



The Yolo Crisis Nursery's 2016 Board of Directors and incoming directors for 2017 surround Heather Sleuter, executive director, in the front row. They, middle row from left, Dr. Stewart Teal, Becky Heard, Dr. Samrina Marshall, Karen Adams, Anna Enriquez and Jane Eadie. Back row: Sandra Kniep, JD Denton, Jamima Wolk and Vic Bucher. Teal, Marshall and Enriquez will join the Board in January; Heard, Wolk, Wolk and Bucher will exit. Not pictured: Kim Maslaniak and Judy Wolf.

During the Holidays, 10 Ways to Help At-Risk Families in Yolo

In the past year, have you driven by a homeless family as you've entered the parking lot of a grocery store? Most of us have, a bit uncomfortably.

When our Yolo Crisis Nursery staff members see such a family with young children, they stop. They reach out. They offer help.

Earlier this year, our executive director, Heather Sleuter, came across a young mom and her son outside the Raleys in Woodland. They were homeless after fleeing domestic violence.

Heather talked to them. She bought them sandwiches. Then she offered a safe, nurturing place for the little boy to stay while his mom found shelter, counseling and, eventually, two part-time jobs. Later, the mom participated in the nursery's Family Life Skills program, which helped her with her parenting skills and communication with her son.

This time of year especially, many Yolo County residents want to help families like the one in the story above. You can do so by supporting the Yolo Crisis Nursery and its programs in one of 10 varied ways outlined below. A couple of them – volunteering or using Nugget Market scrip cards – won't even cost you a dime.

- Giving Tuesday kicks off the holiday season. Coming up in two days, it's a virtual fundraiser in which you need simply visit our website, www.yolocrisisnursery.org, and tap the Donate Now button. With your contribution by credit card, you'll join thousands of people around the country who will balance out this month's three big shopping days – Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday – with a gift that helps the less fortunate among us.
- On Thursday Dec. 1, the Friends of the Yolo Crisis Nursery will staff a fund-raising table outside Pinkadot on E Street during the Davis Children's Candlelight Parade and Holiday Tree-Lighting. Beginning at 5:30 pm, you can stop at the table to make a donation or buy a pair of angel wings. Which brings us to ...

- In the Friends group's angel-themed fund-raiser, "Got Wings?," you can buy a set of glittery paper angel wings for \$5. The gift to the Nursery is small, but the reminder is big: Every child needs an angel. The program continues throughout the month at various local stores; check our Facebook page for details or sign up for our e-newsletter on our website.
- During downtown Davis' 2nd Friday Art-About on Dec. 9, nursery volunteers will sell boxes of holiday cookies baked and donated by teenage members of the National Charity League. The cookie sale will be outside Fleet Feet Store on Second Street will begin about 5:30 p.m. Angel Wings will also be on sale, as well as a few other items that make nice holiday gifts.
- (bullet) A few blocks away, Third Street Jewelers will have a holiday giving tree all month for nursery children. You can choose a tree ornament with a child's name and gift wish on it, make the purchases at any store, and return them unwrapped to the jeweler store at 903 Third St. Incidentally, St. James Catholic Church also has a giving tree. Both annual programs reap abundantly, and we're grateful.
- (bullet) After the phenomenal success of last December's Adopt-the-Nursery, it's happening again. Nursery staff have set up baby registries at amazon.com, target.com and at Mother and Baby Source store on Second Street. (Note that at target.com, you'll find us using "Yolo Crisis" as first name and "Nursery" as last name.) All gifts will be either be used at the nursery or distributed in care packages to families in need. The two online retailers will deliver your gifts directly to the nursery. Mother & Baby Source will hold them for us to retrieve.

Incidentally, if you shop at Amazon, please consider enrolling in the Amazon Smile program, which gives the nursery a cash percentage of all your eligible purchases. Just link your Amazon account to the Smile program and select us as your nonprofit recipient; then start every shopping visit at smile.amazon.com.

- (bullet) In an ongoing program, Nugget Markets' scrip program benefits the nursery at no cost to shoppers. It works with a plastic scrip card, which shoppers can register online and present to the cashier each time they check out.

Four times a year, Nugget will make a payment to the nursery based on shoppers' monthly purchases at any Nugget or Food 4 Less store. The cards are not available in the markets, but you can pick one up at Fleet Feet Davis or request one by emailing kadams@yolocrisisnursery.org.

- Through Jan. 16, the nursery is partnering with Whole Foods Davis in its Nickels for Nonprofits program. Shoppers who take reusable bags can donate their 5-cent bag rebates at checkout to the nursery. Look for the donation jars with the nursery name and logo near the cash registers.

Speaking of markets, the Davis Food Co-op is hosting a toy drive for us. You'll find a bin near the Owner Services Desk for collecting.

- As a nonprofit, we have an ongoing need for volunteers. The Nursery itself has a long waiting list of people who want to volunteer with the children, but we can use occasional help with photography, videography and writing. As our annual crab feed approaches on March 17 (save the date!), we'll need help with promoting the event and with collecting silent-auction items. Our Friends of the Nursery group organizes the crab feed; anyone is welcome to attend their monthly meetings and get involved. For information, email kadams@yolocrisisnursery.org.
- Last but definitely not least, you can support the Nursery by making a year-end charitable donation. Your gift will help prevent child abuse and neglect for the vulnerable children in our community. It will help us assist families in the midst of crisis so that children can live in permanent, stable and healthy homes.

To make a contribution, visit www.yolocrisisnursery.org or send a check to Yolo Crisis Nursery, 1477 Drew Ave., Suite 103, Davis CA 94618.

Thank you and Happy Holidays from all of us at the Nursery.