

April Showers Annual Newsletter 2008

The Program

April Showers is the outreach program of the Interfaith Homelessness Network of San Leandro (IHN). IHN is comprised of eleven faith communities that provide volunteers and resources to aid the homeless in our city. April Showers operates at the Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the first, third and fifth Sunday of each month. Guests receive a towel, a packet of toiletries, and new underclothing and socks. They can also select articles from an array of used clothing. Guests also enjoy a sit-down lunch in the dining room. Volunteers provide hot soup, a bag lunch, pastries, and coffee. Guests can also obtain a laundry voucher that can be exchanged for a laundry wash and dry at a local laundromat.

Perhaps the most important commodities are the dignity and respect afforded everyone who comes to April Showers. The good spirit of the volunteers is greatly appreciated by the guests, who respond with respect as well.

IHN Members

All Saints Episcopal Church
Bethel Community Presbyterian Church
Church of the Assumption
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church

New Faith Full Gospel Fellowship Church
San Leandro Community Church
Saint Felicitas Catholic Church
Saint Leander's Catholic Church
St. Peter's Lutheran Church

2008 Highlights

- Growth is perhaps the key word to summarize the program in 2008. Average attendance at Showers leapt from 54 in 2007 to 67 in 2008. The growth was especially dramatic in the closing months of the year. From October 19th onward, average attendance was 88.5, and the one-day mark reached a record high of 103 guests.
- By looking at the laundry voucher data, we estimate that 456 different individuals came to the April Showers program last year. This is up from 286 in 2007. Since the beginning of the program, we estimate that 800 different guests have come to April Showers. We are at the same time sad that there is so much need in our community, but ever so glad that we are present to offer assistance.
- The laundry voucher program mentioned above is much appreciated by the guests. Nearly 6,000 have been issued since the beginning of the program.
- There was growth in services as well. We now have as many as three barbers working on Sundays, much to the delight of the guests. Also, the array of gently used clothing has grown significantly. The ongoing generosity of the community providing this clothing and also items such as sleeping bags and blankets is greatly appreciated.
- IHN has become a prominent advocate for the homeless in San Leandro, and we have thus grown in our impact on city planning. IHN was among the voices calling for low income housing through construction of the Crossings Project. Also, IHN is a key player in the EveryOne Home Plan – the countywide program to end homelessness. IHN volunteers regularly attend the planning meetings of this important project.

- Another significant event was the conducting another survey of the April Showers guests at the behest of the city government. A complete summary of the survey is forthcoming.
- We are grateful to Creekside Community Church for including IHN as a benefactor of its highly successful Craft Fair.
- In June, IHN held its third Choir Fest, an evening of music-making, fellowship, and raising funds for the program.
- The third annual Thanksgiving Day feast for the homeless was another joyous event. The enormous outpouring of goodwill and support made for a grand day of feasting and fellowship for everyone involved.

Statistics

As mentioned above, the April Showers program showed substantial growth during the year. Attached are some tables that show that growth. Some other estimated stats from the inception of the program: 6,000 towels laundered, 14,000 bowls of soup served, 20,000 pastries enjoyed.

Our spectacular volunteers:

Of course the program depends entirely on the goodwill of the marvelous April Showers volunteers. This past year, a typical Showers saw 8 churches represented by 29 smiling volunteers.

In total, the volunteers donated a stunning 2,700 hours – the equivalent of 337 8-hour days. The goodwill shared by these volunteers is beyond measure.

Hopes for the future:

Creation of a Day Center remains a goal for IHN. Further, we will continue to work within the web of the EveryOne Home Plan partner organizations to provide needed services. As consciousness for the plight of the homeless grows and stereotypes drop, IHN looks hopefully and works steadfastly toward the realization of the ultimate goal of the EveryOne Home plan – the end of homelessness in our county.

Our Thanks

The entire IHN community offers its thanks to Building Futures with Women and Children, under whose 501c3 status we operate, to the city of San Leandro for scheduling its pool locker space with us, and to the San Leandro Boys and Girls Club whose generosity in sharing their facilities cannot be overstated, and to the citizenry of San Leandro as we work together to end homelessness.

The Steering Committee
 Interfaith Homelessness Network
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**Interfaith Homelessness Network - April Showers Program
Fiscal 2008-
2009**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Lunch only</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Laundry Vouchers</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>
06-Jul-08	42	4	5	51	34	22
20-Jul	46	6	11	63	41	28
3-Aug	37	5	14	56	31	20
17-Aug	42	6	8	56	55	26
31-Aug	57	6	7	70	41	21
7-Sep	45	9	9	63	35	34
21-Sep	34	7	19	60	40	29
5-Oct	54	4	10	68	41	26
19-Oct	67	6	7	80	63	26
2-Nov	70	6	7	83	60	23
16-Nov	75	11	10	96	48	34
30-Nov	62	9	18	89	47	36
7-Dec	60	9	11	80	46	25
21-Dec	83	11	9	103	72	36
04-Jan-09	73	6	7	86	70	36
18-Jan	72	6	7	85	82	27
1-Feb	70	5	6	81	70	29
15-Feb	67	4	9	80	69	26
1-Mar	58	5	12	75	70	34
15-Mar	70	8	12	90	70	29
29-Mar	81	7	9	97	96	28
5-Apr	47	7	5	59	46	35
19-Apr	62	9	8	79	80	35
3-May	73	7	6	86	64	26
17-May	66	8	3	77	58	33
31-May	53	9	33	95	84	29
7-Jun	72	6	8	86	77	22
21-Jun	85	13	13	111	94	25

Avg	62	7	10	79	60	29
Total	1,723	199	283	2,205	1,684	800