

March 2007

Dear

This year I am participating in the **FESCO Shelter Shuffle** Walk-a-Thon to raise funds to support a local family homeless shelter.

Every night, there are over 10 thousand homeless people in Alameda County. Approximately half of the homeless are families with children. Unfortunately, the total number of beds available to families in our county is only about 158.

Eighteen local churches started FESCO, the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition, in 1986. FESCO is a grass roots effort to address the family homeless issue in Alameda County. Today FESCO is a coalition of 29 church and community members. The church I belong to is one of the churches supporting this program.

FESCO operates a temporary shelter, four transitional housing units, and – the newest facility – a transitional co-housing facility serving eight families. The agency's continuum of support offers shelter to its clients and support for the families to address the life skill, child development, employment, housing, resettlement, and after care issues they face. I encourage you to learn more about the programs that FESCO provides by going to its website, <http://www.fescofamilyshelter.org/>.

FESCO is a private agency that operates using Public, Foundation, and Community Funding. Like so many non-profit organizations, FESCO has seen a reduction in funding from both the Public and Foundation sectors. As a result, Community-based funding is more important than ever. FESCO's goal is to raise up to \$100,000 with this walk-a-thon. That is a large amount of money, but with several hundred walkers it becomes an achievable challenge.

On Saturday, May 12th, I will participate in FESCO's largest community-based fund raising event by walking three miles along the San Francisco Bay. This organization is important to me, and your support is appreciated.

Please select the appropriate box, make your check payable to FESCO, and send it to me along with this letter in the enclosed envelope on or before May 1st. Your canceled check will be your receipt.

\$15 _____ \$20 _____ \$25 _____ \$35 _____ \$50 _____ Other _____

FESCO is an IRS Section 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation, and your contribution is income tax deductible as allowed by law. Thank you for taking the time to consider supporting FESCO.

Sincerely,

FESCO Shelter Shuffle Participant