the same.

Will Brown from UCSD’s Outpatient Psychiatric Dept. also delivered a talk on the potential challenges of working with diverse and sometimes frustrating clients.

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Volunteer training 2017.

## People into Apartments



ISN’s Rapid Re-Housing Program continues to be a major resource for low-income, homeless households. A total of 43 households (57 adults and 37 children) have been placed into permanent housing in 2017. One hundred and sixty-three (163) households comprised of 335 adults and children have been placed since the program began in 2014.

This vital program is a game-changer for low-income, homeless households who, without it, might have to save for many months overcome the one-time costs of acquiring rental housing.

By covering these costs, and sometimes offering short-term, partial rental assistance to bolster financial stability, these households can exit emergency homeless services more quickly and tend to stay housed for much longer.

ISN’s Housing Case Managers (HCM) help individuals to plan for expenses and meet emergencies more effectively, to ensure successful housing retention.

“Most people are so desperate to be housed that they don’t always

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Please consider putting Interfaith Shelter Network in your will.

Interfaith Shelter Network:  
[www.interfaithshelter.org](http://www.interfaithshelter.org)

*Shelter Season*

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*In response to the increased need, more churches are joining the Network*

Three new churches have stepped up to join the Network and provide shelters and support services for the Rotational Shelter Program this season. In the Beaches area of the County,

1st Baptist of San Diego, Point Loma Presbyterian, and St. Peter's Lutheran teamed with All Souls Episcopal have joined.

The program will also benefit from a new partnership with Stepping Higher in East County, which will provide Case Management services in that region. We are currently seeking a new agency to provide this service in the Clairemont area.

# El Nido News

## Spotlight on Domestic Violence

October is National Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness month. Events are held throughout the country each year to educate and inform the public about this sensitive subject.

This year, ISN's own Maria Garcia and Francisca Jinesta attended several such events in San Diego, including the County kick-off on Tuesday, October 3rd. The event drew hundreds of visitors and guests, who received information about available resources, including the El Nido program.



SD County Kick Off event, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

## Building the Nest

Since ISN launched the NestBuilders monthly giving club last October, we have experienced a gratifying surge of support for El Nido. The all-volunteer NestBuilders committee is headed by Claudia Allen, Olivia Dorman, Diane Hazard, Mary Ann Johnson, and Barb Stewart. The committee leads efforts to expand the club, to welcome new members and hosts membership promotional events.

The last such event was held on August 22, 2017 at the Women's Museum of California at Liberty Station. To illustrate the transformational power of the program, El Nido graduate Gladys V. shared her inspiring personal story with members and guests.

*For more information about joining NestBuilders, go to [www.interfaithshelter.org/nestbuilders/](http://www.interfaithshelter.org/nestbuilders/)*



*A Campaign of Interfaith Shelter Network*

## Hearts in Motion

Coronado's philanthropic organization Hearts Across the Bridge again reached out to the El Nido families this Thanksgiving, for the third year in a row. The group assembled the ingredients for bountiful Thanksgiving meals and presented them to each family in time for the holiday.

"It's such a welcome treat for these families that are still struggling to make ends meet each month," says Program Manager Maria Garcia. "These gift baskets go a long way to help stretch family budgets, especially at this time of year."

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## Generous Grantmakers support El Nido

A grateful Thanks! to El Nido's 2017 foundation and corporate supporters, including the Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation, the Lennar Charitable Housing Foundation, the Cushman Foundation, the Parker Foundation, the Boys & Girls Foundation, the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation, and the Wells Fargo Foundation.

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## December at El Nido

As always, year-end at El Nido is filled with activity. Adding to the usual round of holiday events is the renovation of Unit 10, supported by the United Church of Christ, Mission Hills. The work is scheduled for completion before Christmas.

ISN's annual holiday party will be held on December 12th for the current and graduates of El Nido and for families served by the Rapid Re-Housing program. Santa will distribute gifts to the children at this festive event.

Another highly anticipated event will be held on December 15th, when members of the Foothills United Methodist Church of La Mesa youth group will bring Christmas trees and decorations for the families. This magical nighttime event includes caroling and much good cheer.

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## Donation Wish List

- Gift Cards for grocery stores
- Bus Passes (day or monthly)
- 2018 Daily Planners
- Bike Rack
- Umbrellas or rain ponchos for both mom and children
- Clothing racks—sturdy metal ones (like the ones used at stores)
- Long folding tables for group use (4)
- Noise makers for the therapy office (2)

## El Nido Help Wanted

**Position:** Congregation or agency to sponsor Unit 11

**Position:** Volunteer Computer Lab tutor. Assist adults and children to use computers and navigate the internet. Shifts available Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 5:30–7:30 p.m.

**Position:** Volunteer art teachers — Must be over 18 years old. Ideal candidates will be retired teachers with therapeutic background. Four nights a month, 2 hours. Friday nights. 5:00–7:00 p.m.

**Interested?**  
Call Maria Garcia at  
(619) 563-9878.

### *Apartments*

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think through all of the expenses they will be taking on," says Abby Shrestha, housing case manager. "That's where we can help make sure they will be able to afford to stay housed long-term. It's very demoralizing for them to return to the streets, and that much harder for them to get back into permanent housing after losing a place. Our goal is to see that doesn't happen."

ISN's Rapid Re-Housing Program has an 80% success rate for housing retention thus far; a highly commendable rate for programs of this kind.

## Interfaith Shelter Network

# Celestial Nights

## September Soiree



The 4th annual Celestial Nights was held on Saturday, September 9th, at USD. An enthusiastic crowd of volunteers and supporters turned up for the festive event.

Seven congregations and seven individual volunteers—one in each County region served by ISN—were honored for their irreplaceable contributions to ISN's programs. Among this year's Community Partners being honored were the Cushman Foundation, the In-N-Out Burger Foundation, the Domanica Foundation, and Harrah's Resort Southern California.



KOGO News Director, Cliff Albert.



Congregational awardees from Bethel AME Church.



The crowd at The Forums.



Left to right, Mario Waibel, Hope Baker, Adda Sheldon, Dr. Ed Sheldon.

*Save the Date:* Plans are already underway for next year's event, which is slated for October 13, 2018 at an exciting, new location.