



JANUARY 2019

Holiday Drive Report

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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!



13 Ghirardelli Chocolate employees spent two days wrapping gifts. Thank you Ghirardelli and InvolveSoft!



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

RJOY - 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!



"When I become successful I want this to be known as part of my journey."



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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Jazz It Up!

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Join us at our benefit gala on **May 17, 2019 at 6pm**. An evening of fine wine, good food and cool jazz, benefiting and celebrating Building Futures! Sponsorship opportunities available!



BUILDING FUTURES

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.... and special heartfelt thanks to all of the individuals and community members who brought bags of new gifts for our clients! We are so grateful!

