

News Release

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Friendship Shelter Gets A Sprucing-up, Thanks to Volunteer Gardeners, Sculptor

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif., Sept. 13, 2005 – Friendship Shelter, an Orange County homeless rehabilitation program and emergency shelter, is sporting a spruced-up exterior, thanks to volunteers with multiple talents.



Friendship Shelter Executive Director Janet Larkly, left, and board member Joan Silverman beam at the dedication of "Sanctuary," an alabaster sculpture created and donated by Stuart B. Shim, center. Shim and a group from the UC Cooperative Extension volunteered to landscape the shelter's property in Laguna Beach. Shim then generously created the custom piece of art for the building's front entry area. Friendship Shelter provides housing, support services, and a comprehensive rehabilitation program year-round for unaccompanied homeless adults. It serves all of south Orange County. www.thefriendshipshelter.org.

On a recent sunny Saturday, a squadron from the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners descended on Friendship Shelter's building in Laguna Beach, pulling weeds, planting new greenery donated by Ted Mayeda of M&M Nursery in Orange, and providing an overall facelift. As an artistic finishing touch, a small alabaster sculpture titled "Sanctuary," created especially for the compact area that faces Coast Highway, was installed and dedicated.

The sculptor, Stuart B. Shim of Rancho Santa Margarita, is a lifelong horticulturist who recently took up sculpting as an artistic outlet. A financial consultant in Smith Barney's Irvine office, Shim generously offered to create and donate a piece to Friendship Shelter.

"We so appreciate this unique addition to our building's exterior," said Friendship Shelter Executive Director Janet Larkly. "We're always so focused on what happens inside our building as we work from day to day to change lives. It was a very pleasant and welcome surprise to have Stuart create such an object of beauty to grace our property."

Founded in 1988, Friendship Shelter provides housing, a variety of support services, and a comprehensive rehabilitation program to homeless adults. It is the only year-round emergency shelter in south Orange County for homeless unaccompanied adults. For more information about Friendship Shelter and ways to become involved, contact Executive Director Janet Larkly at (949) 494-6928 or www.friendshipshelter.org.

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