



2017-2018 Annual Report



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## HISTORY

EHP has been in the safety net business since it was founded in 1975 by Miriam Nixon Hope and a group from Church Women United who channeled surplus and donated food to neighborhood pantries where it was then distributed to families in need. EHP was incorporated in 1978 as a non-profit organization. Under the direction of Nevada Butler, EHP began providing direct services to families in need in 1981 and it has grown to become the largest direct emergency food provider in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. EHP also began addressing other critical needs in the community, distributing clothing, furniture, and household essentials, and providing case management, referrals and other support to those in need in our service area. However, EHP's program focus has always been on essential resources for survival, primarily food.

Throughout the past 44 years, EHP has remained a community based organization meaning that it has grown and adjusted based upon community needs and trends and has only survived with community support without government funding. Although a well established organization, EHP has held onto its "grass roots" mentality by continuing to provide personal and customized safety net services to each individual and family.

EHP staff, board and volunteers have remained alert and aware of all issues facing local families and for over forty years, they have strived to remain educated and knowledgeable in order to provide innovative solutions to the age old problems of hunger and poverty.

EHP has consistently worked with local community organizations learning from them, providing assistance to and receiving assistance from them in order to provide the highest quality of services available to our families. Since its inception, EHP has retained the reputation of being a sustainable organization that operates with integrity, honesty, flexibility and accountability.

## Board of Directors

Byron Bland  
Chris Ellis  
Stephen Friedman  
Fred Glick  
Arnold Hart, Co-Chair  
Albert Macklin  
Thayer Mullins, Treasurer  
Mansi Shah  
Wendy Sinton, Co-Chair  
Court Skinner, Secretary  
Amy Sorensen  
Medha Subramani

## Friends of EHP

Molly Agras  
Jim Anderson  
Sandy & Chris Barker  
Ike Buelow  
Sharon Chatman  
Sidnie Davis  
Donna Dunwoody  
Tom & Natasha French  
Bill & Natalie Graham  
Opal Harper  
Alison Hengehold  
Arlene Holloway  
Charlotte Johnson  
Judy Kincaid  
Richard & Beverly Martin  
Bridget Morgan  
Andy Perlman  
Bill & Marge Quackenbush  
Janet Refvem  
William Reller  
Luanne Roticci  
Cindy Sauln  
Susan Schofield  
Tom Shannon  
Kaloma Smith  
Duf Sundheim  
Lauren Swezey  
Kurt Taylor

## Executive Director

Lesia Preston

## Associate Director

LaKesha Roberts-Evans





**LESIA PRESTON**  
Executive Director

## EHP'S MISSION

EHP's mission is to provide compassionate, dignified and practical assistance to families and individuals experiencing economic and personal hardship. We offer material help, support services, and advocacy for our neighbors in need, in a challenging and rapidly changing environment.

EHP serves working families, seniors, people with limited incomes and those who have both emergency and on-going needs in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and surrounding communities.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### LESIA PRESTON

It has been a truly unbelievable year full of many ups and downs. Increase in demand has spurred the growth of EHP's safety-net programs along with a significant increase in the number of working families, many with two or more incomes. Even with two or more full-time incomes, the cost of living in the Bay Area has been nearly impossible to keep up with, especially as the cost of housing continues to skyrocket.

Based on the Economic Policy Institute's family budget calculator, an individual would need to make an annual salary of \$73,526 to simply survive in San Mateo county. A family of two adults and two children would need \$156,292 to survive. These figures are based on basic needs including housing, food, health care, transportation, taxes and other necessities. The reality is that most of our families make near minimum wage. The minimum wage in California is \$12.00 per hour which equates to an annual full-time salary of \$24,960. This means that most of our families with two or more full-time incomes barely reach what is considered a survivable salary for a single individual. The question in my mind is, "How is this sustainable?"

It is incredible to see the strength, determination and resilience of our neighbors-in-need who continue to survive even in the face of insurmountable odds. EHP is proud to work with these families and give them the leverage they desperately need, to continue to persevere on their road to self-sufficiency. Our work is only made possible with the support and generosity of our donors and volunteers. Without you, our program simply would not exist.

I am truly grateful, humbled and honored to work with our families and our wonderful donor and volunteer family. The work we do is critically important to our local community and with you, we will continue working our mission, changing the world one family at a time.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesia Preston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

## FROM HUNGER TO HOPE

### Interrupting the Cycle of Poverty

At EHP, we are committed to offering a “hand up” rather than a “hand out.” Too often, adverse circumstances encircle the lives of many of our neighbors, choking off aspirations for a better life. The “cycle of poverty” is composed of problems that are frequently too large for EHP to address successfully. Nevertheless, the help we can provide is life-affirming and of extraordinary importance to the individuals who rely on EHP.

The most concrete measure of poverty is insufficient income. The causes are many and varied, but the effects are always devastating, especially for children and youth and also for the elderly. The two most direct ways to remedy insufficient income are (1) to lower costs and (2) to raise income. Most of what we are able to do at EHP falls into the category of lowering costs. When we give a food box, provide furniture, or make available better clothing, we help lower the cost of maintaining a family. When we offer nutrition courses, host support groups, organize summer children’s activities, and encourage personal health and well-being, we lend a hand in reducing the expenses that a family may face. A broad range of services such as these is the most immediate way that EHP can assist those struggling with inadequate income. As we look to the future, EHP is also exploring whether there might be effective and viable ways that we might help to increase income for our neighbors who come to us for support.

Those of us who work and volunteer at EHP are mindful of how all of the seemingly *small* things that we offer each day – from a box of food to a welcoming smile, from a warm coat to supportive words – contribute to *large* outcomes for so many. By extending our helping hands to those in need around us, we build sturdy pathways that lead away from poverty

~  
 “At EHP, we are  
 committed to  
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 up’ rather than a  
 ‘hand out.’”  
 ~

**EHP’s Vision:** As a community, EHP works to meet the needs of its neighbors, both material and intangible. Our goal is to be more than just a social service agency that connects people to resources. We strive to build relationships that allow us to encourage, support and nourish individuals and families through difficult times. We fully understand the importance of providing life's essentials, but aspire to a wider focus: the creation of a moral community of support that can provide hope to replace despair.

## EHP'S PLEDGE

*The Ecumenical  
Hunger Program  
(EHP) is a special  
kind of community,  
a neighborhood  
of committed  
individuals & groups.  
In our neighborhood,  
people care for one  
another.  
We look after each  
other's welfare.  
We lift up those who  
are down.  
We express confi-  
dence in those who  
are disheartened.*

452

Number of families participating  
in case management

287

Referrals made to partnering  
organizations for client advocacy

28

Individuals participating in various  
ongoing support groups

\$12,500

Gift cards distributed for  
back-to-school needs

3,344

Children receiving ongoing  
emergency food resources

801

New pairs of shoes distributed  
through My New Red Shoes

1,398

Number of fresh bags of produce  
distributed through Produce Push

10,928

Number of individuals served  
through the Emergency  
Food Program

26,001

Number of food boxes distributed  
through the Emergency  
Food Program

5,588

Number of hot meals served  
through the Hot Meal Program

\$4,392,461

In-kind donations distributed to families-in-need

27,350

Individuals served through the clothes closet and furniture program

4,715

Community closet visits

14,348

Furniture items and appliances distributed

\$256,275

Dollar equivalent of donated volunteer hours

17,085

Volunteer hours donated

1,468

Total number of volunteers

345

Total number of youth volunteers ages 5-17

*We support one another in a host of tangible and intangible ways.*

*We believe in each other and encourage in those around us the self-respect needed to live in dignity.*

*Through the relationships that our neighborhood provides, we can achieve the degree of self-sufficiency and self-worth that we all need to live useful and meaningful lives.*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## Statement of Support and Expenses Year Ending June 30, 2018

### Cash Support

Individual	977,035
Community Groups	15,352
Corporations	67,294
Restricted	40,000
Fundraising	15,886
Foundation Grants	403,233
Congregations	36,261
Other Revenues	4,490

**Subtotal Cash Support & Revenue 1,559,551**

In-Kind Support 3,792,718

**Total Support & Revenue 5,352,269**

### Expenses

Administrative	337,627
Fundraising	162,576
Program	4,747,219

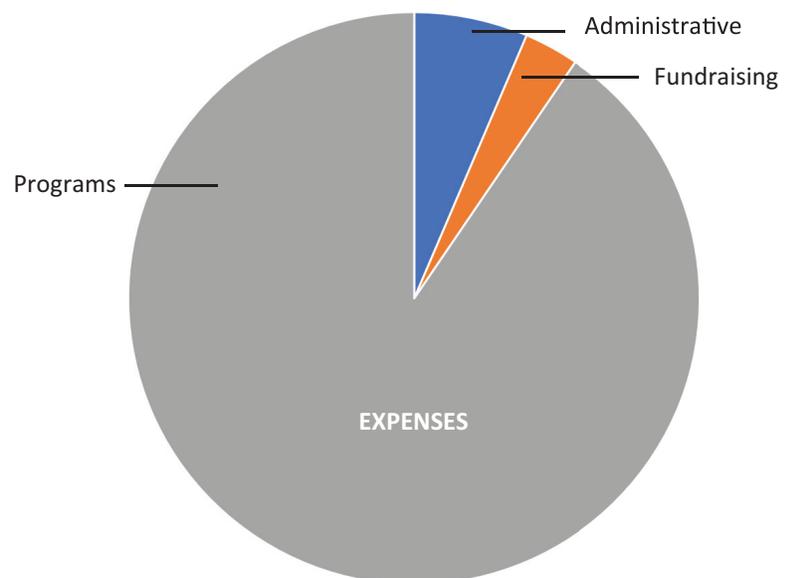
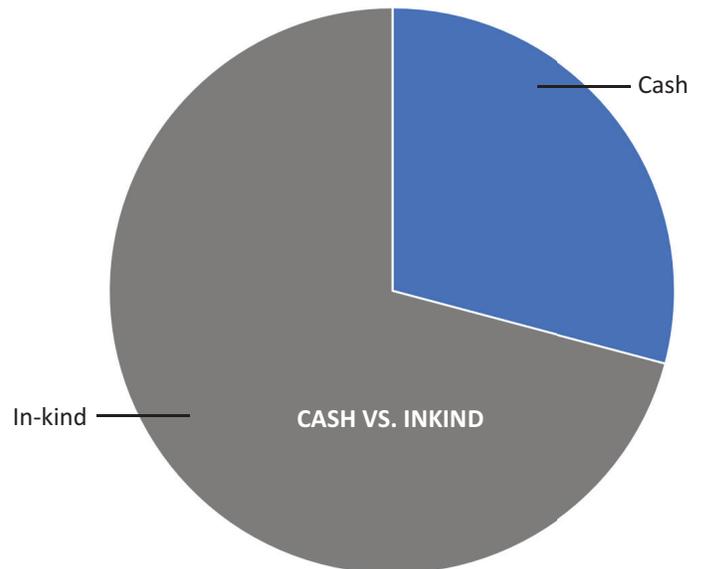
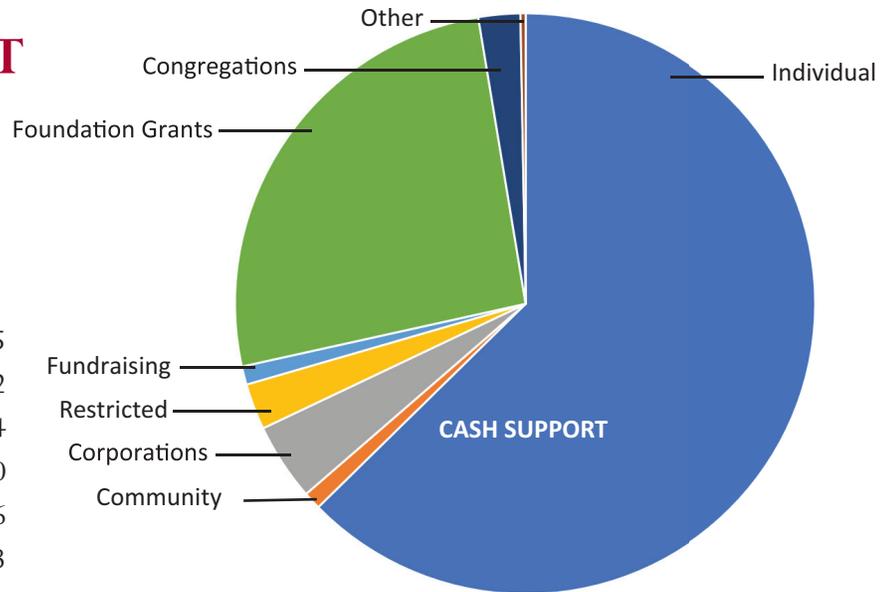
**Total Expenses 5,247,422**

### Net Assets

Change in net assets	104,847
Net assets at July 2017	2,769,670

**Net assets at end of June 2018 2,874,517**

*EHP strives to maintain at least 12 months of operating expenses to allow flexibility in responding to changing economic circumstances.*



## DEVELOPMENT

Fundraising is an important part of any non-profit organization, especially one like EHP, that fights poverty in the local community. At EHP, these two factors have made a big difference in our development efforts throughout 43 years of serving families-in-need:

- First, we've constructed a diverse mix of funding sources to ensure sustainability even in tough times.
- Second, we don't look at development as simply fundraising, but rather as an opportunity for others to get involved in a vital and successful social service organization.

Our funding comes from four primary sources. This creates a macro-level of diversity in funding that is sustainable. Additionally, each of our four primary sources is structured with additional micro-levels of diversity to further strengthen our funding sustainability:

- Congregation, community group and corporate income, (8% of total income in 2017-2018)
- Individual income (63% in 2017-2018)
- Foundation income (27% in 2017-2018)
- Fundraising & other (2% in 2017-2018)

We receive no federal, state, or local government funding. This diverse funding mix is part of the reason we've been successful for 43 years, regardless of the general economic environment.

## Donor Bill of Rights

To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

1. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
2. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
3. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statement.
4. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
5. To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition.
6. To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
7. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
8. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization, or hired solicitors.
9. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share. (Note: The Society of St. Andrew does not share its mailing list.)
10. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation, and to receive prompt, truthful, and forthright answers.

*This Donor Bill of Rights was adapted from the ten-point Donor Bill of Rights created in 1993 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in conjunction with other fundraising and nonprofit groups.*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - *May Chevallier*



*May Chevallier in the EHP garden*

When May called asking if we needed gardening help, I thought we had found someone willing to help with weeding and trimming our bushes. Little did I know May would soon take over our community garden and transform what was a series of barren planter boxes filled with straggly weeds into a burgeoning community farm, producing a bounty of fresh vegetables this summer for our families.

Each week, we'd notice something new happening within our garden. First there was the absence of weeds, then seedlings started to appear. Before long, a drip system was installed, then trellises were built to support the growing tomato plants. May would slip in very quietly, working away in our little garden, often bringing along a friend or two to help her turn our dirt plot into a mini vegetable farm.

As we got to know May Chevallier, we discovered she has a great deal of experience in horticulture. As the owner of an olive grove, she has been in the agriculture business for 12 years. Once her daughters were grown, May wanted to help local people in need and when she learned about EHP, the idea of creating a working community garden that could provide fresh food was born. So far this summer, our little garden has produced 25 pounds of green beans and bags of summer squash. The tomato plants are thriving and the grape tomatoes are almost ready to pick. Asked why she decided to volunteer at EHP, May said "I'd like to augment the food pantry with fresh organic vegetables for the clients". Here are May's plans and her thoughts on EHP. "I would like to teach people to grow organic vegetables and eat healthy food. I see the EHP like the little engine that could. It is a small organization but it is able to help so many people. I'm absolutely humbled by the caring and hardworking staff and volunteers."

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT - *Chan Zuckerberg Initiative*



*Members of CZI volunteering at EHP (Photo by Dale Ramos)*

Founded by Dr. Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg in 2015, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) is helping solve some of the world's toughest challenges – from eradicating disease, to improving education, to reforming the criminal justice system. We're proud to call San Mateo County home, and believe our mission starts here. We partner with, learn from, and support local organizations in their work creating a brighter future for everyone in our community.

CZI supports the Ecumenical Hunger Program in its efforts to provide compassionate, dignified assistance to families and individuals experiencing economic and personal hardship.

EHP's commitment to individualized care, and belief that those impacted by challenges should be at the center of solutions, aligns with CZI's vision for a future for everyone where people have the power to shape their communities. We're inspired by EHP's longtime service in the community, and are honored to play a small role in their work.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - *The Repair Café*



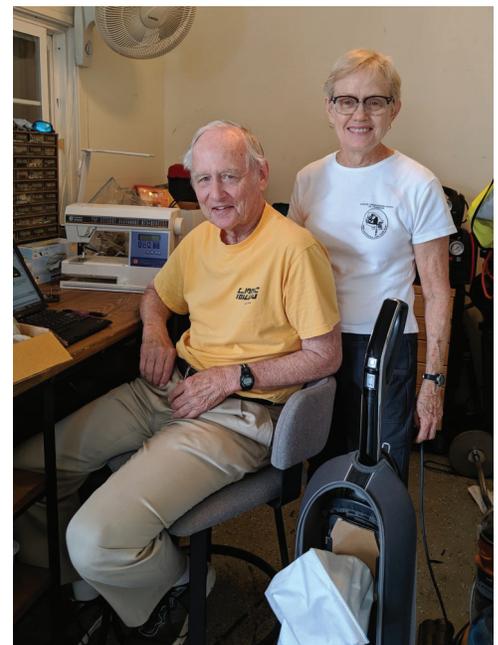
*Jim Wall*

Although for decades I had heard about the wonderful work done by the Ecumenical Hunger Program, and had donated to EHP, my husband Todd volunteered there for about a year before I did. He is active in Palo Alto's Repair Café, whose mission is to keep things working and out of the dump, and several Repair Café volunteers help at EHP. As a retired Stanford physics professor, he likes the challenge of diagnosing broken things and fixing them. An impressive range of household goods is donated to EHP by individuals and businesses. Todd helps to make sure they are in good working order before they are passed on to families.

He found his Tuesday mornings with EHP so interesting and rewarding that I started volunteering, but in the clothing area. I was amazed by the variety of clothes and household goods that EHP provides to families in need. I have seen people who have just acquired housing receive beds, bedding, dishes, etc., to furnish their new home. Perhaps the most exciting and inspirational event was when we were able to give a young woman a wedding dress: it fit her perfectly and she was a lovely and very happy bride!

Now I help Todd in the household furnishings area. He does the complicated repairs, but we both assemble furniture and test and repair vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, TVs, heaters, fans, and more. We both work in the morning, but EHP serves such a large community that it takes more than one or two people to do the assembling, testing, and repairing, so on Tuesday afternoons the effort is continued by Jim Wall, also from the Repair Café. He continues the work of assembling, testing, and repairing donated items. Jim often ends up taking broken items home for more intensive repairs. He says that after retiring from the computer industry he finds it challenging and rewarding to test and mend for EHP. Thank you, Jim!

~  
 “The Repair  
 Café’s mission  
 is to keep  
 things work-  
 ing and out of  
 the dump.”  
 ~



*Todd & Sandy Smith*

## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT - *Kimberly's Story*

In a perfect world, Kimberly wouldn't be living in her van. She did everything right. She was raised in Palo Alto in her family home and attended Palo Alto schools. After graduating from Gunn High School, she went on to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Child Development and then her Master's in Early Childhood Development from Fresno State University.

On the surface, Kimberly's childhood seemed pretty normal. That's not to say her life was all rosy. Her mother was a single parent and they lived in her grandparent's home. She remembers going to EHP as a young child. She had an undiagnosed reading disability, but she persevered, paying close attention to everything her teachers said and teaching herself tricks to make learning a little easier. In 6th grade, Kimberly missed four months of school due to emergency hip surgery. If not for her teacher, Ms. Salmon, who homeschooled her five days a week during her recuperation, she would have lost an entire school year. When Kimberly was fifteen, she had her first job at Togo's making \$5.75 an hour. At sixteen, she worked at Jiffy Lube, then at the Round Table Pizza Service Center and Starbucks. With each job change, she followed her mother's advice, "Don't quit until you have a new job" and "make more than your last job".

Originally it wasn't Kimberly's intent to go to college. She was just waiting to graduate from Gunn and start working. But her grandmother called from Arkansas and wanted to know what college she would be attending. Not wanting to disappoint her granny, Kimberly enrolled in Fresno State University as a Pre-Nursing student. That program proved to be extremely competitive and after five years, she changed majors. It was then that Kimberly learned she was pregnant. With only one more year to go, she continued to attend classes up until the weekend she had her son. With the help of her mother and grandmother, she was back in class a week after her baby was born and graduated the following semester. Now with a degree in hand, Kimberly had no idea what to do with it. A college mentor, Dr. Bailey, convinced her to apply for the Master's program, going so far as to helping her fill out the application and sending it fifteen minutes before the deadline. Kimberly left Fresno in 2010, had her son and then returned to the university, graduating in 2013 with a Master's degree in early childhood development.

Returning to her family home in Palo Alto, Kimberly thought her newly minted diploma would make it easy to find a job. It took longer than she thought because she was limiting her job search to the Peninsula so she could raise her children in Palo Alto. After holding a number of temporary jobs, she finally landed a position at the Creative Child Learning Center. But one job wasn't enough to support her family, so for the next three years Kimberly also worked in security on the weekends at the Shoreline Amphitheater, and for Child Care Aware of America. By 2017, she had added another son to her growing family and was now the director of a childcare center in Palo Alto. Then everything fell apart. Kimberly's mother, who babysat her children, suffered a major stroke, and her boyfriend needed hip surgery. By 2018, she was pregnant, worried about her mother in an assisted living facility, caring for her boyfriend, Kenneth, and their six children who live with them full-time, and was about to lose her family home. Today, Kimberly is living in a van. She's lost her job, has been in and out of shelters, and is still trying to help her mom regain her strength and mobility. She suffers from chronic hip arthritis and had recent surgery on her back. She may need more surgeries.

Kimberly continues to work as a caregiver and for Child Care Aware as assignments come up. She knows she would be able to afford a place in Stockton or Fresno, but she wants to give her sons their best chance for success, and that means remaining in Palo Alto where they have the support of friends, schools, organizations like EHP, and her mom. She is grateful for all the assistance she has received from EHP throughout the years, from food to new backpacks, clothes and shoes for school, and holiday gifts in December. She has relied on the EHP community for relief and they have not let her down. She's received free bus passes, free lunch and even free tickets to her children's special school events. Kimberly continues to look to the future. She and her two oldest sons are taking coding classes at Street Code Academy. Both of her boys recently gave presentations on game apps they created and Kimberly will give her presentation at Demo Day/Tech Fest. She is currently taking an engineering design class and creating her website and brand. She is also designing a new line of baby items and is hoping EHP will have a sewing machine available for her soon. When asked what her most fulfilling job was, Kimberly said, "Without a doubt, Child Care Awareness of America. Helping special needs children and their families has been so rewarding." She often thinks of her grandmother's advice "Do you", and a comment from a former professor who said "That's determination". Kimberly, to a T.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT - *Menlo Park Presbyterian Church*



Menlo Park Church has been in partnership with EHP for decades. We love the opportunity to serve with EHP because of what they do with and for their local community and neighbors. In addition, it gives Menlo folks an opportunity to serve our community and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

There are a few ways that our church partners regularly with EHP. About three times a year Menlo offers a formal volunteer opportunity in which we serve alongside a local community organization. EHP is always eager to welcome Menlo volunteers of all ages to serve alongside their staff. Menlo Church volunteers who like to garden have enjoyed helping with planting in

the EHP beds. They love the idea that EHP can grow fresh fruits and vegetables to supplement the food available to their neighbors.

During “Serve Your City”, families work together where they are needed most. Parents want to serve as a family and teach their kids about service, and EHP provides the opportunity to do just that! EHP is one of the very few organizations where kids can work alongside their parents. They not only serve on that day, but they return and continue to volunteer. EHP has even customized projects for our children. When EHP told us of the need for money for the laundromat and public transportation, Menlo kids put together laundry kits, which included quarters for machine operation, detergent and dryer sheets, and transportation kits. All the kits were in zip lock bags with either a colored bus or washing machine card and a personal note to the recipient. The children worked on this project while parents organized in the food pantry or community closet.

The church has a permanent place in which donations are accepted. Weekly, Menlo folks can drop off new and used goods, which EHP picks up, and as more people learn about the services EHP offers, donations have increased. Donors love the fact that these goods are free of charge to the recipient!

Working at EHP changes those that volunteer. We grow and learn from the experience. We begin to see our neighbors through different lenses as we realize that we are all part of the same community, which extends beyond the Menlo Park bubble. Thank you EHP for providing this opportunity to Menlo Church!

~

**“We love the opportunity to serve with EHP because of what they do with and for their local community.”**

~

## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT - *Lisa's Story*

Lisa Wilson is a soft-spoken woman with an easy, engaging smile but one only needs to talk to her for just a bit to know she is a tower of strength and resilience. Originally from Massachusetts, Lisa moved to California in her early twenties to be closer to her mother. She traveled across country with her two young sons in tow, and settled in East Palo Alto. Without a high school diploma, she took any job she could find that fit around her sons' school schedules.

Lisa remembers once when she was between jobs, she sat at a restaurant with a glass of water (she couldn't afford to buy anything), waiting for her boys to get out of school and watching the other customers. The restaurant was extremely shorthanded and the customers were becoming testy, waiting for service. Without thinking, Lisa got up and started clearing tables and bringing meals from the kitchen to the waiting diners. She continued to help the harried owner until it was time to pick up her boys. On her way out, she told the owner he needed to hire a waitress, gave him her phone number, and told him to call her. He hired her that day.

The resourcefulness and pluck she showed that day at the restaurant has served her well throughout the years. When she found she needed to be home for the boys during the day, she worked at night as an assembly line worker at various electronic plants. Each job was a step up, but the lack of education continued to hinder her upward career growth. When her first daughter was born, Lisa struggled to pay the rent, utilities and food for her growing family, barely managing to scrape by each month. Then came the perfect storm. Having just given birth to twin girls, her life crumbled the month her car broke down and her babysitter quit. Lisa wasn't able to pay the rent, the PG&E bill, car repairs and higher daycare costs. She soon fell behind in her rent, had her power turned off and was on the brink of losing everything she had worked so hard for. Desperate for help, Lisa turned to the Community Resource Center who referred her to Nevada Butler at EHP for supplemental food.

~

“Lisa says she was blessed the day she met Nevada Butler, but so was EHP the day Lisa came to our door.”

~

After giving Lisa a food box, Nevada wanted to know what more she could do to help. She listened to Lisa's story, and told her to come back. Because Lisa's work hours were the same as EHP's operating hours, Nevada would stay late, waiting for Lisa to arrive so that her family always had food. Soon after, Lisa found an office job, but lacked the proper office wear. Nevada surprised Lisa with suits and shoes and other apparel perfect for her new job. She even took the time to explain proper office etiquette. Whenever Lisa was in a pinch, she would call EHP and Nevada would always have a solution, whether it was food, clothing, referrals to help her make utility payments, or just good, honest and smart advice.

A hard worker and a quick learner, Lisa was offered a job at a local non-profit organization. By this time, Lisa's family had grown to include another daughter and she finally had a job she not only loved but one which would allow her to pay it forward. Each year the Foundation ran the Toys for Tots program during the Holiday season and Lisa thought wouldn't it be wonderful if the Foundation could start a Laptop for Kids Drive. She was able to push this through and EHP became a recipient, receiving laptops over the life of the program.

Today, Lisa remains very active within the community. Not only does she volunteer at EHP, her daughters and grandchildren also help out in our food pantry and community closet. Two of her daughters work for a local high-tech firm and lead a team of fellow associates on their Community Outreach Day to help on our campus. Following a downsizing at her organization, Lisa is weighing her options to return to the work force. In the meantime, her life is full, shared with her husband of 11 years, her children and grandchildren and her ministry. Lisa leads bible study groups and volunteers when she can. Lisa says she was blessed the day she met Nevada Butler, but so was EHP the day Lisa came to our door.

## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT - *Jerica's Story*



Jerica remembers coming to EHP with her great-grandma when she was just a little girl. Jerica loved spending time with her, but when she was nine, she and her parents moved from East Palo Alto to San Jose. Life wasn't easy after the move. Her father worked three jobs to make ends meet and Jerica didn't get to spend much time with him. She would often return to East Palo Alto to visit and spend the weekends with her beloved great-grandmother. Then life took an unexpected turn when Jerica found herself pregnant at eighteen and without the means to afford a place to live in San Jose. Luckily, she was able to find an apartment in East Palo Alto and moved when her son, Jaylen, was a year old. In the next five years, she was blessed with two

daughters, Haleia Michelle and Zenia Renee, now seven and five years old. But with three young children to care for and facing lean economic times, Jerica recalled how EHP had helped her relatives and came seeking assistance.

To help support her family, Jerica currently works as a "traveling" hairdresser, but without vocational training or a degree, it's been a real struggle. Jerica would like to be a nurse. She's been going to JobTrain sporadically, but hasn't been able to complete their nursing course due to inconsistent babysitters. This will change once Zenia Renee enters kindergarten at Kipp School this fall. In the meantime, Jerica is receiving emergency food boxes to help reduce her expenses. For the first time, Jerica signed up for the New Shoes and Back to School Program at EHP. She is extremely grateful for the shoes her children received from My New Red Shoes. Her kids can hardly wait for the new school semester to start so they can sport their new kicks. She is also grateful for EHP's daily hot lunch service. Jerica's children are on their school district's free breakfast and lunch program during the school year, but during the summer break, EHP's hot lunch fills the gap and provides her family with a hearty and nutritious mid-day meal.

Over the years, when money was tight, Jerica relied on EHP for clothing, food, furniture and other household items. EHP never let her down, helping her with whatever she needed for herself and her family. When asked what EHP means to her, Jerica said, "EHP means love. These are people who take the time to take care of people they don't even know. They make sure kids have shoes, Christmas gifts when their parents can't afford to buy them, food, so they won't go hungry." When asked what she wants most, Jerica answered, "Stability. I want a stable life for my kids." Jerica hopes to start the nurse's training program soon, but it is such a comfort to know that EHP has her back and will continue to provide the basic needs with love until the time comes when her family is self-sufficient and stable.

~  
 When asked  
 what she  
 wants most,  
 Jerica  
 answered,

"I want a  
 stable life for  
 my kids."  
 ~



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