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“It’s a wonderful feeling, giving to our community!”

—Katherine, Wells Fargo volunteer

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Iron Souls Motorcycle Club of Oakland brings gifts and poses with case managers from Building Futures’ Family Front Door Program.

Alameda Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and Merideth pose onstage at the thank you party for donor families
Amplifying Impact With Exelixis!
When generous community members band together, their impact is amplified. Last year, Building Futures introduced a new way for groups to turbo-charge their giving: Online Fundraising Campaigns. Creating a campaign for your network, workplace, faith group, or club is a great way to help those in need. During the holiday season, Alameda-based Exelixis encouraged their employees to touch the lives of Building Futures clients—raising nearly $1,800 from generous staff members. Thank you, Exelixis employees!

Thank You for Bein’ a Friend:
Grodin Financial and Insurance Services
San Leandro-based Grodin Financial and Insurance Services’ motto is “Big enough to help you grow; small enough to care.” That belief was exemplified when CEO David Grodin adopted Building Futures as his company’s signature nonprofit in May of 2019. Grodin Financial helped make the holidays brighter for Building Futures’ clients by donating twenty-six Target gift cards, plus a bonanza of educational toys during our Holiday Gift Drive. During 2019, David also invited Building Futures to speak at various client appreciation events, encouraged their clients to donate to Building Futures, and matched all client gifts. They raised even more donations through raffle tickets at their annual BBQ. Building Futures is grateful to David Grodin and his staff and clients for this creative and generous response to community needs.

Thank You, Generous Friends!

❤️ Staff members at Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA) chose to donate their Thanksgiving bonuses to Building Futures!

❤️ Raza Unidas students from Bancroft Middle School raised money with a bake sale to buy toys for kids at our shelters.

❤️ Mary Kay customers and salespeople bought, assembled, and donated lovely pampering gift bags for the mothers we serve!

Holidays Are for the Kids:
Truckloads of Toys and Gift Cards for Teens!

❤️ Flores Optometry brightened the holidays for the children we serve! Customers and staff, led by Dr. Rosie Flores and Dr. Lily Chang, opened their hearts and donated a truckload of toys and $1,565 in monetary donations.

❤️ Ben Franklin Electric Club of Northern California chose Building Futures as its 2019 spotlight nonprofit for the association’s Holiday Luncheon, held December 6th in Danville. The happy result was over $3,000 in holiday gift cards for teens served by Building Futures programs and services.

Rigatoni’s Restaurant & Building Futures: A Christmas Eve Tradition
For the 36th year running, Bev Gregori-Helliwell and Rigatoni’s Fresh Italian Grill proved there is nothing more steadfast than an old friend. Bev was part of the volunteer group that launched the San Leandro Shelter on Christmas Eve, 1986. That year and every year since, Bev and Rigatoni’s have donated a sumptuous Christmas Eve dinner. Thanks to the generosity of owner Ray Bartolomucci Jr.—who owns Rigatoni’s and Strizzi’s restaurants—this generous donor didn’t stop with San Leandro Shelter. As Building Futures began operating more shelters, the holiday dinner grew! This year, 105 grateful residents of the San Leandro Shelter, Sister Me Home Safe House, Midway Shelter, and the San Leandro Warming Shelter enjoyed pasta bolognese, cauliflower salad, fresh bread and butter, and apple pie. For a delicious meal, remember Rigatoni’s and Strizzi’s in Hayward, Castro Valley, Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore or Fremont. And keep these generous community members in mind as a caterer for your next event! www.strizziscatering.com

Rigatoni manager presents Building Futures staff with 105 meals.
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Holiday Drive Report & Newsletter

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Free from homelessness and family violence

FEBRUARY 2020

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