

# Proclamation

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MARCH 6, 2004 AS

## “REV. CHANNING R. SMITH” DAY

ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY  
INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK PROGRAM

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WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County that on March 6, 2004, a community celebration is taking place at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Burlingame to honor the success of the San Mateo County Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) and to recognize its visionary founder, REV. CHANNING R. SMITH; and

WHEREAS, REV. CHANNING R. SMITH, known by family, friends and community as CHAD, grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio and received his undergraduate degree in Religion from Kenyon College and his Masters of Divinity from the General Theological Seminary in New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, following the seminary, REV. CHANNING R. SMITH was hired as the Assistant Rector of the Church of the Redeemer in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he served for five years and he witnessed how the parish’s spiritual values came alive in a direct form through the outreach of the church’s Interfaith Hospitality Network program; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, REV. CHANNING R. SMITH became the Rector of Transfiguration Episcopal Church in San Mateo, California, and he began a process in November, 1998, when speaking to the San Mateo City Council about his experience of successfully housing homeless families in parish halls and synagogues, that proceeded to the launching of the San Mateo County Interfaith Hospitality Network program in July of 1999; and

WHEREAS, REV. CHANNING R. SMITH, with a belief in the program’s benefits and a faith in the community’s good, persevered through the start-up phase of the operation despite certain neighborhood and civic opposition and opened the doors of the first IHN in California in January of 2001; and

WHEREAS, it has been REV. CHANNING R. SMITH’s vision that the San Mateo County IHN operate on the basis that homeless families be treated as “guests” whose needs are primarily met by volunteer “hosts” who welcome them into their congregational homes and since its beginning San Mateo County’s IHN has recruited and trained 900 volunteers and the 28 participating congregations have provided over 11,557 bed nights of shelter and 34,671 meals to more than 65 families; and

WHEREAS, REV. CHANNING R. SMITH, by bringing the unique supportive IHN program to San Mateo County and engaging the community in its powerful learning experience, has utilized neighbor-helping-neighbor compassionate energy in making a genuine impact in breaking the cycle of homelessness by moving over 90% of the children and parents in the program into permanent or transitional housing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the County of San Mateo Board of Supervisors that March 6, 2004, is hereby designated “REV. CHANNING R. SMITH” Day and they extend their gratitude and very best wishes for the continued success of the San Mateo County Interfaith Hospitality Network program.

DATED: March 6, 2004

SUPERVISORS:

  
MARK CHURCH, PRESIDENT

