

**COMMENDING
MARIN'S CONGREGATIONS AND FAITH COMMUNITY,
CHRIS HIGHLAND AND VOLUNTEERS
FOR THEIR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN SHELTERING THOSE IN NEED DURING
THE WINTER MONTHS OF 2009 – 2010**

WHEREAS, each day in Marin there are over 1,000 people who are without shelter, and current shelters are beyond capacity; and

WHEREAS, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County organized the effort to provide winter shelter seven days a week from December to March of this year for up to 50 homeless persons each day; and

WHEREAS, the Marin Community Foundation provided funding, and the Marin Interfaith Council and Marin Organizing Committee provided volunteers and coordination; and

WHEREAS, during the winter months when the rain and cold create a life or death scenario for those without shelter, the faith community has come together to provide a safe, warm and supportive environment for the unhoused; and

WHEREAS, volunteers worked each day to staff the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Dining Room to help greet and support winter shelter guests waiting to be taken to their shelter location each night; and

WHEREAS, project independence nurses provided much needed medical assistance and referrals for medically fragile shelter guests; and

WHEREAS, Chris Highland and his team is recognized for their efforts to ensure that each guest was provided with a safe and restful environment; and

WHEREAS, the community housing and service providers worked collaboratively with the winter shelter effort to help connect shelter guests with medical care, housing and other services; and

WHEREAS, the following congregations provided a compassionate and collaborative community response which provided shelter, food and a connection to community for nearly 200 individuals seeking shelter from the elements:

Congregation Rodef Sholom
St. Rita's Catholic Church in Farifax
Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Marin
Novato United Methodist Church
Lucas Valley Community Church
Christ Presbyterian Church in Terra Linda
First Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo
Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon
Mt. Tam United Methodist Church
Community Congregational Church in Tiburon
First Congregational Church in San Rafael
Christ Episcopal Church
Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church
Congregation Gan Halev in San Geronimo Valley
Catholic Charities and La Iglesia de Dios la Torre Fuerte in Novato

Congregation Kol Shofar
St. Anselm's Catholic Church in San Anselmo
First United Methodist Church of San Rafael
Christ Lutheran Church in Fairfax
Christ Church North Bay in Novato
Fairfax Community Church
First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael
St. Raphael Catholic Church in San Rafael
Presbyterian Church of Novato
Mill Valley Community Church
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Osher Marin Jewish Community Center
St. John's Episcopal Church and Unity in Marin in Novato

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin commends the congregations, faith community, Chris Higland and all of the volunteers who engage in this extraordinary humanitarian effort which was life changing for all who participated.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 18th day of May 2010.