

Shelter Network

1) How has the current economy affected the need of services that you give to the community?

Shelter Network is experiencing a four-fold increase in the need for our temporary housing and support services. The waiting list to enter our programs climbed to an unprecedented high of 170 families last year and we continue to field a daunting average of over 881 calls per week from people who need our help.

2) How has the current economy affected the donations of goods and services that your organization receives?

We have seen a small decline in the donation of goods and services. The larger decline has been in financial contributions.

3) How have the services that your organization provides to the community affected our local economy?

Shelter Network is an asset to the local economy in several ways. First, because the agency encourages its clients to attain employment and secure market rate housing, clients rarely become overly dependent on entitlement programming. Rather, they work (although most frequently at relatively low paying, service sector jobs), save money, and quickly identify housing.

Second, agency clients most frequently secure employment at local businesses. They work at Target and Costco, almost every local supermarket and many of the local hotels. In this way, our client population provides a reliable workforce for local businesses.

Third, many area landlords are eager to rent to Shelter Network clients. The agency maintains a database of approximately 55 landlords who regularly rent to agency clients. These are, by and large, market rate rentals, and rent paid by agency clients cycle through the local economy.

Finally, Shelter Network applies for and regularly is granted grants at the state and federal level. In this way, the agency brings money, jobs, and resources into San Mateo County that would otherwise not be available.