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SHELTER NETWORK HOSTS 2011 ANNUAL BENEFIT BREAKFAST WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
LEIGH ANNE TUOHY - INSPIRATION FOR 'THE BLIND SIDE'

*Shelter Network's annual benefit hosts 1,100 guests, honors the community's commitment to helping homeless families and individuals return to permanent housing*

**BURLINGAME, CA September 7, 2011** – Shelter Network ([shelternetwork.org](http://shelternetwork.org)), the largest non-profit provider of housing and support services for homeless families and individuals on the San Francisco Peninsula, will host its 2011 Annual Benefit Breakfast on **Thursday, October 6 from 7:30am to 9:00am** at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame. The presenting sponsor of this year's event is Wells Fargo Bank.

For over two decades, Shelter Network's Annual Benefit Breakfast has been an essential occasion for people working to end poverty and homelessness on the Peninsula. Each year, over 1,000 guests fill the grand ballroom of the Burlingame Hyatt Hotel; among them, individual and corporate supporters, public officials, community partners, and Shelter Network alumni. This inspiring event raises awareness about homelessness and generates funding to sustain Shelter Network's successful housing and supportive programs, which serve over 4,000 men, women and children each year.

The Breakfast program includes award presentations to outstanding volunteers and supporters, touching testimonials by Shelter Network clients who have returned to self-sufficiency, and a keynote speaker committed to advocating for homelessness and poverty.

This year's keynote speaker is Leigh Anne Tuohy, the inspiration for Michael Lewis' book *The Blind Side*, which later became a film starring actress Sandra Bullock, who portrayed Tuohy. *The Blind Side* highlights the story of Michael Oher – a formerly homeless youth adopted by the Tuohy family – who became one of the most highly coveted prospects in college football. Tuohy will be signing copies of her autobiography *In a Heartbeat: Sharing the Power of Cheerful Giving* immediately following the Breakfast program.

"The Benefit Breakfast is an important opportunity for Shelter Network to share information on the state of homelessness in Silicon Valley," says Karae Lisle, Shelter Network's Executive Director. "Hearing client stories and putting a face to homelessness helps us realize how closely connected this issue is to our own lives. We count on the community to give what they can to help families and individuals in need. With this support, Shelter Network effectively provides food, shelter, child care, clothing, household goods, daily essentials and behavioral counseling

to homeless families and individuals as they overcome homelessness and return to permanent housing and on-going self sufficiency.”

Shelter Network invites corporate partners and members of the community to purchase tickets or sponsor tables at the Breakfast. Visit [www.shelternetwork.org/breakfast](http://www.shelternetwork.org/breakfast) for more information.

### **About Shelter Network**

Established in 1987, Shelter Network has evolved to become one of the largest and most effective human service agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area, operating six facilities, including four facilities for families and two for single adults. The organization also offers support to prevent homelessness, along with a broad range of programs that help families and individuals overcome homelessness and return to self-sufficiency.

With the community’s support, including that of our public and private partners, Shelter Network responds effectively to over 1,500 calls per week and provides shelter and support to 4,397 people, which includes nearly 900 families and over 1,700 children.

Shelter Network’s programs deliver results: 93% of the families that graduated from the organization's transitional housing programs last year returned to permanent housing. The average stay in a program is just 100 days. For more information about Shelter Network, visit [www.shelternetwork.org](http://www.shelternetwork.org), or contact Maria Duzon, Communications Manager, at 650-685-5880 ext. 114, [mduzon@shelternetwork.org](mailto:mduzon@shelternetwork.org).

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