



Fall 2014 Issue

HAVEN OF PEACE

"A safe & caring place for tonight; Hope, support and change for tomorrow."



HAVEN OF PEACE WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Jodie Sheffield /President
Ray Caparros/Vice President
Beth Ossino/Secretary
Catherine Rodgers/Treasurer

Sister Ann Britto
Becky Deal
Vicky Escalante
David Derksen
Pamela Dyer
Marcia Elam

Executive Director
Olga Rodriguez

SAVE THE DATE

Blessings of Brenda
Going Away Soirée



Fri – Dec 5

Super Bowl Raffle



Thurs – Dec 11

8th Annual Crab Feed



Fri - Feb 13, 2015

IN THE KNOW!!!

The Haven of Peace served 589 residents, to include 282 single women, 123 mothers & 184 children from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014; During this time, over 47,000 nutritious meals were served.

It is an honor for me to be the new Executive Director at the Haven of Peace. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve and provide hope through the Lord, Jesus Christ, to all the women and children who enter the doors of this great organization.

I look forward to fulfilling the Haven's Mission, which is to provide women and their children with the necessary tools for them to become self-sufficient and to introduce them to the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Haven of Peace doors have been open for over fifty-five years,

making a positive difference in the lives of thousands of women and children in San Joaquin County.

It has been a pleasure meeting and working with the Haven of Peace staff. I am excited to grow alongside my new Haven family, building and enhancing this great organization and taking it to the next level.

As Jeremiah 29:11 states: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

Therefore, we will follow the Lord's plan to

continue to do His work. Please keep the Haven of Peace staff, women and children in your daily prayers.

Thank you and may God bless you.

Olga Rodriguez



Olga Rodriguez
Executive Director

FINAL WORDS FROM OUR OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BRENDA CASTELLANOS

They say if you love what you do, you never work a day in your life! That is how my seven years as the Executive Director of Haven of Peace have been for me; It has been my ministry and my passion. I was blessed to have had the privilege and opportunity to serve the homeless women and children in our community. I entered the Haven in 2007, just when the economic downturn began, which was a challenge. In 2011, our doors were in jeopardy of closing, but with the grace of God and much prayer, we have prospered. Many blessings have been bestowed on us by way of facility improvements and expanded services to our clients.

God has prepared me for my next journey in life, to own and manage D Thrift Store. The thrift store collects donations in the name of Haven of Peace and a percentage of sales are contributed to the shelter. The previous owner wanted to close the store, so I purchased the business to ensure that the Haven continues to receive that revenue. The yearly income from D Thrift Store is needed to sustain the day-to-day operations of Haven of Peace.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of the board members, past and present, to the staff and to all the donors and supporters of Haven of Peace, whom I have had the pleasure to

work with and create wonderful relationships. Thank you for all that you have done for the shelter and for making an impact on the lives of the women and children that have been faithfully and lovingly served for the past seven years!

I look forward to continuing my relationship with Haven of Peace, but now as a major fundraiser. The passion and the love for what I do are still within me, so I am enjoying my new endeavor. Please continue to pray and support Haven of Peace and please keep me in your prayers. Come and see me at D Thrift Store 7912 West Lane Stockton, CA 95210. Call me anytime at 209/470-1015. Blessings!



AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT...JODIE SHEFFIELD

WOW! God has been at work at the Haven of Peace! This year has been moving by so fast and we have so much to share with all of you, our faithful supporters.

As the Board President, I am thrilled and honored to extend our greetings in this newsletter, which has been put together by our very own Rosie Bunch. She is talented beyond measure!

Here at the Haven of Peace, we do not serve numbers and statistics, but individual women and children with passions, dreams and struggles; Each with a story that is unique and different.

We all know how the great recession impacted the homeless, and reports have stated that homelessness numbers are down. I wish that were true for the Haven; Our shelter remains at maximum capacity.

We are busy preparing for this holiday season and we need funds to make the shelter a true home for the holidays! So I ask you, would

you please take a moment right now to pray and ask God what He would have you do to transform the life of others? The Christmas season can be magical at the Haven, but we need your help to make it happen.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to our former Executive Director, Brenda Castellanos, for seven wonderful years of service to the Haven of Peace. If you have had the opportunity to meet or speak with Brenda, you know what a servant's heart she has, sharing her love for the Haven everywhere she goes. We experienced significant growth under Brenda's leadership; Increasing awareness of the HoP (as she calls our shelter) and developing programs and services over the years. All of which has helped to keep our doors open.

On behalf of our current and former Board of Directors, it has been an honor and privilege to work alongside Brenda. We wish her all the blessings God has to offer her in the future.

Looking forward, God has been faithful and has answered our prayers for a new Executive Director in the form of Olga Rodriguez. In a short time, she has jumped in and accomplished great things on behalf of the Haven. The future is bright for the Haven of Peace and I look forward to sharing with you the many ways our Lord has used His new vessel to bring hope and love into the lives of our residents.

"Being confident of this that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:6

AMEN!



Sandra Mares w/John & Thomas



Finding Myself . . . The Sandra Mares Story

I was living and working in San Francisco with my husband and young son, Thomas, trying to maintain the appearance that everything was okay. In fact, my home life was unstable; Arguing, jealousy, control with verbal and emotional abuse was a daily occurrence. For years I knew this wasn't the way I wanted to live, much less raise a child. But I had an alcohol and drug problem that kept me from realizing my full potential as a human being and as a mother.

I was stuck in the cycle of alcohol and drug addiction and domestic violence. I learned I was pregnant shortly after my son, Thomas, was taken by my husband signing over parental rights without my consent! Immediately I got myself into a rehabilitation program. After nine months of being clean and sober and delivering a healthy, drug-free baby boy, John, it soon became obvious that my sons' father was not going to do what he needed to do for our children. That meant that I would be continuing this journey without him, so I moved to Stockton to get Thomas back. Fortunately, Thomas was living with his grandmother in San Joaquin County and

from the day he was taken, it was my mission to get him back!

In March of 2014, after staying with family for a couple of days, I started looking for shelters that would take me and John. I called the Haven of Peace and they had room for us. When I first got there, I was frightened and unsure; But I was also optimistic for the future because I knew that all the fighting and yelling and emotional pain that I was experiencing at home was finally over. I could begin to move forward and rebuild my life the way I saw fit, with both of my children!

Six weeks after coming to the Haven of Peace, I regained custody of Thomas. I cannot express how happy I was to have both of my children together, watching them interact and play, while building memories of their childhood. I will always remember that as one of the best times of my life!

My next mission was to secure permanent housing. With the help of my Haven of Peace Case Manager, Hilda Bohacek, I was approved for Central Valley Low Income Housing. Because

of the savings program at Haven, we had some money saved and I was able to pay the deposit on an apartment and get some things we needed to be comfortable there. After four months at the Haven of Peace, Thomas, John and I moved into our own place!

I learned a lot of things at the Haven that I still use in our new home. We eat dinner at the same time every night, I do at least one chore every morning before leaving the house and on Saturdays, I still do "Four Corners" and clean the entire apartment. The structure has made the transition to our own home easier for me and the boys.

Now my children are in school and daycare and I am participating in Welfare-to-Work. I was just offered a job and I am confident that I am solidly on my way to self-sufficiency. I needed some help to get started with my new life, and Haven of Peace was there to give me that help. For that, I am truly grateful!

Sandra Mares



Haven of Peace Recognizes . . .

VOLUNTEER SPOT LIGHT LARRY OSTROM



We would like to express our appreciation to Larry Ostrom for his years of dedication, support and donation of time and services for the well-being of the Haven of Peace. Larry has ensured our water system is safe and operational, while also acting as an expert advocate on our behalf.

Thank you, Larry, for answering the call. Your generosity has been sincere and unwavering. May God bless you for all you have done!



20 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE BETTY LANEY



Betty Laney
Lead House Coordinator

On Monday, November 03, 2014, a special luncheon was held to honor Betty Laney for twenty years of faithful service to the Haven of Peace; Family, coworkers and the Haven Auxiliary joined in the festivities to celebrate Betty!



Giving Opportunities



- Monthly Donations: These donations help to meet our daily needs.
- Mission Giving: The Mission Field is in your own backyard; Why not add the Haven as a line item to your church budget!
- United Way: Donate through payroll deductions designating the Haven of Peace.
- In-Kind Donations: Donate goods or services.
- Year-End Giving: Enjoy the 2014 tax benefit and bless the women and children of the Haven.
- Memorial Gifts & Bequests: In remembrance of your loved one(s) or to honor a special person.
- Fund Raising: Support the Haven by participating in all of our fundraising events or host an event to support the Shelter.
- Donate Items to the Haven: Haven Business Partner "D Thrift" will collect your items; Contact their pick-up line @ **209/478-2243**.
- Volunteer: Give the Haven of Peace your time and talents; Contact the Haven @ **209/982-0396**.



Save Yourself Time – Donate On-Line!
www.havenofpeaceinc.org
Like Us on Facebook!



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Telephone #209/982-0396 † Fax #209/234-1010 † Website <http://www.havenofpeaceinc.org>

209/982-0396

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OUR NEEDS LIST ITEMS

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!



PERSONAL ITEMS:

Diapers (sizes 3 – 6), Baby Wipes, Baby Bottles, Bottle Brushes, Women's Underwear, Shampoo, Conditioner, Hair Combs & Brushes, Deodorant, Razors, Soap, Sanitary Napkins & Tampons, Over-the-Counter Medications for Adults and Children

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Volunteers, Gift Cards for Groceries, Target, Wal-Mart, CVS and Smart & Final, Regional Transit District (RTD) Bus Passes and Postage Stamps

NEW or GENTLY USED:

Pillows, Blankets, Comforters, Twin-Size Sheets & Pillowcases, Bath Towels, Wash Cloths, Pots & Pans, Flatware, Plates, Cups and Cooking Utensils

There are many ways you can help the Haven by dropping off the items listed to the right at our French Camp shelter location.

