

## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

August 14-20, 2020

### IN OUR OWN BACKYARD - Part 42



*Sketch courtesy of Clip Art*

### **I-HELP's 2020 PASTA WITH THE PASTORS WITHOUT THE PASTORS**

**By Wanda Sue Parrott**

**RAISING** funds at the annual Pasta with The Pastors benefit for the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP) won't be the usual gala event in San Carlos Cathedral's dining hall, since practically no one will be there.

If successful, bulk of I-HELP's operational costs for the forthcoming year will be raised through the first-ever virtual Zoom feast next Thurs., Aug. 20, 6 p.m.–7 p.m.

For 30 years, I-HELP has been providing overnight shelter, dinner and breakfast to homeless men of the Monterey Peninsula; for nearly five of those years, homeless women have also benefitted in like kind. The August feast is I-HELP's annual communitywide fundraiser.

I-HELP is operated by tax exempt organization Outreach Unlimited, 501(C)(3), Tax ID #3934212.

The I-HELP board of Directors is Karen Araujo, Rosemarie Axton, Mitch Davis, Toby Finnegan, Ruth Ann Flowers, Marissa Kobylenski, Jan Mason, and Mary Tuienga, one of whom shared a succulent recipe for do-it-yourself chefs.

### **What's On The Menu?**

Previous August feasts featured friendly sit-down Italian dinners in the cavernous community room at San Carlos Cathedral in Monterey where the din of voices buzzed like an a cappella choir tuning up for a talk concert that entered hushed silence when the fabulous choir led by Robin McKee Williams took the stage.

Last year people marched New Orleans style around the tables to "When the Saints Come Marching In." This year, sweeter shelter-in-place sounds will serve a Zoom box banquet of vocal voom with "Amazing Grace" and "Wade in the Water." Homeless as well as sheltered singers and musicians comprise this extraordinarily gifted choir.

Instead of running from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. in order to accommodate a steady stream of diners, this year's treat-and-eat event will last from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. While diners feast on fare of their choice (home crafted, frozen or takeout), the program will be in progress, starting with testimonials by homeless people who've benefitted from I-HELP, followed by a program overview and keynote address by Mary Adams, Monterey County's District 5 Supervisor.

### **From PB&J Sandwiches To Spaghetti**

Traditionally, pasta meals were prepared and served by both peninsula clergy and I-HELP guests. but this year's fare is your choice—along with busing your own table. If peanut butter appeals, yum. Or, how about this pasta specialty shared by board member Mary Tuinenga.

#### ***Spaghetti a La Carbonara***

*Ingredients: 1 pound spaghetti*

*4 eggs (beaten)*

*1 pound bacon (cut into small squares)*

*1½ Cups grated Parmesan cheese*

*1 medium onion (chopped)*

*2 Tablespoons chopped parsley*

*1 glass white wine*

*1 teaspoon black pepper*

Directions: Fry bacon chips. When ½ done, add chopped onion and continue to cook. When almost done, pour off most of the fat and add 1 cup of wine. Continue to simmer until wine evaporates. While cooking spaghetti al dente, combine eggs, cheese, parsley and pepper in a large bowl. As soon as spaghetti is done, drain and immediately pour it into the egg mixture. Stir it with two forks while the eggs cook onto the hot spaghetti. Add the bacon mixture and stir. Serve immediately. If it is too dry, add some milk, cream, or butter.

### **Help Wanted And Needed**

According to the July I-HELP Newsletter, guests of the men's and women's programs are staying 24/7 during Covid-19 Sheltering-In-Place (SIP), so three meals a day, rather than just two, are provided to both genders' church sites.

Program participants are down between one-third to one-half since SIP began last spring, men averaging around 10-12 and women between 4-5 each day.

Turnover is apparently greater with women than men, including among monitors. This ad for a part-time position that pays \$12 per hour ran in the July I-HELP Newsletter and remains on its website.

“We are seeking a highly qualified individual to serve as Monitor two or more days OR nights per week for the women's component of the Monterey-area Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP).”

“Experience working with homeless or disadvantaged women is helpful, as well as the ability to communicate sensitively and productively with women across a wide range of ages and life experiences. During the coronavirus pandemic, I-HELP has two monitor shifts, day and night. The Monitor may be asked to work either the day or night shift. The Monitor is trained and supervised by the women's Program Coordinator. The evening portion of the night shift is normally 4 p.m.–10 p.m., but the monitor will sleep overnight at the site for

the security of the women (unpaid 8 hours). . . the monitor will serve the evening meal and supervise dish washing and clean-up chores.

“The morning portion of the night shift includes responsibilities for breakfast set-up and ends at 8 a. m. The day shift (normally 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.) assigns and supervises chores and activities, prepares and serves lunch and accompanies the women to pre-approved outings. Shift times could be adjusted to accommodate the right candidate.”

For details about I-HELP visit <http://www.ihelpmontereybay.org> or call (Women) 831-393-5154 or (Men) 831-205-3496.

Only women should apply for the Monitor position!

### **Mark Your Calendar**

Pasta with the Pastors will start promptly at 6 p. m., Thurs., Aug. 20. Please check in by 5:45 p.m.

For the Zoom link and Channel 24 access information, click [Zoom](#).

Queries may be made from [ihelpmonterey@gmail.com](mailto:ihelpmonterey@gmail.com) or 831-251-8663. Donations may be sent via snail mail to I-HELP, P. O. Box 413, Monterey, CA 93942 and by clicking this link [Donation](#)

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About this Column: “Homeless in Paradise” is a free public service self-funded and produced by the author. During the Covid-19 pandemic, this column appears regularly on the last week of each month in the Cedar Street Times at [www.cedarstreettimes.com](http://www.cedarstreettimes.com) (and as periodic FLASH columns like this one).

It also appears on Facebook, in Nextdoor and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to the contact info below.)

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