

Single People Helping Single People

**A Fundraising Drive to Reopen the
Single Women's Shelter**



Union Rescue Mission

Press Release

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**Contact:
Stephanie Knapik
Director of Public Affairs
(818) 242-5124**

American Association for Single People Announces \$80,000 Grant to Help Reopen Single Women's Shelter in Los Angeles

The American Association for Single People today announced an \$80,000 challenge grant to help the Union Rescue Mission reopen its Single Women's Shelter. A 110-bed dorm which provides a bed and a shower to thousands of single women each year closed its doors today due to lack of funds.

That section of the shelter will not reopen until \$320,000 is raised -- the annual cost of operating the single women's dorm.

AASP's donation involves a 3 to 1 challenge grant, which means that for every three dollars in new donations to the Mission's single women's shelter fund, AASP will give one dollar -- up to a maximum of \$80,000.

KRLA radio in Glendale announced that it will help raise these matching funds by devoting air time each day to invite its listeners to contribute to this worthy cause.

"Single People Helping Single People" is the theme of AASP's challenge grant.

"We chose that theme for two good reasons," said AASP's Executive Director, Thomas F. Coleman.

"First, we want the general public to move beyond the stereotype that single people are selfish and only interested in dating and socializing," he said. "But more so because this theme invites, indeed challenges, millions of single people in the Los Angeles area to come forward to help other single people who are in desperate need of temporary

shelter."

There are more than 1.8 million unmarried adults in the City of Los Angeles alone, and millions of single, divorced, and widowed adults in surrounding communities. AASP is asking single and unmarried people in this area to make generous donations to the Single Women's Shelter Fund at the Union Rescue Mission.

"The single women's dorm could be reopened within a week if even a small fraction of the unmarried population in Los Angeles County were to give just \$8.00 each to this fund," said AASP's Director of Public Affairs, Stephanie Knapik. It costs the Mission about \$8.00 to provide safe shelter and a shower to one woman for one night.

A few members of AASP gathered at its Glendale headquarters last Sunday to provide an example for other single people by making individual donations over and above the grant from the organization.

Anita Patino, a widow who lives on a fixed income in East Los Angeles, said, "I can't afford to give much, but the least I can do is to help shelter one woman for one night. Here's my check for \$8."

Michael Vasquez, production manager for AASP who gave a donation of \$56, said, "I make a modest salary but I can afford to help house a woman in need for one week."

Bella DePaulo, a social psychologist in Santa Barbara who is studying people who are single, said "My check for \$112 is an investment in the future of single women. These kinds of small investments in human capital can be the richest and most rewarding of all, in that they can turn a life around and pay dividends of a lifetime of productivity and contributions to society."

The American Association for Single People is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization promoting the well being and human rights of unmarried individuals, couples, parents, and families. Any adult can become a member of AASP by making a tax-deductible donation of \$10 or more.

The organization has members throughout the nation. Its educational projects promote equal rights for unmarried people in the workplace, marketplace, and government programs.

AASP is providing a collective voice for the 82 million single and unmarried adults in the nation. It hopes to do for single adults of all ages what AARP has done for seniors, namely, to put a group of previously unrepresented people on the political map.

"We want elected officials, political party leaders, corporate executives, and union bosses to pay attention to the needs of unmarried Americans," said Coleman. "Unmarried adults are being forced to pay more than our fair share of taxes, we are often required to pay higher insurance premiums, and to rub salt into the wounds, we are being paid significantly less than married workers when it comes to benefits compensation," he added.

AASP seeks to end marital status discrimination in employment, housing, credit,

insurance, taxes, business transactions, and government programs.

"Even though most of our projects involve helping single people as employees, consumers, and taxpayers, we also care about single people living in poverty," Coleman explained. "Despite the fact that our plate was already filled with projects focusing on unfair treatment of unmarried wage earners and taxpayers, we could not sit back and let this single women's shelter close its doors without doing something to help."

AASP has devoted a section of its website to the Single Women's Shelter Fund, including information on how people can make donations.

For those who do not have access to the Internet, there are other ways for them to donate. For example, they can make a check payable to Union Rescue Mission with a note at the bottom indicating it is for the single women's shelter fund. If single people want to send the checks to AASP, we would then forward the donations to the Mission.

AASP is located at 415 E. Harvard Street, Suite 204, Glendale, CA 91205. For further information about donating to this fund, call (818) 242-5157.

Please visit the website at:

<http://www.unmarriedamerica.com/shelter-fund/shelter-fund-entry.html>