



FEBRUARY 2020

Holiday Drive Report & Newsletter

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The holidays can be tough for those who have struggled with homelessness and family violence. Year after year, old friends and new ensure Building Futures' clients experience the warmth of the holiday season. 2019 was no exception. From meals to gift cards to snuggly pajamas and so much more, children and adults felt the joy of the season and the love of their community. We are grateful to the hundreds of generous individuals, workplaces, faith communities, and clubs for opening their hearts to those served by Building Futures' array of programs and services. We couldn't have done it without you!

"She loves twirling around in her coat and saying, 'Look mommy, I'm a princess.' I never thought about how much something like a coat could have an impact on how she feels about herself."

—Bessie Coleman Court resident



Merideth Mehlberg and Friends' seventh annual Jammie Drive was an unparalleled success. Merideth's mighty team of Alameda families provided 181 Building Futures' clients (in 60 families) with jammies and slippers. The group also donated warm coats for children in eight families, packages of underwear, socks and other essentials, plus more than \$7,000 in monetary gifts to meet the needs of shelter residents. A special thank you to Jammie Drive family Eugene Lee, Regina Hoshimi and Jagger Lee, who made a personal contribution and secured an employer match, resulting in a special \$4,180 donation to purchase storage sheds for the Midway and San Leandro Shelters!

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



"Thank you Building Futures for housing me and my family, and helping us have an awesome Christmas. We are very grateful."

—anonymous client of
Oakland Family Front Door Program



Alameda Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and Merideth pose onstage at the thank you party for donor families

Thanks to the following groups and businesses for helping make the holidays brighter for those we serve!

<i>ABB Optical</i>	<i>Club of Oakland</i>
<i>Access Elevator & Electric Supply</i>	<i>Jessica Stark of Mary Kay Cosmetics (Kelly Clardy)</i>
<i>Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)</i>	<i>John Casselberry & Madeleine Connor—Free Planet Press</i>
<i>Alameda County Social Services</i>	<i>JOY Group—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</i>
<i>Alpha Delta Kappa (Allison Hall)</i>	<i>Kiwanis Club of San Leandro</i>
<i>Amador Valley Quilters</i>	<i>Luna Bar</i>
<i>Amazon</i>	<i>Mary Kay Cosmetics</i>
<i>Baby Mamas of Alameda 2018</i>	<i>Merideth Mehlberg Group International</i>
<i>Berkeley Buddhist Temple</i>	<i>Moms Demand Action</i>
<i>Berkshire Hathaway Home Services</i>	<i>Mr. Moxey's</i>
<i>Ben Franklin Electric Club of Northern California</i>	<i>Nano Precision Medical</i>
<i>Best Price Furniture</i>	<i>Nelson Staffing</i>
<i>Cee Cee and Bee</i>	<i>Oloshas United Bay Area</i>
<i>City of Alameda</i>	<i>Petals and Peacocks</i>
<i>City of Oakland</i>	<i>Razas Unidas</i>
<i>City of San Leandro</i>	<i>Rigatoni's Fresh Italian Grill</i>
<i>Community Realty & Investments</i>	<i>Social Justice Committee of Temple Israel</i>
<i>Councilmember Pete Ballew</i>	<i>St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Berkeley</i>
<i>Division 6 Staff of San Leandro</i>	<i>St. Vartan Armenian Church</i>
<i>Exelixis</i>	<i>Team Juliana, Inc.</i>
<i>Extended Stay America</i>	<i>United Methodist Women of San Leandro</i>
<i>First Congregational Church of Alameda</i>	<i>University of California—Office of the President</i>
<i>First Methodist Church of San Leandro</i>	<i>UPS</i>
<i>First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro</i>	<i>Wells Fargo</i>
<i>Flores Optometry</i>	
<i>Ghirardelli</i>	
<i>Grodin Financial and Insurance Services</i>	
<i>Hult International Business School</i>	
<i>Inner Wheel of San Leandro</i>	
<i>Iron Souls Motorcycle</i>	

.... 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!

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, Generous Friends!

- ♥ Staff members at **Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA)** chose to donate their Thanksgiving bonuses to Building Futures!
- ♥ Razas 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!



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.



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, caesar 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.*



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

—Katherine, Wells Fargo volunteer

Grateful to Our Vounteers!

- ♥ Thank you for sorting and wrapping the holiday gifts for women and children in our emergency homeless shelters. Thank you to each of the 36 volunteers from **Wells Fargo, Ghirardelli, Luna Bar, Amazon, Kiwanis SL, Berkshire Hathaway and Flynn, HOBA.org, and Shojinaga & Associates**. Your hard work made the holidays shine a bit more this year!
- ♥ Thank you to the **San Leandro Police Department**, who showed up to the San Leandro Shelter in festive gear, to hand out wonderful gifts to our clients of all ages.



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.



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~ COME CELEBRATE WITH US! ~

Benefit Gala for Building Futures

Jazz it Up!

LIVE MUSIC!

CRAFT BEER, WINE & FOOD!

SPECTACULAR RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION!

FRIDAY, MAY 15th, 2020 at 6pm

21st Amendment Brewery
2010 Williams St., San Leandro, CA 94577



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