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InnVision Shelter Network



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**InnVision Shelter Network Appoints Food Innovation Manager**  
*Investing in Nutritious Food for Homeless People Served*

**MENLO PARK, CA March 3, 2014** – InnVision Shelter Network (IVSN), a nonprofit organization serving homeless families and individuals throughout Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula, is launching a plan to enhance the food services it provides for homeless and low-income individuals. Calling it an “essential investment,” the agency is proud to announce an important step forward by hiring Mark Farhat as its first Food Innovation Manager. Hiring Mr. Farhat is a critical element in the agency’s overall strategy to improve the nutritional quality of the food it provides, to increase their clients’ access to nutritious food, to enhance efficiencies and cost effectiveness, and to continue to deepen its long-standing food delivery and service partnerships with community volunteers.

The addition of Food Innovation Manager demonstrates IVSN’s commitment to its core food service programs, resulting from a six-month analysis of its legacy food programs. Mr. Farhat will collaborate with IVSN’s clinical staff and skill-based volunteers, including licensed dietitians and nutritionists, to implement more nutritional education elements to the overall service the agency provides. Mr. Farhat will also work closely with the many dedicated volunteers and donors throughout the community who have worked consistently for over 30 years to provide healthy and nutritious meals every day.

The funding for Mr. Farhat’s position is made possible by a generous gift from an anonymous donor. “Good nutrition is an issue near and dear to my heart,” writes the donor. “I am pleased to sponsor this key role at InnVision Shelter Network, and I am looking forward to the benefits that will be derived by their clients as a result.”

“We are deeply grateful for the tradition of active support from the community to help our staff provide good nutrition for our clients. By working together, we continue to fulfill our mission to help homeless families and individuals break the cycle of homelessness and return to a place they can call home,” said Karae Lisle, CEO of InnVision Shelter Network. “Mark Farhat will help us coordinate more closely with our existing partners and expand our network of community collaborators to make an even greater impact. We are continually seeking innovative ways to leverage resources that will improve the lives of the homeless individuals and families we serve.”

IVSN expects to spend approximately \$250,000 to provide nutritious food services this year. It will continue to work in close partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, their primary food partner, and with corporate sponsors, faith-based and community volunteer organizations, and countless individuals to generate financial and volunteer support for the food services program, that is a critical part of their “Beyond the Bed” service model.

**About InnVision Shelter Network**

InnVision Shelter Network (IVSN) is the leading provider of shelter/housing and supportive services across Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula. IVSN operates 18 sites from San Jose to Daly City, providing preventative, emergency, interim, and permanent supportive housing solutions, along with other supportive resources to help clients find a place to call ‘home.’

**IVSN recently received a top 4-star Charity Navigator rating for the sixth consecutive year.**

IVSN serves thousands of homeless clients annually through its “Beyond the Bed” service model – a proven methodology that has historically delivered a 90% success rate in returning program graduates to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Through community support – including financial contributions, in-kind donations, and volunteerism – IVSN empowers those in our community struggling with poverty and homelessness to gain valuable skills that lead to long-term self-sufficiency. [www.ivsn.org](http://www.ivsn.org)

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