



## **THE WINTER FAITH COLLABORATIVE**

***The Winter Faith Collaborative is an interfaith movement that was formed to share ideas and advocate for the house-less community.*** We are a grassroots, volunteer run and funded organization, formed for the purpose of engaging faith communities to offer shelter and form a relationship with the unhoused community. Our ultimate goal is ensuring everyone is housed. Until then however, we guide and encourage communities to offer temporary housing in the winter months when the potential loss of life is at its greatest. We offer a sense of belonging to individuals who are normally shunned. In doing so, faith communities are living out the tenets of their faith. **We have engaged over 75 faith communities across Santa Clara County and need YOUR HELP to shelter, volunteer, or donate!**

### **Collaborative Opportunities for Faith Communities**

- **Overnight Sheltering:** Sheltering people nightly either the entire winter season or in rotation with other communities.
- **Daytime Drop-In Center:** Open during the day, people visit to keep warm, rest, use restrooms, computers, cell charging, receive food and water.
- **Safe Parking:** Safe place to park for those who live in their car, including use of bathrooms, showers, electricity, water and meals.

### **Totals from our First 2016 Season:**

- 16 faith communities offered shelter
  - 11 overnight shelters
  - 3 daytime drop in centers
  - 2 safe car parks
- 258 individual guests served
- 38,660 individual meals served
- 1600+ volunteers
- 54,320 volunteer hours

*For the guests* - we offer an alternative model from the traditional shelter that can often feel cold and impersonal. Our communities foster a home/family like atmosphere where dignity, respect, hope, and love are given.

*For the volunteers* - we offer a transformative experience. By engaging with the guests through sharing a meal and hearing their stories, misconceptions of who the unsheltered are break down. It is realized that we are all part of the community- regardless of housing status.

**Questions?** *Come to our Meetings:* 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. 1550 Meridian Ave. SJ from 6:30-8pm. *Email:* [winterfaithcollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:winterfaithcollaborative@gmail.com) or *Call* (408) 345-5351  
*Visit:* <https://faithcollaborative.wordpress.com> or <https://www.facebook.com/winterfaithcollaborative>  
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