

Homeless Women Project Expands Across Santa Clara County; SFC to Host Women March 1 to April 5

The 2016 effort of a handful of parishes to shelter homeless women in San Jose has expanded in 2017 into Village House, a network of more than 18 faith based congregations determined to assist those less fortunate throughout the year.

St Frances Cabrini is once again playing a pivotal role in the management and organization of this expanded service and will also serve as the overnight home for 15 medically fragile women March 1 to April 5.

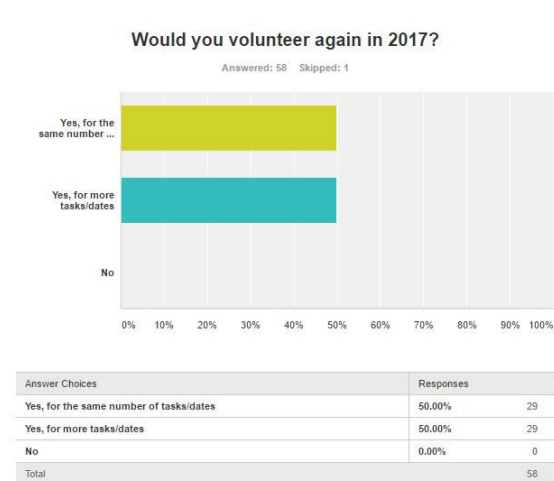
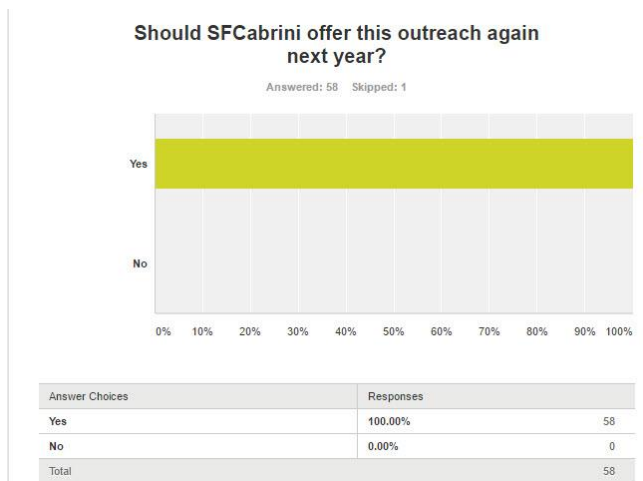
In December 2015, the San Jose City Council eased regulations that allow churches to temporarily shelter the homeless for up to 35 days by removing



permitting requirements. These actions were taken in anticipation of the predicted severe winter weather fueled by El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean.

Bishop McGrath of the Diocese of San Jose then asked all Catholic Parishes to consider opening their facilities to shelter the homeless during those winter months.

With little time to get underway, the Parish Council set out to organize the event, preparing Parish facilities, organizing and training volunteers, and directing the day to day operations last March. Approximately 400 parishioners joined the effort and the SFC Helping Others program (now Village House) was deemed highly successful and worthy of a return engagement by volunteers surveyed.



Volunteers for the 2017 effort are needed in multiple areas of service including Security, Floor Monitors, Meals, Medical, Laundry, and Transportation. Participants are invited to visit the St. Frances Cabrini Village House Registration Page online found @ <http://signup.com/go/TH2131>. There they can choose the tasks, days and times they wish to assist in this year's schedule.

Once again, a comprehensive volunteer training will be provided and will occur for all volunteers at St. Frances Cabrini. Dates and times are as follows:

- Wednesday February 2, 2017 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Church
- Sunday February 19, 2017 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Essig Hall
- Wednesday February 22, 2017 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Church
- Sunday February 26, 2017 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Essig Hall



Last year, SFC's Guests and Project Volunteers came together to celebrate their time together during an Easter Sunday meal.

For more information and to track the progress of the 2017 campaign, visit the parish Website at <http://sfcabrini.org/> or follow the program on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sfcsjca/>.

Contributions are greatly accepted. Checks should be made out to St. Frances Cabrini Parish with a memo indicating the funds are to be used for SFC Helping Others Village House. Other donations can be made via ParishPay or pre-paid gift cards to Target, Costco, Albertsons or Smart & Final. All contributors will receive notification of their gift in late April, following the close of the program at St. Frances Cabrini. Thank you for your generosity.