

Shade

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students decided to get involved. Their mission: a campaign to promote public awareness of Shade Tree that would include a drive for basic care items.

"Going to the shelter we were overwhelmed with the needs of these people," said Shanila Choudhury, one of the group's members. "They were really short-staffed and didn't have the manpower necessary to promote the shelter. We felt we could make a difference by doing something worthwhile for those less fortunate."

An October drive organized by the three students produced enough basic care items to last the shelter six months.

The UNLV P.R. students planned a joint donation drive with Valley High School's National Honor Society and Key Club that also contributed a considerable amount of care items.

"We spoke to the administration and to classrooms, showed a video and gave the groups ideas for their own campaign," said Lisa Borgna, who is part of the UNLV group.

After passing out flyers, sending out press releases and inviting area television stations, the group had a Halloween party to present the donations.

"We had face painting, Halloween movies for the children, and lots of food," April Powell said. "The kids had a good time, and the women kept telling us over and over how nice it was not to go over to St. Vincent's."

Shade Tree, equipped with two dorm rooms and a day room, does not have a kitchen. People staying there must go to nearby St. Vincent's or the Salvation Army for hot meals.

But filling hungry stomachs is not the only mission of Shade Tree.

Aimed at improving the return rate of homeless women to a state of independence and self-sufficiency, Shade Tree provides management programs assisting women in securing permanent

Hunger and Poverty on the Rise in the U.S.

(NSNS)—Listed below are statistics that spotlight the U.S. hunger problem during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, which is sponsored by the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, the National Coalition for the Homeless, and Oxfam America:

- In the U.S., an estimated 30-million people cannot afford to buy enough food to maintain good health. (Tufts University Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy)

- Twelve million American children under age 18—on in five—are hungry. (Tufts University)

- Nearly 40-million people in the United States—including 9.6 million children—lack health insurance. Hungry children are two to three times more likely to experience health problems. (U.S. Census Bureau)

- An expansion of the federal food programs of less than \$10-billion—1 percent of the federal budget—would quickly eliminate widespread hunger in the United States. (Tufts University)

- In 1991, U.S. consumers spent more on jewelry and watches—\$30.1-billion—than on federal food and nutrition assistance—\$28.5-billion—or the entire gross domestic product of 20 developing countries. (Bread for the World Institute)



PHOTO BY LESLIE LITCHFIELD
Wendy Lynne Petrini, 4, is one of the children who with her mother calls Shade Tree home.



PHOTO BY LESLIE LITCHFIELD
Shade Tree Director Margaret Gavillet stands beside the bunk beds used by mothers and children.

housing and jobs.

A mailing address, free telephone and voice mail enable women to apply for jobs and government aid. An on-site social worker provides crisis interven-

tion and problem solving, and refers women with mental health, drug or alcohol problems to counseling programs.

Although the women are only

permitted to stay in the shelter for up to 90 days, Gavillet said that as long as they are sincerely trying to secure a job or housing, they are allowed to stay.

"The only people that end up leaving here without any place to go," Gavillet said, "are the ones that decided they had come to the Shade Tree Hilton."

Two essential
ingredients
for a perfect
date:
A date and this.



It's everywhere
you want to be.