Building Futures is grateful to the local community for its outpouring of generosity and support over the holidays. Thanks to the monetary and in-kind donations offered by community members, businesses and organizations, we were able to provide gifts, clothing and care baskets to 402 individuals in our emergency shelters and our various housing programs. The holiday season can be an extremely difficult time for our clients, and we thank our supporters for bringing joy and comfort to the children, mothers and individuals who need it the most. We want to share a few stories that illustrate how your generosity and commitment brightened the holidays last month.

18 Years of Support, One Basket at a Time...

A group from the University of California Office of the President has been putting together baskets of bath and body products for the Building Futures teenagers for the past 18 years. Led by staff Jan Kehoe and Karen Vecchi, the group purchased on-sale items throughout the year. At the end of the year, they took up a cash collection from friends and family. They then hand-assembled, decorated and delivered 10 bountiful baskets to us. “We have some wonderful retirees who still participate every year, as well as our current co-workers,” said Jan. Karen added, “It has been a great project for us, and we are always amazed by people’s generosity. We hope to brighten a teen’s day.”

Merideth Mehlberg’s Jammie Drive

For the sixth year in a row, the team at Merideth Mehlberg International organized another successful “Jammie Drive.” Not only is Merideth a brilliant career coach, she also strives to teach her children the value of caring for others, especially during the holidays. Merideth inspired 70 donor-families in her network to “adopt” 60 client-families from Building Futures. The donor-families then shopped for pajamas and slippers, delighting 170 of our clients with the gift of warmth! Merideth also raised about $2,000 in monetary donations to benefit our clients and the most vulnerable community members in Building Futures’ shelters and housing programs. Thank you, Meredith and team, for six years of dedicated service!
Thanks to the following groups and businesses for helping make the holidays brighter for those we serve!

ABB Optical
Alameda Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Alameda County Firefighters Toy Program
Alameda Education Association
Alameda High School
Alameda Mayor Ashcraft
Alameda Police Department
Alaska Air
Alpha Delta Kappa
Amador Valley Quilters Guild
American Indian Model Schools
AT&T
Bay Alarm
Berkeley Buddhist Temple
Berkeley Law
Cal State East Bay
Calvary Alameda Church
Center of Hope Community Church
Christ Episcopal Church
City of Alameda Staff Holiday Drive
Cleophus Quealy Beer Company
David Grodin Financial Services
East Bay Division of Wells Fargo Business Banking
Face Reality Acne Clinic
First Congregational Church of Alameda
First United Methodist Church
Gather & Grub Catering
GDH Inc.
Ghiradelli Chocolate Co.
Girl Scouts Troop 30141
Girls Inc. of the Island City
Hella Crafty Designs
Home Depot of San Leandro
InvolveSoft Corporate Volunteer Platform
Kaiser
Kelly Clardy of Mary Kay
Kids Bike Lane
Kiwanis of San Leandro
Labios Mios
Merideth Mehlberg International
Muñecas Vintage
National Justice Honor Society
Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund
Praises of Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Rigatoni’s Fresh Italian Grill
RJJO - Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth
San Leandro Marina Community Center
San Leandro Police Department
San Leandro Senior Community Center
Shalom Bayit
Singulex
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Target Hayward
The Goody Bag Lady
University of California Office of the President UPS

ABB Optical “Sees” the Need and Fills It!

ABB Optical Group delivers “business solutions to eye care practitioners.” They also delivered incredible gifts for clients, year after year! Employees started small, by making personal donations. ABB matched their employees’ donations, dollar-for-dollar, raising a grand total of $4,400. The ABB group went shopping for gifts and were able to leverage an extra 15% discount by showing our holiday gift drive flyer to the store manager. Thank you, Target Hayward! Our new Development Director, Ana, had tears of joy and disbelief when ABB staff arrived with 12 huge boxes of gifts. We are grateful for ABB’s generosity and resourcefulness!

Building Futures relies on the monetary donations from individuals like you to keep the lights on in our shelters—thank you to everyone who made donations in 2018! As always, we are grateful to our volunteer groups and “dinner cooks” who bring meals to our shelter residents!

Building Futures’ mission is to build communities with underserved Alameda County residents, where they are safely and supportively housed, free from family violence and homelessness.

To learn how you can help Building Futures, and to sign up to receive updates, contact Ana Mahiri at amahiri@bfwc.org or 510-924-3090.