**Meet Micah: An Amazing Giving Spirit at 10 Years Old!**

We are so thankful for all of our generous supporters of Family Supportive Housing. One young man, Micah, has taken on some impressive tasks to help families experiencing homelessness. Here, in his own words, Micah shares how he became involved with our San Jose Family Shelter:

Hello, my name is Micah. I am a 5th grader now. First I would like to share with you about my field trip (with my school) to the family shelter I did with my 4th grade class. I saw many things there such as the rooms and I was amazed that all that was donated by people and families like myself and made me think more about the poor and how little they had.

I also was amazed by how some people made all this food for them and how much they had to make. Like I’m guessing it would be like trying to serve 100-200 people oatmeal. WOW!

My grandparents have been supporting this for years and the cool part is they made the library and my grandpa makes breakfast for the shelter and sometimes my dad helps him. Last year, my brothers and I donated new sheets and towels to the shelter for my grandpa’s birthday present.

I also decided for my 10th birthday to have my friends bring money for the family shelter instead of gifts. I raised around $130. I would want to do it again because I already have so much and sharing what I have to people who need it is really cool. It is something that you don’t get to do every day. I would encourage others to do this because it is not just about you, it is about someone else and you know that the money is going to good use. It is amazing!

Thank you, Micah!

Want to hold your own fundraiser for Family Supportive Housing? Contact Jill Mitsch at (408)926-8885 ext. 223 for more information about how you can help!

**A Family’s Success: From Homeless to Hopeful**

A year ago this December, Ed, Susan and their 7-year-old son arrived at our San Jose Family Shelter. Ed - the sole breadwinner for the family - was recently laid off from his job. Without his steady income, the family was struggling to make ends meet and were soon evicted from their apartment. Ed and his family stayed at a temporary shelter in Fairfield and then lived in their car for a short time. By the time they arrived at our door, they were feeling discouraged, defeated and desperate. We welcomed them with open arms, a warm comfortable room with a private bath, and a healthy home-cooked meal. By the next day, they were starting to feel a bit more hopeful.

“They were struggling to make ends meet and were soon evicted from their apartment.”

Both Ed and Susan took advantage of the financial, housing and employment workshops offered at the Shelter. Ed always knew that he wanted to work in the construction field, but he could not afford the required union fees. Thanks to our shelter program staff who advocated for him, he was able to receive a shallow subsidy to allow him to afford the dues. Ed was able to secure a job in his dream field!

With Ed’s increased income and earning potential, the family was able to move into our Transitional Housing Program in February 2014.

The family is now stable, in their own home, and receiving supportive services through our program to help them retain their self-sufficiency. They continue to attend financial literacy and budgeting workshops, meet regularly with their case manager, and have recently opened a savings account. Ed and his family were able to overcome homelessness through hard work, determination, and the critical programs offered by Family Supportive Housing.
Dear Friends,

October begins our new fiscal year at Family Supportive Housing. As summer ends, our staff and Board of Directors take stock of what the organization has achieved in the fiscal year that came to a close, and sets goals for the year ahead. I was amazed to look back on what our volunteers had accomplished in the past twelve months! Thank you to the more than 1,500 volunteers from local corporations, businesses, churches, service organizations and schools who participated in San José Family Shelter activities in the last fiscal year.

As we embark on a new year of service to families who are experiencing homelessness, I invite all of you to get involved. Does your company have an Employee Volunteer Program? We can help you to organize a team service opportunity that uses your group’s expertise to enrich lives, share important job skills, and more. Group and individual volunteers are always welcome in our Voyager Child Development Center for infants and pre-school children, and as mentors or tutors in our Homework Enrichment Program for K-12 students.

From young Scouts earning their merit badges to retirees sharing their wealth of knowledge, we have opportunities to fit all ages! If you don’t find what you’re looking for in the Opportunities list on our website, then please contact our Community Resource Manager, Christi Moyer-Kelly, at (408) 926-8885 ext. 226 or volunteer@familysupportivehousing.org, to let her know what interests you.

Volunteers have a transformative impact on our programs and the families we serve. Our volunteers show families who sometimes feel alone and forgotten how caring a community can be. To our past and present volunteers: heartfelt thanks. To our future volunteers: everyone can do something!

- Got a minute? “Like us” on Facebook. “Share” our stories.
- Five minutes? Tell a friend or co-worker about us. Invite them on a Shelter tour.
- An hour? Bag toiletry items for our families. Collect pillows from neighbors.
- An evening? Turn your next gathering into a fundraiser, and ask people to bring an item or donation. Mentor a child.

Please consider sharing your time and talents. I hope to see you at the Shelter!

Sincerely,

Beth Leary
Executive Director

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Help Spread Cheer this Holiday Season!

Do you want to help homeless families in Santa Clara County this Holiday Season? We have the perfect opportunities for you!

At our Christmas Shoppe, we transform our parking garage into a store where parents can ‘shop’ for their children’s presents and their children can ‘shop’ for their parent’s presents! We need special items and volunteers to set-up the shop and assist parents and children in their search for the perfect gift for their loved ones. If you are interested in participating in this wonderful event, contact our Community Resource Manager, Christi-Moyer Kelly at (408)926-8885 ext. 226.

Our Adopt-A-Family program serves the needs of families in our Transitional Housing and Bridges AfterCare Programs. We match families with generous donors who ‘adopt’ a family by promising to purchase items from the family’s wish list. The Adopt-A-Family is an incredibly meaningful experience for both donors and families. Please join us in spreading the holiday cheer and become an Adopt-A-Family sponsor! Call our Intake Coordinator, William Aravelo at (408) 926-8885 ext. 229 for more information!
Soups On!
You are cordially invited to join us for our
28th Annual
Soup Kitchen Dinner

It’s the event that is made for the season of giving back to the community and giving thanks for our blessings—with delicious food, great entertainment, good friends, and a lively silent and live auction. This event is always a sell out, so get your tickets early!

Thursday, November 6, 2014
Cocktails: 6-7
Dinner: 7-9

$125/person - $1,250/table of ten

Bellarmine College Preparatory
960 W. Hedding Street, San Jose

All proceeds benefit the programs that Family Supportive Housing runs.
Purchase tickets online at www.familysupportivehousing.org, or call us at 408.926.8885 ext.225.

We look forward to seeing you on November 6th!

Your help makes all the difference.

THANK YOU to our Soups On! Sponsors:
Green Waste Recovery – Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP – San Jose Water Company
Heritage Bank of Commerce – J.P. Foundation – Star One Credit Union – Anonymous – First Tech Credit Union –
Martin Family Foundation – Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP – Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati
Thanksgiving is dedicated to giving thanks. Black Friday and Cyber Monday are for getting shopping deals. Now we have #GivingTuesday, which is a global day dedicated to giving back!

On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

Join us in a new holiday tradition and support Family Supportive Housing on #GivingTuesday. Stay tuned on our Facebook page and email blasts for more updates about this amazing day of giving!

Not on our email list? Send an email to devco@familysupportivehousing.org with the subject line “Add me to your mailing list.”.

Our Mission
To provide shelter and supportive services to homeless families in Santa Clara County, to empower them to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency in our community.

www.familysupportivehousing.org