

## In Loving Memory

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Elaine Chenoweth

# CHANGED LIVES

Serving Our Community Since 1967

## Christmas at the Women's Shelter

At our Women and Children's Shelter we were blessed once again to serve our community during this holiday season. On behalf of Staff and all that received gifts, we would like to thank everyone that brought new toy donations to the shelter. You are the ones that made it possible for us to serve the little children in our community. What a blessing to see the parents' faces light up as they picked up bags full of toys for their children. Everyone was so happy and grateful for the gifts they received. Christmas morning in the shelter was a special event. After staff made a delicious breakfast for everyone, adults and children were given gifts to open. It was a wonderful Christmas morning watching all the little ones open their gifts under our beautiful Christmas tree. We had a special time of breaking bread together and sharing holiday memories with our Mission family. We would also like to thank the different groups that came into the Shelter through the month with Holiday gifts and treats for our women and children. It was Christmas every night for the month of December! Our guests expressed how blessed they felt to be in our shelter, having love and gifts showered upon them, but what they expressed most was a gratefulness to not be alone during the holidays. There were many tears of joy and these are the memories we will take with us into the future. A very BIG heartfelt thank you to all who were a part of this time of giving and celebration. Blessings to you all and we pray that you will have a prosperous New Year!



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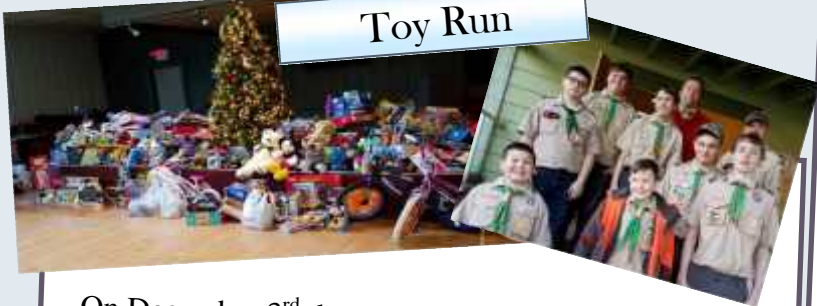
# Christmas and Festivities

## A Chorus of Tubas



On December 2nd, The Eureka Rescue Mission opened its dining facility to Redwood Coast Music Festivals for the 2018 poster unveiling followed by Tuba Christmas. These events were moved inside due to the pouring rain. People filled the chairs and lined the walls to see Matt Beard's new poster unveiled with Santa helping. Next, the audience listened to festive Christmas music played by over 20 tuba players. They also learned some interesting facts about the different tubas in the band from leader Fred Tempas. A good time was had by all and it was a great way to kick off the holiday season.

## Toy Run



On December 3<sup>rd</sup> the United Bikers of Northern California held their annual Toy Run once again. Strapped to bikes and in the beds of pickup trucks were brand new toys. All the toys generated from the event were donated to the Eureka Rescue Mission for distribution to disadvantaged children in our community. Hundreds of toys were handed to members of the McKinleyville Boy Scout Troop 99 who then placed them under the tree at the Moose Lodge. After handing off toys, the riders made their way into the dining hall to enjoy a spaghetti lunch prepared by the Eureka Rescue Mission's cook and served by several New Life Program members. When lunch was over the Boy Scouts bagged the gifts and then loaded them into the Mission vehicle to be transported to our Family Shelter for sorting. Our large delivery truck bed was completely full of bags of toys!

## Sleeping Mats!



St. Joseph Health-Humboldt donated 20 sleeping mats for the Eureka Rescue Mission Men's and Women's Shelters. With our numbers rising due to the colder weather and rain, our emergency overflow has been well used. We ran out of sleeping mats for both shelters and resorted to putting blankets as a cushion on the floor for sleeping. A representative from St. Joseph-Humboldt contacted us and informed us that they ordered 20 sleeping mats for us to replace the blankets. Now we have plenty of soft mats for our men, and single women to sleep on during emergency weather nights. Thank you St. Joseph Health-Humboldt!

## Holiday Meals

Holiday meals were a complete success! Overall we served nearly 500 meals and provided close to 200 holiday food boxes for low income families in our community. It was heartwarming to see our facility full of guests and families from the community. For some, unfortunately the holiday season brings a sense of loneliness and regretful memories. With this in mind, we do our best to provide an atmosphere of joy, happiness and fellowship for all. We had a huge turnout of volunteers for both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals combined, over 100 volunteers! For Christmas, Sheriff Honsal and his beautiful family came to serve and Supervisor Virginia Bass also served. We would like to thank all of our faithful donors and volunteers for making it possible to provide a wonderful time of cheer during this holiday season. God bless you all!



## HSU's Men's Soccer team



Many hands make light work and the HSU men's soccer team shows that once again. Over the past several weeks the team came to the Mission on Thursday nights to help serve dinner and clean up after. They also helped make beds for our overnight guests. Most recently the team was split into two shifts, several players went door to door in Arcata collecting items from local residents, despite the cold and rain. In the second shift, another group of players counted the donations from the past week that had been stored in the team's locker room and then personally delivered them to the Eureka Rescue Mission. Unified and committed, this group has made it their aim to increase their drive tallies for the last two weeks of the fall semester! Collecting clothing and food has been their objective to help alleviate the burden on the Mission during the winter months.

## A Wonderful Turkey Donation



The Rotary Club of Eureka, partnering with Safeway, donated 101 turkeys to the Eureka Rescue Mission! And, Triple AAA along with Pacific Towing dropped off 350 pounds of turkey to the Eureka Rescue Mission. Also, many individual community members brought in turkeys for the Holidays. These turkey donations covered both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals served at our shelter as well as helping us to provide nearly 200 Holiday food boxes for low income families. We also received a Holiday grant from Humboldt Area Foundation to purchase hams and all of the fixings for Holiday food boxes. Our boxes were full of everything needed to have a traditional holiday meal.

## Granada Residents



Volunteers from Granada Rehabilitation and Wellness Center in Eureka served food two days before Christmas at our Women and Children's Shelter. Residents of Granada prepare the food at their facility and then transport the food to the Mission. They are delighted to come in and excited to work together serving our women and children. Living in a care home oftentimes becomes lonely, leaving the residents without a sense of purpose in their lives. It is a win-win because it gives the residents something valuable to do and for the homeless women and children in our shelter, it makes it feel a little like home. The food is tasty and it is evident that they put a lot of time and effort into preparing it. It made Christmas even more of a celebration at the Shelter. Thank you Granada residents and God bless you all!

## Spreading Joy and Cheer



On December 14<sup>th</sup> the students from Redwood Christian School brought gifts and songs to the Eureka Rescue Mission. We are blessed and encouraged each year by their faithfulness to come and share Holiday cheer with us. Oftentimes many of our program members need to leave family in order to come to the program and get their lives together. It is times like these when children come to sing that gives our members encouragement through the holidays. Huge blessings and a big thank you to Redwood Christian School!

