

WHAT IS THE REST PROGRAM?

The Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST) evolved out of necessity due to the lack of capacity in Marin's existing shelter system. Through a partnership with more than 40 local congregations, we provide shelter for up to 20 women and 40 men on a nightly basis for the winter months. These congregations open their hearts and their doors, providing volunteers, meals and companionship to REST guests. One goal of REST is to help foster relationships between congregants and those living on the streets. Another important goal is to help people move from the instability of homelessness toward more permanent housing solutions.

St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Marin Faith Communities

REST Program
Walker Bonspille, Director
822 B Street
San Rafael, CA 94901

**Intake for REST happens
Mon–Fri from 12-2pm and
Sat-Sun from 4-5pm at the
SVDP Help Desk upstairs
at 822 B St, SR.**

**REST season runs from
November 15 to
April 15**

Email: marinrest@gmail.com

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Communities

R.E.S.T. Program



The REST program is generously supported by the County of Marin and a grant from the Marin Community Foundation.

Photo by Michael Millhollin

How Does it Work?

Marin's REST program provides a place for people without shelter to sleep, to be safe and to receive connections to services which may help them improve their lives.

For five winter months, REST participants sleep in congregations across the county. There are no beds, so those with physical disabilities are encouraged to apply to the Mill Street shelter in San Rafael.

Each night, REST guests are issued sleeping bags and mats to sleep on the floor. In order to be accepted into the program, participants must have the capacity to act appropriately as a guest of the host congregation. While this program does not require guests to be sober, upon arrival they must demonstrate the ability to control themselves and their behavior. Every effort is made to connect those in need with mental health professionals, detox, or other resources which may be appropriate.

TO APPLY FOR REST

- Registration for REST happens at the SVDP Help Desk—822 B St, SR
Mon - Fri from 12-2pm
Sat - Sun from 4-5pm
- All clients undergo a sobriety check and are screened for the ability to comply with program rules at pick-up.
- Transportation is provided to and from the REST site. No drop-ins or drop-offs are allowed at the site.
- No vehicles or visitors are allowed at REST sites. Guests may not leave the facility on their own. Lights out 10pm.
- Meals are provided on-site.
- Guests are transported to the SVdP Free Dining Room for breakfast.

RESOURCES

Many people on the street have difficulty navigating the safety net system to get help. REST guests will be connected with social service agencies and will be aided and supported through this process by staff and volunteers.

FUNDING FOR REST

The **REST Program** works with local congregations and with **Marin County Health & Human Services**. An operating grant is provided by the **Marin Community Foundation**. Many of the expenses of the program are absorbed by the participating congregations, who provide their facilities, food and volunteer support. Costs of the program include staff to oversee the guests, sleeping bags, pads, transportation, and other program expenses. The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County provides the staff, training, vehicles, and administrative support for the program, and gratefully acknowledges community partners **Catholic Charities** and the **Jewish Community Center** for their critical support.

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