



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

SERVING THE HOMELESS

UPDATES ON HOMELESS SERVICES IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

March 2001

Number 7

Family Shelter to Remain Open Through June

*Winter Shelter Residents
Assisted with Finding
Permanent Shelter*

The City's winter shelter for homeless families will remain open to new arrivals through June 30. Family members in residence at the shelter will be allowed to remain until the City opens a new permanent facility on Cortez Hill near the end of July.

Hundreds of men, women, and children have taken part in the City's Winter Shelter Program since the three shelters opened Dec. 15, 2000. This is the eighth year the City has provided the program. The winter shelters for veterans and single adults are scheduled to close March 15. Residents are being assisted in finding permanent homes or other shelter programs.

Last year, the City's three winter shelters provided assistance to approximately 3,750 homeless people over a four-month period.

Plans are progressing for the conversion of the Days Inn on Cortez Hill into a transitional housing facility for 150 members of approximately 40 homeless families. The families will receive case management, various job and social services assistance, and be able to save money to eventually rent their own homes.

News Briefs

Community Meeting Held to Discuss Homeless Family Facility on Cortez Hill

A Cortez Hill community meeting was held Feb. 28 at the El Cortez to discuss City plans for converting the existing Days Inn into a short-term transitional housing facility for homeless families. At the meeting, architect Tim Golba presented conceptual drawings of the transformed facility. Also, a community advisory group was formed to provide input on possible impacts to the area. The advisory group is planning to meet March 14.

Housing Fair to Help with Relocation Programs

On March 12, a housing fair was held for all residents of the City's winter shelters. The fair was held at the shelter for single adults in Barrio Logan. Rental housing providers and social service agencies took part and helped people find permanent housing.

Council Approves Expansion of Serial Inebriate Program to Downtown

On Feb. 2, the City Council approved expanding the Serial Inebriate Program to downtown. To expand the program, the City will work with the County and nonprofit service providers to obtain state funding that will create more capacity in alcohol treatment programs and provide more beds.

Donations Help Residents of City's Winter Shelters

Many residents of the City's three winter shelters have recently received Valentine gifts and donations of shoes. On Feb. 14, 200 Girl Scouts presented handmade Valentine cards and candy to 100 children living at the City's family winter shelter. On Feb. 5, shoes that had been donated to St. Vincent de Paul were distributed to people staying at all three of the City's winter shelters.

Council Directs City Staff to Find Funding for Special Needs Homeless Program

On Feb. 2, the City Council approved a plan to find funding to implement the Special Needs Homeless Program. The program addresses the needs of homeless people who suffer from mental illness, chronic alcohol or drug abuse, or both. The City will work with other agencies, developers, and nonprofit organizations to find funding sources and available facilities.

More Information About Homeless Services

The City's Homeless Services Program is administered by the City's Community and Economic Development Department.

For more information, call (619) 533-6525, or visit the City's web site: www.sandiego.gov