



LGBTQ Issues & Lifestyle in Sacramento,
El Dorado, Placer, Sutter & Yolo counties
November 21, 2013

Services for those in
need this season

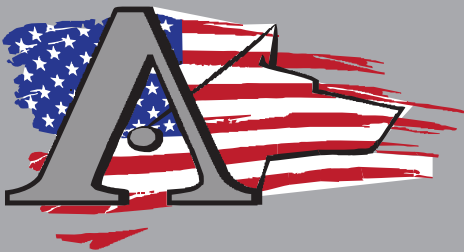
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The Modern Family

How do you define family?

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Sacramento Services

As the holidays are quickly approaching, most of us are making plans to be with our loved ones and making lists for who's bringing the turkey, the pie or the wine. However, not everyone has a place to go during this time of year. This year, take a moment to remember these people. Below is a list of services for those in need.

Homeless Services

Loaves & Fishes: 916-446-0874, sacloaves.org

Francis House Center: 916-443-2646, francishousecenter.org

Wind Youth Services: 916-561-4900, windyouth.org

Safe Ground Sacramento: 916-893-0736, safegroundsac.org

Homeless/Emergency Shelters

Suntopia's website, sacramento_ca.suntopia.org, provides a list of more than 40 emergency shelters.

Next Move Sacramento: 916-496-0514, nextmovesacramento.org

Salvation Army Shelter/Emergency Lodge: 1200 North B St., 916-442-0331

Winter Sanctuary: 916-442-3691, voa-ncnn.org

Suicide Prevention/Mental Health

National Alliance on Mental Illness: 1-800-950-NAMI, namisacramento.org

Mental Health America: 1908 O St., Sacramento, 916-366-4600, mhanca.org

Sac County Adult Mental Health Services: Mon. – Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 916-875-1055, dhhs.saccounty.net

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 1-800-273-TALK, effortsuicideprevention.org

Food Banks

River City Food Bank: 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. 916-446-2627, rivercityfoodbank.org

Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services: 916-456-1980, sacramentofoodbank.org

Titanic Pantry (A.K.A. Sacramento Pet Food Bank): 916-504-2863, sacpetfoodbank.org

Central Downtown Food Basket: 916-761-5624, cdfb.org

South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet: 916-428-5290, ssipfoodcloset.org

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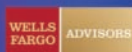


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Hoppy Brewing Company

6300 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento
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by Jerri Cuerden

With the season of giving just around the corner, many companies are looking for that special something they can do to give back to the community. For one Sacramento area business however, the holiday season actually marks a slightly calmer time in their impressively busy schedule of events and charity donations.

The Hoppy Brewing Company, which will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, has been located in Sacramento since 1999 and has always had an interest in giving back to the community. In the last year alone, the company has donated over \$7,000 worth of beer to various organizations in the area.

Hoppy takes part in a long list of events all throughout the year, donating their hand-crafted brews for raffles and tastings. The list of causes they support is just as long, and includes organizations like The Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services, Shriner's Hospital for Children, WEAVE Inc. and the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce.

"We're in a cash poor business, but we have something that we can share in the way of product," explains Hoppy's director of sales and marketing, Scott Patterson. "It works out



to be a trade for us because we can advertise, and it's great exposure."

In addition to donations, Hoppy Brewing Company also supports local schools and events with sponsorships.

"Charity has always been something that the company has done and felt was important," he says. "Being a part of the community here is something that comes naturally and is a good way to get our name out, and I'm excited to be able to do it."

For more information about the Hoppy Brewing Company, the brewpub, or upcoming events, visit their website at hoppy.com.



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Defining Family

by Wayne Myrick and Jovi Radtke

In the 1900s, the concept of the nuclear family was force fed to American society as the ideal family structure. Yet for those who have, by choice or by circumstance, lived their lives outside of societal norms, family has always been something that's hard to define.

The basic idea of two married, opposite-sex parents and their children living together in a single household may have worked on television, but for many in the real world, it doesn't always work that way. Real families come in all shapes and sizes and don't have to be defined by blood or marriage; there are connections between people more powerful than any piece of paper or matching DNA.

The notion of defining "family" leads many to question the validity of nontraditional couples. Sexuality should no more be a defining factor than a single mother or father raising a child on their own, or a "traditional" couple raising an adopted child.



Courtesy photo

Jen Ikemoto and Rachel Pearman

BIO: Rachel Pearman has worked for various community organizations and is currently completing her master's thesis at Sacramento State University. Jen Ikemoto works for the State of California and volunteers for the YMCA Youth & Government. Rachel and Jen are celebrating their one year anniversary this month.

"Family can be defined using a Venn diagram. In the first circle, there is 'family of origin' which includes immediate and extended family (parents, siblings, grandparents, in-laws, aunts, uncles, cousins). In the second circle, we have 'chosen family.' These are folks we have chosen to surround us during our ups, and in turn, they have chosen to be there for us during our downs. In the last circle, there's 'our family,' Rachel and me."

Lisa Johnson and Jai Johnson

BIO: Lisa Johnson is the owner of myStudio and The Dreaded Potter. Her son Jai Johnson is a high school student and secretary of Sacramento's LGBTQ Youth Task Force.

"To us, family are those around you who make you feel safe, even when you are vulnerable. Who work with you to find your strength and prepare you for whatever you have to face. Sometimes we laugh until we cry and other times we cry until we laugh, but Jai and I have found that the tears/laughter combination has gotten us through battles we never could have faced alone."



Photo by Serene Lusano

Lachlan and Quinn Sexton

BIO: Quinn and Lachlan Sexton describe themselves as "a dyke and a trannyboi," and their family structure simply as queer. As spouses and parents of their child Rowan, who was carried by Lachlan, they use their unique experiences as a family to educate about alternative dynamics of sex, gender, relationships, respect and family.

"We used to think family was about the blood that runs through your veins. That it was the people you were born to that would always be there. But the older we get, the more we realize that you choose your family. The thing that holds us all together is the unconditional love we share."



Photo by Serene Lusano