



# The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

Rev. Aaron McEmrys, Parish Minister  
 Rev. Julia Hamilton, Assistant Minister  
 Rev. John Alexie Crane, Minister Emeritus  
 Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration  
 LeeAnn Williams, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

November 18, 2013

Sue Gray  
 Community Development Business Manager  
 City of Santa Barbara  
 630 Garden Street  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Sue,

As you may know, the Freedom Warming Centers have grown from a small grass roots effort begun in 2009 to an efficient and vital program serving thousands of our neighbors without homes throughout all of Santa Barbara County.

**The mission of Freedom Warming Centers is to relieve suffering and save lives for our neighbors without homes by providing shelter on nights of inclement weather conditions.**

In May 2013, the *Santa Barbara Homeless Death Review* reported a 25% decrease in homeless deaths. In the *Santa Barbara Independent* (May 9, 2013) Dr. David Lennon reported, "To that end, 190 previously homeless people are now in housing through multi-agency programs focused on the homeless population. Also helping are programs like the homeless warming centers that pop up around the county whenever inclement or cold weather strikes, getting the homeless out of the wet and cold, even if temporarily."

The winter of 2012-2013 the Freedom Warming Centers provided shelter countywide to **4,184** (duplicated and unduplicated clients ) including emancipated foster youth, those with mental illness, the physically disabled, those with chronic terminal illness, unemployed, underemployed, safe parking program participants, dual diagnosed and substance abusers, those just released from jail, senior citizens, and veterans for **48** nights. We accepted couples, families and their pets. We saw an overall increase of 32% in the number of individuals served compared to last year; and added 13 additional nights.

This summer and fall conversations between the Freedom Warming Center administration and C3H were held due to concerns related to the change in Casa Esperanza sobriety policy and other service providers who find their shelters already at capacity. These conversations have legitimized a need for an emergency overflow plan to permit Warming Center beds and sites to maintain a safe environment for our guests, staff, volunteers and neighborhoods.

The result of this conversation is that we have secured an emergency overflow site at Presidio Springs through the Santa Barbara Housing Authority.

We are asking that the City of Santa Barbara consider a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for the 2013-2014 winter season to support the costs of an overflow site for when our church sites have reached capacity. Your contribution will be used exclusively for our work in the City of Santa Barbara and assist us with three main objectives:

- Fund the pilot emergency overflow site at Presidio Springs.
- Save the lives and reduce suffering of the unsheltered homeless who find themselves turned away when church sites have reached capacity, and reduce their impact on emergency services and businesses in the downtown corridor.
- Assist us in securing additional funding from the County of Santa Barbara to fund this overflow site

Our estimated budget for the overflow site is:

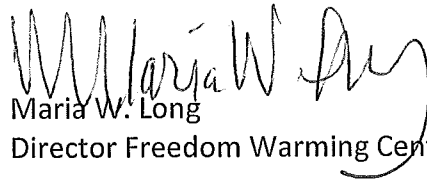
<b>Overflow Site Budget</b>	
<b>2013-2014 Santa Barbara</b>	
<b>Program Coordination</b>	\$ 3,000
<b>1 Staff Lead 50 nights</b>	\$ 10,200
<b>2 On Call Staff 40 nights</b>	\$ 15,360
<b>Supplies</b>	\$ 2,000
<b>Transportation</b>	\$ 5,600
<b>Insurance &amp; Admin Fee</b>	\$ 4,701
	\$ 40,861

Thank you for your consideration of funding this critical need for our community.

Sincerely,



Nancy Edmundson  
Fiscal Agent, Freedom Warming Centers



Maria W. Long  
Director Freedom Warming Centers