



Why Join our People Helping People Team of Supporters?

20,000 times! That's how many times the Torres Community Shelter provided a safe, clean place for people to stay in 2009! That is quite an accomplishment, especially when there was some serious doubt during the fall of 2008 whether or not we'd be able to continue to operate at all. We hadn't received a major portion of our funding (a two year federal grant that's called FESG for \$100,000 per year) and we had to come to our community with the proverbial "tin cup in hand". As part of our efforts to find a stable source of income for the shelter, we launched our People Helping People (PHP) campaign last year during that time of crisis.

Our community responded far beyond our expectations and between PHP and other donations and fundraising events, the Torres Community Shelter is now in a better financial state than it's been for years. We were also able to secure a new FESG grant this past year and so our \$100,000 per year has been restored for two years. As wonderful as this sounds, this fantastic news needs to be put into context. **It takes about \$360,000 annually to run the Torres Community Shelter, about \$1,000 per day.** This covers all the needs of our 120 bed emergency shelter and allows us to provide all of the basic necessities of each of our Guests (bed, clothing, heat, laundry, showers, electricity, food, and mail service) in addition to vitally important case management, and assistance in accessing social services.

Although our financial situation has improved considerably from last year, we are far from secure. We have enough funding for the next 5-7 months. Again, this is a better situation than it's been for quite awhile, but we need to take our long term funding seriously so that we can plan and know we'll be able to fulfill the promise we make to every Guest that we will be here for them.

In 2009, even without a lot of organized recruitment, our PHP program grew from zero (0) to one hundred and three (103) wonderful people giving \$2,307.50 per month. By the end of 2010, we'd love to see all of our current basic operating costs covered by PHP donors, but we'd also be quite pleased with the more attainable goal of \$10,000 of our \$30,000 per month expenses covered through the PHP campaign.

These are big numbers and so we'd like to break it down to demonstrate how possible this is. All of our basic operating expenses for the year would be covered if we had:

- **3000 people or businesses giving \$10 per month (\$120 each per year)**
- **300 people or businesses giving \$100 per month (\$1,200 each per year)**
- **30 people or businesses giving \$1,000 per month (\$12,000 each per year)**

In our caring community there are more than 218,000 people in Butte County alone. Add in the other counties like Tehama County and Glenn County, where a number of our supporters live, and the number of people in our area gets quite high. Finding 3,000 monthly donors seems possible. **Please be one of them!**

As an emergency shelter, we deal with crisis everyday as part of our normal operations. Crisis is inherent in the services we provide. However, it's important that we start to separate the daily crisis inherent in serving our Guests from a crisis-driven approach to our fundraising. **We need to be stable to provide stability.** A strong PHP membership would go a long way to providing that stability. Please consider joining our PHP team.