



## Navigating the Future: Celebrating 25 Years of Shelter

Dear True North Friends:

Here's to 25 years of shelter and housing people in need! In this newsletter, we are excited to share with you some of the amazing impacts your generosity has had on our programs, as well as our plans for 2023. **Thanks to your support, we served over 760 people in 2022, including 26 families.** This year, we'll be moving forward on important projects in celebration of our 25th anniversary: our Navigation Center and Duke's Pet Park at the Torres Community Shelter campus!

### 25 Years of Shelter and What's Next

by Taylor Storey, Executive Director

Over the past 25 years, we have grown so much!

We started serving houseless folks in 1998 as a migrating winter shelter, moving from place to place. Our services were desperately needed, and in 2003, we opened our beloved Torres Community Shelter. Tim Torres, our founding director, was a passionate advocate for people experiencing homelessness, and had experienced homelessness himself. Though he sadly passed away in 2001, his legacy lives on today in everything that we do to help people in need!

As our community grew and changed, so did we. We expanded our services and began housing adults, seniors, and families with children. We created a robust case management program, which provides one-on-one assistance to everyone we serve. To make an even greater impact in our community, we expanded our shelter bed capacity to 177 and moved from a nightly shelter to keeping our doors open 24/7.

I continue to be amazed and so grateful for our dedicated staff. We have stuck by our mission and have provided compassionate, life-saving services to some of the most vulnerable people in need in our community—and we have done that through recessions, the pandemic and several major disasters.



Timothy J. VanderHeiden,  
Chairman



Peter Straus,  
Vice Chairman



Bob Kruger,  
Treasurer





For our 25th year, we plan to begin construction on a significant, dream project of ours. Located at the front of the Torres Shelter campus on Silver Dollar Way, our new **Navigation Center** will be a place where all members of our community can navigate their next steps—whether they are at-risk of homelessness, currently homeless, or just need information about programs and services to help improve their lives. In other communities, such navigation centers have been proven to greatly streamline efforts to solve homelessness and help keep people off the streets. We are grateful to have the opportunity to construct and operate such an incredible resource!

Our Navigation Center is not yet fully funded—to complete this project, we are looking for community support. Please consider making a donation today!

There is so much that Team True North is thankful for. First and foremost, YOU! We have been humbled by the impact of human kindness and the power of our community's support. With YOUR help, we have traversed seemingly insurmountable obstacles and increased the scope of our services, as well as our capacity to dream big.

Thank you for your compassion and support for our mission and the population we serve!

**You are invited to True North's 25th Anniversary Celebration!**  
Outdoor popup with food, vendors, art activities, a garden installation and MORE.  
Stop by anytime: 10am-3pm on Friday  
May 19th at the Torres Shelter  
101 Silver Dollar Way, Chico, CA 95928



Billie Kanter,  
Secretary



Danielle Blake,  
Board Member



Dr. Lori LaRiviere,  
Board Member



## Empty Bowls Highlight

Thanks to community support, we were able to bring back Empty Bowls in November. It was a smashing success! Stay tuned for updates on our 2023 Empty Bowls event!

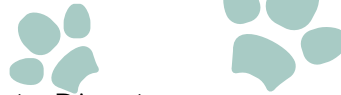


Jim Morgan,  
Board Member



Kristine Nixon,  
Board Member

## A Place for Pets



by Jacque Lewkowicz, True North Associate Director

This year, we'll be opening Duke's Pet Park at the Torres Community Shelter, and I couldn't be more excited! Duke's Pet Park will be an outdoor space where guests can socialize and their pets can play. We plan to partner with local veterinarians to provide holistic health care services for their animals, and there will be kennels for pets when their owners are away for important appointments and job interviews.

You're probably wondering how we came up with the name ... Duke is my sweetheart of a Great Dane! My family and I adopted him after he survived the Camp Fire, and he's become somewhat of an unofficial mascot at our shelter, loved by our guests.

I cannot tell you how excited I am to hit the ground running and make this project a reality. I started working at the Torres Community Shelter over 12 years ago. I've held practically every position here, from shelter monitor to director of operations and now, associate director.



Henry Schleiger,  
Board Member



While there have been some incredible changes at the shelter throughout these years, this project holds a special place in my heart. This is a significant and important step forward for us. This will make life much easier for all our guests while also honoring the invaluable health benefits of pet companionship for those we serve.

On that note, my time here at the shelter has truly changed my life. Since day one, my priority has been to ensure that every guest I interact with feels seen and supported. I love celebrating their day-to-day successes and spearheading events, like our holiday tree lighting ceremony that always brings them joy and hope.

Our Team True North is close and dedicated to creating meaningful relationships with everybody we serve—we know that the only way people can flourish and take the steps they need to become healthy and housed is if they have a support system that treats them with compassion, dignity and accountability.

That's why I am so thankful to celebrate my 12-year work anniversary this year! I have worked with so many beautiful humans and amazing guests. I am looking forward to celebrating many more years at one of my favorite places to be—and taking Duke out to our new shelter pet park where he can enjoy some sunshine and great company.



Suzanne Toaspern-Holm,  
Board Member



David Zeichick,  
Board Member



Taylor Storey,  
Executive Director



## In Memory of Howard Slater

A Dear Friend of the Torres Shelter



We recently lost a dear, longtime friend of our organization, Howard Slater. Howard and his family have been tremendous supporters of our organization since we were founded 25 years ago.

Howard has helped our organization in so many ways. One big example? He and his family helped construct our Torres Shelter that serves over 100 guests per night, 24/7, 365 days a year. He was one of our biggest fans, who truly loved our shelter and cared about our work.

In honor of Howard's love for his community and for the Torres Shelter, his family has started the Howard Slater Memorial Fund at the North Valley Community Foundation, which will benefit the Torres Shelter. We are deeply touched by this.

The world is a better place because of Howard, whose legacy and impact will live on for generations. Thank you for everything, Howard.

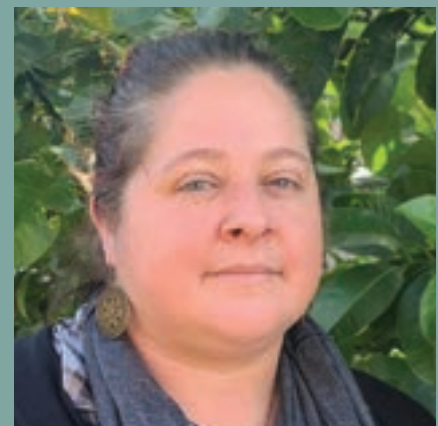
Donate in memory of Howard Slater  
[www.nvcf.org/funds/Howard-Slater-Memorial-Fund](http://www.nvcf.org/funds/Howard-Slater-Memorial-Fund)



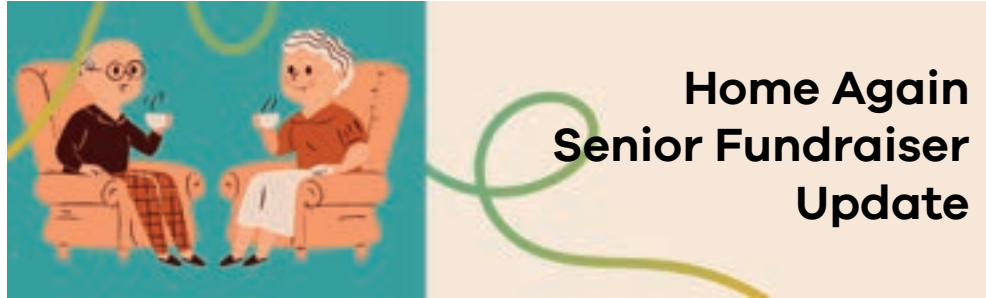
Jacque Lewkowicz,  
Associate Director



Brittinie Norman,  
Program Director



Robyn Gerfen-Bell,  
Director of Operations



We are thrilled to announce that thanks to your support, we raised \$134,000 toward our efforts to shelter and house seniors. We want to give a special thanks to our partners with the Emil & Leonora Stiefvater Senior Endowment Fund at the North Valley Community Foundation for making our Home Again Fundraiser possible!



April 2023

Thank you again for your support!



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Phone: (530) 891-9048  
TrueNorthButte.org

Here are all the ways you can connect with us.



Please watch our new "About us" video on Youtube.  
True North Housing Alliance | TNHA | About Us



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True North Housing Alliance



@truenorthbutte