



ECHO

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 14 ISSUE 3

FALL EDITION

2015

Better Times are Just Around the Corner

Shortly before baby Wyatt was born, his mother Amanda came to ECHO, homeless and looking for help.

After his birth, Wyatt remained a few weeks in a hospital incubator. Then the Mom and the newborn came to ECHO. Three months have passed and they are preparing to move into their new apartment. "ECHO gave us a lot of help during the past few months," Amanda said, "But most of all they gave us HOPE."

This summer six other families were housed as were 11 single adults. Among the adults were one veteran and two seniors.



The Mayors' Night Out

On Saturday night, August 29th, Mayor Steve Martin of Paso Robles and Mayor Tom O'Malley of Atascadero teamed up as chaperones (all night long) at ECHO. This was a repeat performance for both gentlemen who have volunteered in this capacity in the past.

In the picture they are shown by the Kiwanis sign which

adorns the new children's playground.

The mayors noted that since ECHO now has 4 large family rooms it seems more like a normal home environment for the clients while they look forward to better times. Their advice to future overnight chaperones.... "Step up to the plate to take a turn AND bring a good book."



NEIGHBORS TO MEET

On Sunday, November 8th between 1 and 3 pm the community is invited to tour the ECHO shelter (inside and out), enjoy a snack and discuss any concerns or suggestions you may have regarding our services. It is especially hoped that neighbors living close to ECHO will attend. These neighborhood meetings are held twice a year and this year it will be part of the Dignity Health's Fair at ECHO. We hope you can attend.

4th ANNUAL LONG WALK HOME



On Saturday, August 29th hundreds of ECHO fans gathered to walk the streets of Atascadero in support of the poor and ECHO's program of helping the homeless

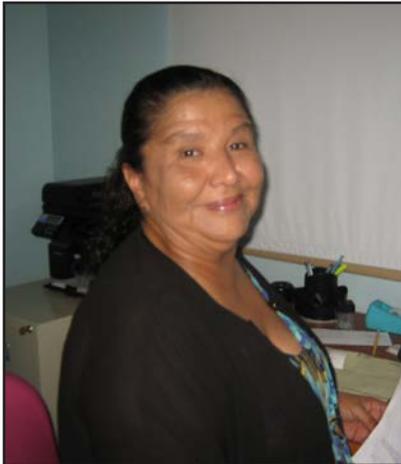
Dignitaries attending included Mayor Tom O'Malley, City Council Members, Roberta Fonzi, Heather Moreno, and Brian Sturdevant, and County Supervisor Debbie Arnold. Many churches and community organizations took part. The biggest delegations in attendance included, Atascadero Kiwanis, AAUW and

Atascadero & Paso Robles United Methodist Churches. We were fortunate in having two organizations who raised a significant amount of money for the event. They are Atascadero Kiwanis and Awakening Ways Spiritual Community. Each organization was awarded 7 dinners at Guest House Grill in Atascadero. The individual who raised the most money was Jan Price. We thank our event sponsors: Health and Harmony Media, Howard Products, Triple

7 Auction Company, Idler's Home Appliances, Guest House Grill, Supervisor Debbie Arnold, Healthy Inspirations, Andros Engineering, SLO Motion Shoes, Heritage Oaks Bank, Leavitt Family Dental, SESLOC Federal Credit Union, Atascadero News, Paso Robles Press, Mark Kowall, M.D., Atascadero A&W, Asdel Arts Counseling Center, Kennedy Club Fitness and Atascadero 76.

Approximately \$33,000 was raised this year.

New Faces at ECHO



In September our new Shelter Coordinator, Sylvia Licea began her duties at ECHO.

Sylvia will be in charge of monitoring the activities during the meal operations throughout the week. She will over-see the campus between 4:00 and 7pm during the meal time until our clients are safely in their bed areas. We

depend upon the Shelter Coordinator to see that new guests are carefully screened and that beds are assigned. Sylvia will be supervising the clients, in-take volunteers, meal providers, outdoor monitors, overnight orientors, and overnight volunteers.

Sylvia grew up in the Salinas area attending Hartnell college where she received her AA degree in social work. With her passion for helping those in need this career was a natural fit, and she has over ten years of experience in the field. Sylvia now lives in Paso Robles. She is the mother of two children, Olivia (31) and Roman (27). Her hobbies include shopping with her daughter, interior design and cooking. Sylvia learned that ECHO needed help when she saw our ad on Craig's List. She enjoys working with our small staff and very large group of volunteers. Since Sylvia is bi-lingual she is of great help in seeing everything runs smoothly in two languages.

Welcome to ECHO, Sylvia!



Kevin Reeder assumed the position of Case Manager at ECHO in July. He will work alongside ECHO's other Case Manager, Eloisa Medina, to see that all our families and individuals have a plan in place to lift themselves out of their homeless situation and into a new home within three months of

coming to ECHO. The Case Managers provide clients with various resources during their stay at the shelter, such as bus passes, phone cards, gas, and laundry vouchers which assist clients in their search for stable income and housing. The Case Mangers also connect the clients with a variety of other local service organizations.

Kevin grew up in Los Osos and finished high school in Atascadero when his family moved to our community. He attended Cuesta College and the University of Phoenix. Kevin has one sister, Sheila who lives in Fullerton. He helps care for his mother Vonda. He and his dog Roscoe enjoy fishing and motorcycle riding. Kevin became aware of our shelter when we bought our property from the First Baptist Church. He also works for transitional Food and Shelter and has helped at North County Connections.

We need a handyman

You know you have the skills...
 You know you have the tools....
 You know you want to help the poor....

Please call Mimi at 462-3667

to volunteer a few hours a month helping out at the shelter.



One man's junk.....

is another man's treasure

When cleaning out your closets and your garage, remember to take your treasures to Gatherings' Thrift Store and North County Christian Thrift Store. Both of these businesses contribute generously to ECHO.

Mailing Address:

**El Camino Homeless Organization
 P.O. Box 2077, Atascadero, CA 93423
 462-FOOD (3663)**

Who Has Been Helped

	Meals Served	Beds Provided
May	1666	1150
June	1595	973
July	1588	803
Aug	1513	852

Since ECHO began, 220,996 hot meals have been served and 125,339 beds provided.

(Sometimes in motels)

Visit our Website: www.ECHOshelter.net

A Night Out at the Movies



Join us for a screening of "Pay It Forward," with an introduction by author Catherine Ryan Hyde.

Ms. Hyde is a local novelist and short story writer. Her 28 novels have enjoyed bestseller status in both the U.S. and U.K., and her short stories have won many awards and honors. Her book *Pay It Forward* was adapted into this movie and her novel *Electric God* is currently in development.

Tuesday October 20, 2015
Park Cinema Paso Robles, 7p.m.

\$18 if purchased before October 15
\$20 after or at the door

Benefit for ECHO & Congregation Ohr Tzafon

To reserve your seat, send a check payable to ECHO to our mailing address:
P.O. Box 2077
Atascadero, CA 93423 or call 466-0678

Order online at www.echoshelter.net using a credit card!

Please save the date of **Tuesday night, October 20th** and meet your friends at the Park Cinema in Paso Robles for a special showing of the film: [Pay It Forward](#) starring Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt and Haley Joel Osment. The author of the book, Catherine Ryan Hyde lives locally and she will introduce the film and share her motivation for creating the book and helping to see it become a movie in 2000.

The evening will begin with wine tasting, and visiting with friends at 6:30. Mrs. Hyde will speak and introduce her film at 7pm.

Tickets are \$18 when purchased in advance (\$20 at the door). To reserve a seat please call Charlotte Byrne at 466-0678. The proceeds will benefit the good work done by ECHO and by Congregation Ohr Tzafon in Atascadero.

Job Search Workshop

One of ECHO's primary goals in encouraging clients to gain self-sufficiency is to help them establish a stable income. To this end, a Job Search Workshop was started in November 2014, to provide resources for the able-bodied unemployed.

In the workshop, students are given information on where to look for work, how to fill out an application online and off, and how to write an attention-getting resume and cover letter. They are prepared to meet employers by rehearsing common interview questions and promoting a professional image. In addition, they are taught how to keep a job once they've been hired. Class participation is encouraged, and students trade information on available jobs and employers.

The workshop meets every Tuesday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 in the Resource Room, and is taught by volunteer Kathleen Brintnall, a former Employment Resource Specialist with the Department of Social Services.

During the first year of offering the Job's Search workshop, all 30 people who took part were successful in finding employment.

New Bathroom Takes Shape

It is a long walk from our dining area on the rear of our property to the restrooms located close to the front. When people dining at ECHO wish to visit the restroom they need an escort to unlock the facilities and supervise.

Our new restroom will open onto the patio and will be a unisex, ADA accessible facility.

Gary Miyamoto designed the plans and Weimann Construction Co. won the bid and began work on September 1st. We hope to be complete by November of this year.

THE VOICE BEHIND ECHO'S SUCCESS



Since December 10, 2001 our shelter has been open overnight for the homeless. Each night we have had at least two chaperons to assure our guests have a safe night. For ten of those years we have depended upon Patty Stewart to schedule and to remind those chaperones by phone.

It is a very stressful job to say the least, especially since the phone sometimes rings late in the afternoon and Patty learns of an unexpected cancellation.

To give you an idea of the extent of this job, since ECHO opened until the end of September this year we have offered shelter for 5,039 consecutive nights. Those nights have been supervised by more than 10,000 volunteers. We can assure you those volunteers felt tired but happy the next morning (happy to be able to help the poorest people in the north county.)

At the ECHO Board Meeting, September 10th we thanked Patty for her years of service. She and her husband Russ are cutting back on their jobs to enjoy some of the fun of retirement years.