



Building Futures

1840 Fairway Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577

510.357.0205 • www.bfwc.org

November 12, 2020

Dear friend,

Greetings from Building Futures! I sincerely hope you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well, as we all navigate a year like no other.

I'm grateful for the way our community stepped forward to help since shelter in place orders took hold in March. You are such an important member of the Building Futures family!

As I write this letter to you, the holiday season approaches. Like most, I'm looking ahead to the winter season with both anticipation and concern.

Believe me, individuals and families with no place to call home are looking forward in worry and dread.

If you are able, will you please take a moment to send your most generous year end gift, to help keep Building Futures' life-changing programs and services whole?

I won't sugarcoat it. The pandemic has increased the number of people living in their cars or on the street. Many are with their children.

Domestic violence survivors trapped at home with their abusers face increased danger. Building Futures' clients live with trauma. For many, this never-ending pandemic is triggering traumatic experiences.

Here's the good news: **Instead of cutting back services to individuals and families in need, Building Futures is doing MORE.**

During a tough year for all of us, Building Futures has maintained our focus on making lives better. With the help of our community:

- The San Leandro Shelter and Midway Shelter are open, providing shelter, food, housing navigation, and so much more.
- Building Futures continues to operate Operation Safer Ground at Marina Village Inn. Guests are vulnerable elders and parents with children, all of whom are at increased risk for contracting the coronavirus. All receive a powerful array of services to help them build better futures.
- Domestic violence survivors receive shelter and support services at Sister Me Home Safe House; survivors in the community are accessing virtual support groups and individual counseling.
- We're gearing up to open two Winter Warming shelters, where First United Methodist Church and Christ Episcopal Church host a warm, safe place for unsheltered folks to sleep and receive two meals on nights of inclement weather through April.
- Building Futures' Street Outreach Teams are reaching more people, delivering food, water, and urgently-needed hygiene supplies—and connecting unsheltered people with services and assistance they need NOW.
- We continue to provide Oakland and other Alameda County-based families and individuals with permanent supportive housing and housing assistance. Half of Building Futures' clients are children. As always, we aim to house vulnerable families as quickly as possible.

This holiday season promises to be one like no other—culminating a year never seen by you, me, and the community members we care about.

We really do need you. Please send your special year-end gift today. Your donation will keep life-changing services whole in the critical upcoming winter months and beyond. Thank you!

With My Very Best Wishes,



Liz Varela
Executive Director

P.S. In March 2020, the coronavirus pandemic turned lives upside down. You have my word: in March of next year, Building Futures will remain on the front lines, changing lives for the better. Please give as generously as you can. If you prefer, make your gift online, at www.bfwc.org/donate.