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Anne's Story

A year and a half ago a good friend of mine who volunteered at EHP invited me to come help out during her usual afternoon shift. I'd heard of EHP, but knew of it only as an organization that provided food boxes to those in need during the holiday season. It wasn't until that first visit that I understood just how much more EHP does for the community. Aside from the food boxes and toys they distribute during the holidays, I learned that they provide people with clothes, housewares, groceries, and meals, all year long. They even have a beautiful vegetable garden. I was hooked.

I immediately signed up as a regular volunteer at the Community Closet. There, volunteers work with staff to sort through donations of clothes, housewares and bedding, creating a shop where people with limited resources can find some of life's essentials. We all work hard to keep the Community Closet well organized and fully stocked so it's easy for our clients to find what they need. I love that all of the donated items that find their way onto the Community Closet shelves go directly to someone who needs them, absolutely free of charge.

One of my favorite jobs at the Community Closet is making layette boxes for families that are expecting a new child. Every day, as

the volunteers and staff sort through donations, they're on the lookout for clean baby clothes, blankets, hats, diapers—anything that a newborn would need. It's a bit of a treasure hunt! I gather these things together to create a big box of baby basics. While these



Anne Johnson, EHP Volunteer

boxes contain very practical items (clothes, diapers, wipes) we also want the boxes to feel like a gift for the families: a celebration of their new child. We tuck in small baby toys and books and tie the boxes with a ribbon. In the past we've received donations of beautiful handmade blankets and warm hats made just for these new babies. It's really fun to add these special gifts to a layette box.

When I think about what I love most about volunteering at EHP, I realize there's no way I can limit myself to just one thing. I love that EHP connects people who have something they no longer need

with people who need that very thing. I love being able to tell donors with certainty that the things they've given us will make a difference in someone's life. I love making our clients feel welcome and helping them find what they're looking for. And of course, a very important thing that keeps me coming back to EHP is the incredible team that works there. Both the staff and the volunteers work hard every day to create a place where our clients feel comfortable, respected and supported. And while the staff is wonderful about letting each volunteer gravitate towards tasks that suit their skills and interests, we always work together, pitching in with whatever needs doing.

I don't think I've ever left EHP for the day without someone on the staff thanking me for coming in. But the truth is, I feel I'm the one who should be thanking the EHP team. They've created a powerful community of people committed to improving the lives of others, people who understand the value of treating their neighbors with kindness and generosity. It's a gift to be a part of that community.



Orchard City Indivisible



Two OCI founders, Celeste and Eric

Orchard City Indivisible (OCI) was founded by a group of friends in Campbell, California at the end of 2016. Our goal was to bring people together to promote social justice, human rights, and equality using grass-roots approaches like phone calls, letter-writing campaigns, and in-person meetings to pressure elected officials.

Twelve people attended our first meeting at the coffee shop owned by a couple of the founders. The next week, 25 people showed up wanting to help.

We kept growing this way for weeks and ever since, our meetings have 60-100 people in attendance at a space rented

from a local church every week.

At OCI, we believe we can only be as strong as our local community, so in 2017 we hosted our first Thanksgiving food drive to support the Ecumenical Hunger Program.

We want to support EHP because of its focus on dignity and compassion, and its great service to the local community. EHP inspires us to keep going and we want to pay it back in whatever way we can.

Every year, our generous members have donated turkeys, non-perishable foods, and money to support EHP around the holidays and we couldn't be prouder of them.

We hope that our contributions help strengthen our brothers and sisters in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and other communities in need of support and look forward to helping EHP for years to come.



In 2018 we ...

- ... distributed 26,001 boxes of food
- ... served 5,588 hot meals
- ... served 27,350 individuals in the clothes closet
- ... distributed 14,348 pieces of furniture
- ... received 17,085 volunteer hours
- ... received \$4,392,461 in in-kind donations for direct distribution

WISHLIST

Gift Cards

- Target, Walmart, Safeway, Home Depot & Costco (gift cards do not need membership)

Food Items

- Cake mix (yellow)
- Candied yams
- Canned milk (evaporated)
- Chicken broth
- Cooking oil
- Cranberry sauce (whole berry & jellied)
- Flour
- Frozen chickens, turkeys, turkey breasts and half hams
- Jiffy corn muffin mix
- Macaroni and cheese
- Margarine & butter
- Pie/pastries
- Seasoning /spices: seasoning salt, garlic, pepper sauce, sage, nutmeg, cinnamon, poultry seasoning, thyme
- Stuffing mix (stove top, etc.)
- Sugar
- Vanilla extract

Toiletry/Household Items

- Liquid body soap & bar soap
- Brushes and combs
- Deodorant
- Dish soap
- Disposable razors
- Lotion
- Personal wipes/hand sanitizer
- Reusable beverage containers
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Toilet paper
- Toothpaste, dental floss picks & mouthwash
- Clothes washing detergent



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- Anne Johnson, EHP Volunteer

Help a Neighbor-in-Need During the Holidays

The holidays are quickly approaching and our families need your help.

The EHP Family Sharing Program is a great way to help your neighbors in need this holiday season.

Donors are matched directly with a critical needs family and the family is sponsored for the holidays. It is an amazing, hands on way to help a family in need in your community.

Please contact LaKesha at LaKesha@ehpcares.org for more information or if you would like to sponsor a family today!





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Our Mission:

to provide compassionate, dignified and practical assistance to families and individuals experiencing economic and personal hardship.



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Read about Ecumenical Hunger Program on Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities, and add us to your charities!



EHP is a Platinum-level GuideStar Exchange participant, demonstrating its commitment to transparency. Write a review about us!

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