

THE DAVIS enterprise

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Yolo Crisis Nursery: Distressed, Desperate Dad Calls On YCN

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Under the best of circumstances, when cancer strikes, the entire family is thrown into crisis. And when that family is already struggling to make ends meet, it is devastating.

Not knowing where to turn, distressed and desperate, Jason called the Yolo Crisis Nursery. Jason's wife was the caregiver for their children and had been diagnosed with cancer. There were not enough hours in the day for Jason to work for his essential paycheck, get his wife to her life-saving treatments and properly care for their two young children. Money was tight and he simply could not miss any more work. Jason could not do it all himself — he needed help.

The Yolo Crisis Nursery was there for Jason and his family. We welcomed the children into respite care and helped Jason find long-term care for the children. We referred him to community resources to help navigate this challenging time. Mom is now in remission and the family is together, thriving, healthy and so very happy.

In the month of October, we've seen splashes of pink everywhere for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The women battling cancer, whether breast cancer or other forms, are mothers and daughters. While literally fighting for their lives, most cancer patients are unable to care for their families and children. The extreme stress children experience when their parent has cancer can leave a lasting impact on them, even into adulthood. Thankfully, the Yolo Crisis Nursery is just a call away for families without a support network. The staff at the Yolo Crisis Nursery are all trauma-trained to minimize the impact on children experiencing family unrest and stress.

Every child and family the nursery serves is unique, but they all are in crisis and need help. The nursery is an oasis for children up to age 5 when their family is in turmoil. We lovingly care for the children and support their parents as they work to resolve the emergency that brought them to our door. Our services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, free of charge, and completely voluntary.

Although currently a member of the board of directors, I started with and have been a part of the Yolo Crisis Nursery for over 15 years. Many of the families we serve are facing dilemmas that few of us can even imagine. To Yolo County families with young children like Jason's, the nursery's services are life-altering. I have always believed that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

The Nursery is here today in large part because of the hard work, dedication, and generosity of the Friends of Yolo Crisis Nursery. This is a community group that actively fundraises year round to help the nursery remain open. For the last 6 years, the Friends of the Yolo Crisis Nursery have hosted the Krustaceans for Kids Crab Feed, with last year's event raising nearly \$80,000! If you share our belief that all children deserve a safe and loving home, please consider joining our group. The friends meet the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm. To learn more, please email friends@yolocrisisnursery.org and be sure to save the date – March 16, 2019 – for this year's Crab Feed.

There are many ways to get involved with the nursery: volunteering at the Nursery, donating your time and talents to our board of directors, joining the Friends of the Yolo Crisis Nursery, making a financial donation, donating supplies from the nursery's wish list or just by shopping at Amazon and Nugget Markets.

Amazon and Nugget Markets will both donate a percentage of the purchases you make to the Yolo Crisis Nursery. Just visit [Amazon Smile \(http://smile.amazon.com\)](http://smile.amazon.com), choose Yolo Crisis Nursery as your selected charity and Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of each purchase you make to the nursery.

At Nugget Markets, if you have a scrip card, simply add the Yolo Crisis Nursery as a beneficiary. If you do not yet have a scrip card, please email mleach@yolocrisisnursery.org to learn more. Once you have set up your scrip card, simply present it at checkout and Nugget will donate a percentage of your total monthly spending to the Yolo Crisis Nursery. These donations truly add up and help the nursery care for the Yolo kids in crisis.

We are grateful for your support. The Yolo Crisis Nursery could not survive without the generosity of our community. Please visit www.yolocrisisnursery.org to learn more, get involved, and give to the Yolo Crisis Nursery.