

Fresh Start Thanks

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ROTARY CLUBS: San Ramon • Sunrise Walnut Creek • Lafayette • Rossmoor • Orinda • Danville • Sheriff Emeritus Charley Plummer of Alameda County • Sherriff Emeritus Warren Ruf of Contra Costa County • United States Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) CREEK KIDS CARE • Ygnacio Valley Lions Club



St. Pauls Episcopal Church Walnut Creek
Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Alamo
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville
Congregation B'NAI TIKVAH Walnut Creek
Temple Isaiah, Lafayette
Congregation B'NAI SHALOM, Walnut Creek
Community of Christ Church Walnut Creek
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
St. Anselm's Episcopal Church Lafayette
Walnut Avenue United Methodist Church
St. Mary's Catholic Church Walnut Creek



Remembering with Gratitude

Susan Prather, 1950-2008
Founder & Human Rights
Advocate Forever Unmatched

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Cathy Grossman • Sean Potts, BS

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Email: freshstartwc@comcast.net

Justice • Dignity • Community • Solidarity
FRESH START WALNUT CREEK



FRESH START

Opening Doors for all of us...

Fresh Start is a 501(c)(3) public charity serving the homeless and sheltered poor, whether working, unemployed, underemployed or uncouncted.

The beauty of Fresh Start is that everyone is equal and all are respected.

2011-2012

cut here



They need our help...the homeless, those at risk of becoming homeless, the unemployed, and the working poor.

Here's my tax-deductible contribution to provide urgently-needed food, services, and other items to the growing number of poor Americans served by...

Fresh Start Walnut Creek.

___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$500 ___Other

___Check enclosed or via ___PayPal @

Freshstartwc.org

From: _____

Join our mailing list, please provide email:

Fresh Start Mission

Fresh Start Provides

- A safe, quiet, peaceful atmosphere with a living room for visiting, two rooms and an outside area for communal meals, showers and laundry facilities.
- Breakfast, snacks, a substantial and nutritious lunch/dinner, and food to take for later.
- A food pantry offering primarily canned and packaged foods and refrigerators containing bottled water and other beverages.
- A garden providing fresh produce.
- A clothing shed, also including footwear & personal care items. Medical clinic, optical assistance, haircuts, phones, use of Fresh Start's mailing address, DMV ID assistance, bus and bart tickets, funds for gas and when available: vehicle repairs and car insurance. (Many homeless citizens live in their vehicles.)
- Personalized case management, job-seeking aid, help pertaining to government aid applications and transportation assistance (e.g., rides to medical appointments and job interviews). When funds are available: motel vouchers and homelessness prevention support (e.g., assistance regarding the payment of rent and/or utilities).

Non-Shelter Amelioration: Living outside is difficult. We provide tents, sleeping bags, tarps, water, food, and other items necessary to keep people healthy and warm while living outside. Police agencies tell us that our work in this area lessens the impact of homelessness on the community and reduces petty theft.

Rights Advocacy: Defending the constitutional rights of homeless Americans, especially pertaining to those situated in encampments. This includes assistance relating to the completion of claims versus governmental agencies for the illegal taking and destruction of the private property of those who find themselves homeless.

Kids in School: FSWC keeps homeless children in school by advocating on their behalf with school districts to ensure conformance with state laws and guidelines applicable to homeless children. FSWC assists with school supplies, books, food and school clothes.

The mission of Fresh Start includes empowering and serving homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless in the San Francisco Bay Area, especially Contra Costa County.

Further, Fresh Start's mission is to assist the aforementioned constituencies in arresting their downward spiral by rebuilding their self-esteem and providing the advocacy services necessary to interact successfully with the current system of poverty management provided by governmental agencies and other social service providers.

In general, Fresh Start's mission includes serving the homeless and sheltered poor, whether working, unemployed, underemployed or uncouneted.

Fresh Start's Most Significant Activities

Fresh Start accomplishes its mission by providing a respite and service center, a homelessness prevention program, non-shelter amelioration, financial assistance and a human rights advocacy project.

100,000 HOMELESS VETERANS

On any given night more than 100,000 veterans are homeless



Nationally, the department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that on any given night more than 100,000 veterans are homeless with double that number experiencing homelessness in the course of a year....Conservatively, the National Council for Homeless Veterans estimates that one out of three homeless men sleeping in a doorway, alley, box, etc. in US cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served the country...About half of homeless veterans served during the Vietnam years. At Fresh Start we are beginning to see disturbing numbers of veterans recently back from Iraq and Afghanistan living in cars or couch surfing with family, friends or wherever they can find cover. Your generosity, will help Fresh Start better serve our veterans.

"We would like to extend our thanks to your organization for the great work you have done and continue to do for the community." To Fresh Start from Gene J. Wilson, Chairman, Rossmoor Rotary Foundation, June 6, 2011

"The services and benefits I receive at Fresh Start are far above anything I've ever received at other respite centers for poor people. You're the only agency worth going to in Contra Costa County." Robert Corrigan, FSWC participant, 6-13-2011

Fresh Start's Last Fourteen Years

During the past fourteen years Fresh Start has raised more than \$2.3 million in cash donations and more than \$1.2 million in in-kind donations. Fresh Start has utilized these contributions in accordance with its mission, as mandated by its IRC section 501 (c)(3) public charity status.

Fresh Start Facts

- ❖ The number of participants at Fresh Start has increased significantly over the past four years.
- Fresh Start does not accept government funding. We depend on your kindness.
- The Executive Director of Fresh Start is uncompensated, and he relies on virtually an all-volunteer staff.
- Most of Fresh Start's management and staff are retired after distinguished careers, and hold either advanced degrees and/or professional certification.
- 42% of FSWC participants are mentally ill. FSWC participants residing in Contra Costa County receive little or no support from the Contra Costa Mental Health Division and its Homeless Program.
- Among Fresh Start's participants are Wal-Mart workers. Though underemployed at a minimum wage, official government data includes these individuals among the "employed."
- Nationally, 45% of food stamp recipients are employed. Many Wal-Mart workers receive food stamps.

Fresh Start Walnut Creek

