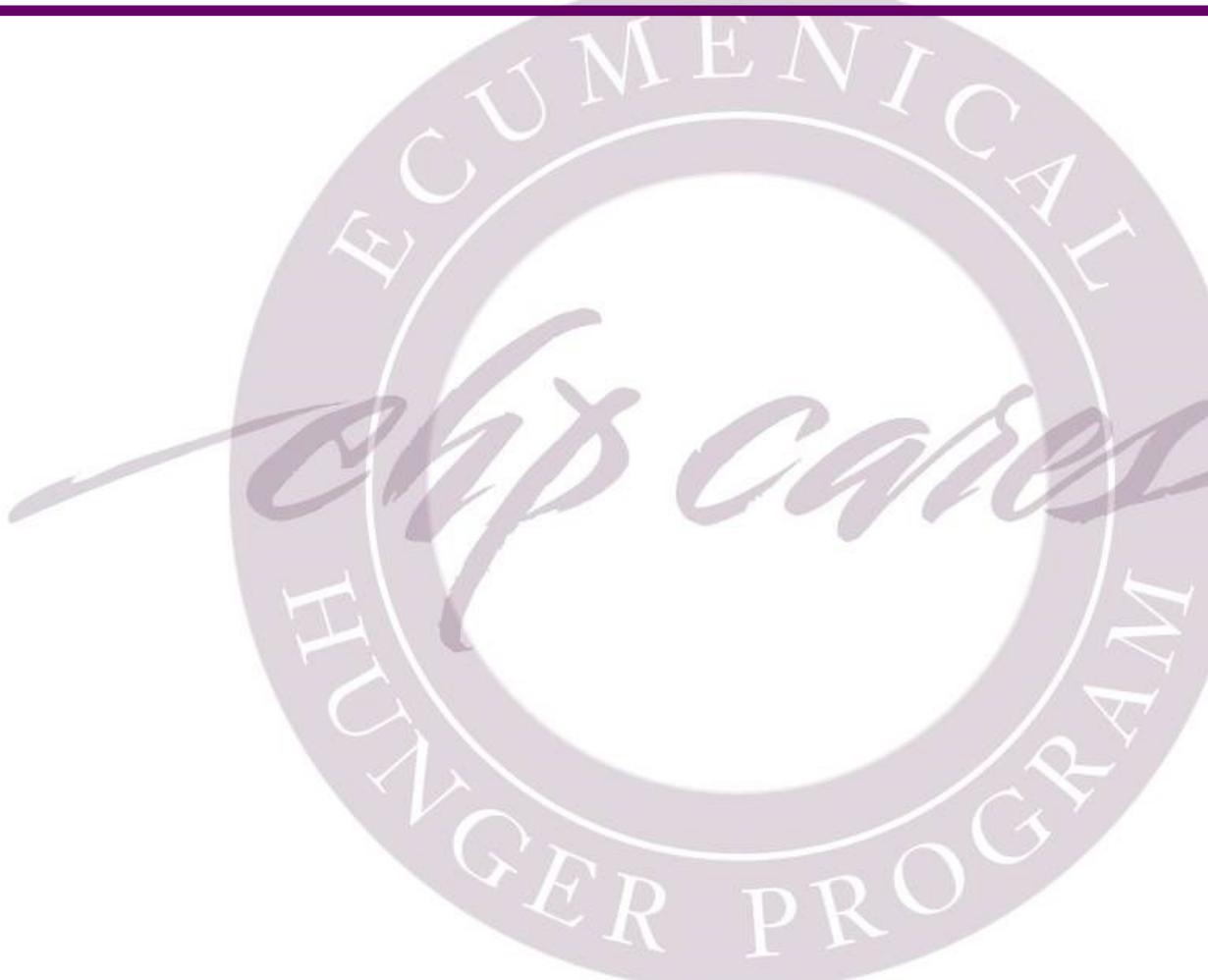




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## 2016-2017 Annual Report



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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 42 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 thirty 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

Annanda Barclay, Co-Chair  
 Byron Bland  
 Regan Dunwoody  
 Chris Ellis  
 Stephen Friedman, Vice Chair  
 Fred Glick  
 Arlene Holloway  
 Albert Macklin  
 Thayer Mullins, Treasurer  
 Mansi Shah  
 Wendy Sinton, Co-Chair  
 Amy Sorensen  
 Medha Subramani, Secretary  
 Isaiah Vi

## Executive Director

Lesia Preston

## 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  
 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





**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

In my position as the Executive Director of EHP, I speak to thousands of people every year from all walks of life. From our generous donors and volunteers to our beautiful EHP families and community members, many share the same concerns. They see rapid change occurring in the community and in their neighborhoods. Many voice concerns about gentrification, the cost of housing and in general, the rising cost of living in the Bay Area.

I share these concerns. I see the wealth gap getting wider, families traveling further for work in order to find affordable housing, and I see some of the faces of our families changing. On paper, from a national perspective, many of our families seem to be doing well. Some are college educated and have careers. But you add in the cost of living in the Bay Area, and they are living at or near poverty level. They are food insecure. They have to make the choice between paying their bills and putting food on the table. At the same time, I've noticed that safety-net funding is no longer a priority for many foundations and funders. It is now a challenge to find consistent foundation funding for food programs.

But in the midst of these concerns, I always find hope in our donor and volunteer family. They are in tune with the needs in the community. They listen without bias and they sympathize with those who are struggling. They give generously and support EHP's mission. This allows us to continue to serve our families without interruption and allows us to focus on the rising demand for our programs.

I am truly grateful, humbled and honored to work with our families and our wonderful donor and volunteer family. Together, the work we do is changing the world one family at a time.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lesia Preston".

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIR OF THE BOARD

**ANNANDA BARCLAY**

About two years ago I was a new Reverend in the Palo Alto/East Palo Alto community. Hoping to find a place where I could be part of cultivating strong relationships with all members of the community, I found EHP. As I visited and met the staff, the culture of EHP became very clear. This is an organization that believes neighbors look after one another, and acknowledges the humanity in all who come to its door. EHP's emphasis on our common humanity means that it is an organization for neighbors, by neighbors. Its aim is to build a neighborhood where all have access to things that are basic human rights, as this is what it means to live in genuine community with one another. As a human being, and as a Reverend at First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto, I am constantly trying to cultivate and participate in this kind of community.

EHP acknowledges our humanity no matter our income, no matter our status, no matter how we express our human complexity. All who are connected to EHP believe we are not simply a charity where those who have give to those who do not have. Rather, we are a community where those who have in a material sense may help people who have much to offer in other ways. We all contribute, as we can. EHP is not a utopia, but it is an organization that tries to model what it means to be part of a real human community. That's why I feel it is an honor to be its Co-Chair.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIR OF THE BOARD



**ANNANDA BARCLAY**  
Co-Chair of the Board

**WENDY SINTON**

My first experience with EHP was in 1984, soon after moving to Palo Alto. My family joined Congregation Beth Am and we participated in filling holiday food boxes with other Beth Am members. With my husband and three young children, I was introduced to this wonderful organization. We were able to feel the joy of sharing and caring that EHP provides to community members and volunteers. My family, now including grandchildren, still fills boxes and distributes food every holiday season with EHP.

I personally feel enormous gratitude for the good fortune that I have been blessed with in my life. That sense of gratitude drives me to engage in trying to help others lead a life free from hunger or cold or not having a place to live. EHP is a prime example of a program that provides food to fight hunger, clothing and blankets to fight cold and assistance to pay rent or find housing. I also help at another organization, serving dinner with another group of volunteers from Congregation Beth Am.

As a Board member and now Co-Chair of the EHP Board, I assist with planning fund raising events and spreading the mission of EHP with people whenever and wherever I go. I am moved by the compassion demonstrated daily by EHP employees and volunteers. I care deeply about EHP and its efforts to improve the difficult conditions that befall our neighbors.




**WENDY SINTON**  
Co-Chair of the Board

# FROM HUNGER TO HOPE

## Our Vision

EHP is a special kind of community, a neighborhood of committed individuals and 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 confidence in those who are disheartened. 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 with 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.



The foundation of the EHP neighborhood is a moral concern for the well-being of those around us. At our core are a dedicated staff and volunteers who give many hours of service. In this spirit, we welcome all people of goodwill to join in the common cause of providing assistance to people in need. Those of us who give as well as those of us who receive are strengthened and sustained within this community.

For many people engaged in the struggle to keep body and soul together, a sudden crisis can prove overwhelming. We believe that appropriate and timely assistance can often prevent a temporary crisis from becoming permanent, interrupting what has been called "the cycle of poverty." In any situation, the way forward is one step at a time. Very often, the first step is to meet basic needs, making further steps possible.

Providing for more than material needs, EHP seeks to be a companion to ("sharing bread with") those who are experiencing difficult times. We work directly with individuals and their families to help them find the strength and resources they need to face the turmoil and despair that can threaten to overcome them. We offer both a helping hand and a supportive relationship. We seek to keep hope and spirit alive even when hardship seems overwhelming.

## An EHP Pledge of Service

In our lives, we all know what it is like to lack the resources, skills, or capacities to address the challenges we face. While hunger is most often associated with lack of food, we at EHP also think of hunger more broadly as a state of need, both material and spiritual, that leads to hopelessness. When we hunger, daily challenges seem to overwhelm us and to rob us of the dignity that makes life meaningful. Hunger undermines aspirations, crushes dreams, and devastates lives.

To defeat this kind of hunger, we must create hope. Hope is the platform that enables us to deal with the hardships that threaten to undo our lives. Hope gives us the capacity to tackle the problems and difficulties that come our way—sometimes by defeating them, other times by coping with them, but always by persevering against them. EHP's success is built not only on meeting material needs but also on instilling hope.

The volunteers, staff and board of EHP pledge to respect each person's dignity, to honor each person's worth, and to nurture hope in all whom we meet. We acknowledge that in giving of ourselves—our time, our energy, and our resources—we receive the special blessings that come from service to one another. We recognize that all of us at EHP – those who receive and those who give – are partners together in the journey from hunger to hope.

~

**"EHP is a  
special kind of  
community, a  
neighborhood  
of committed  
individuals &  
groups."**

~

## FROM HUNGER TO HOPE *Continued*

### 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 and despair, and toward hope and self-respect.

“At EHP, we are committed to offering a ‘hand 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 confidence in those who are disheartened.*

419	Number of families participating in case management	570	New pairs of shoes distributed through My New Red Shoes
468	Referrals made to partnering organizations for client advocacy	103	Children enrolled in the pack-a-bag program
32	Individuals participating in various ongoing support groups	10,484	Number of individuals served through the Emergency Food Program
\$7,500	Gift cards distributed for back-to-school needs	19,499	Number of food boxes distributed through the Emergency Food Program
3,052	Children receiving ongoing emergency food resources	6,719	Number of hot meals served through the Hot Meal Program

**\$3,807,376**

In-kind donations distributed to families-in-need

**25,105**

Individuals served through the clothes closet and furniture program

**4,639**

Community closet visits

**4,618**

Furniture items and appliances distributed

**\$323,520**

Dollar equivalent of donated volunteer hours

**21,568**

Volunteer hours donated

**3,918**

Total number of volunteers

**489**

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, 2017

### Cash Support

Individual	691,529
Community Groups	2,825
Corporations	75,065
Restricted Contributions	55,000
Fundraising	44,813
Foundation Grants	291,126
Congregations	66,285
Other Revenues	32,425

**Subtotal Cash Support & Revenue 1,259,068**

In-Kind Support 4,201,537

**Total Support & Revenue 5,460,605**

### Expenses

Administrative	344,381
Fundraising	152,062
Program	5,169,858

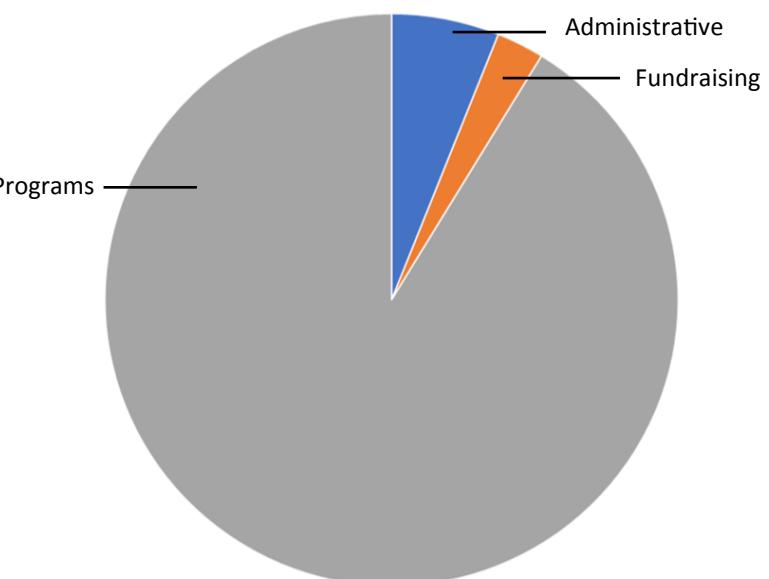
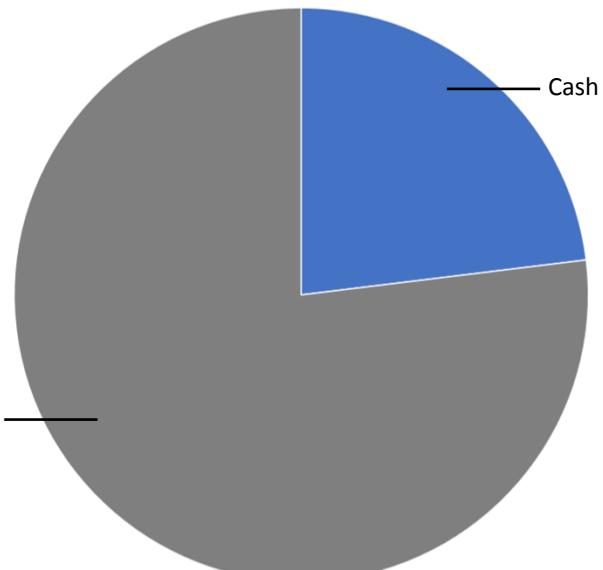
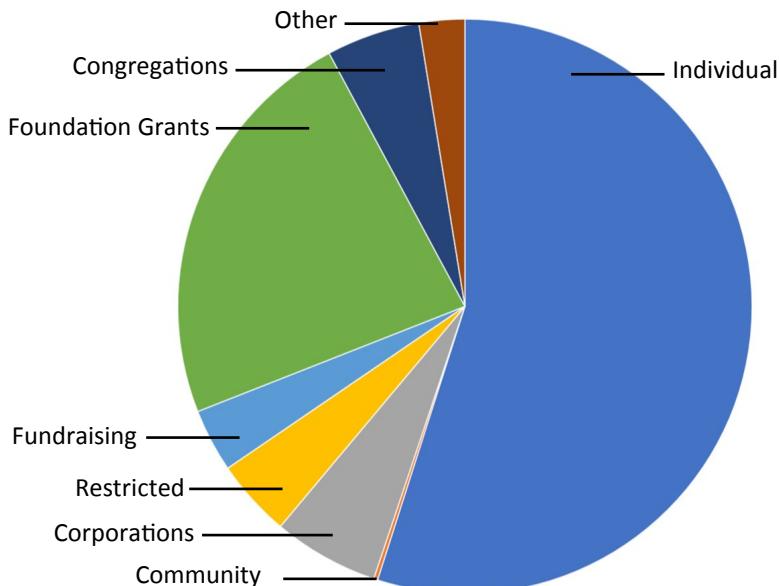
**Total Expenses 5,666,301**

### Net Assets

Change in net assets	(205,696)
Net assets at July 2016	2,975,366

**Net assets at end of June 2017 2,769,670**

*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 42 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, (11% of total income in 2016-2017)
- Individual income (55% in 2016-2017)
- Foundation income (27% in 2016-2017)
- Fundraising income (7% in 2016-2017)

We receive no federal, state, or local government funding. This diverse funding mix is part of the reason we've been successful for 42 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.*

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT - *Genni Lawrence*



I have been a donor with EHP since Christmas 2009 when my family sponsored another family in the Family Sharing Program. Back then, we provided food (from a given list) and also gifts from a wish list the family provided. We supported that same family for the next two holiday seasons but since then we've supported a different family every year. We used to go shopping just for our sponsored family, and my kids would have fun picking out the clothes and toys for the kids. These days, it's as easy as a link and we don't have to wonder if our picks are good choices. Generally, the family sends a specific wish list and we know that they will be happy when we fulfill it! It feels good to do something kind and generous for someone, especially at the holiday time.

I have also been a financial supporter for about the same time. Mostly we have donated via check but last year we also participated in the Facebook match donation program where EHP had a page for donations. I also have my Amazon Smile account setup for EHP as well - every little bit counts!

Over the years, I have also donated big items of furniture and good quality clothing. It's important to mention that furniture and clothing donations made to EHP should still be good

quality. The clients EHP serves may not be rich, but they still deserve respect.

This past year my life drastically changed and I was looking for a project that both allowed me to be helpful to others as well as bring peace and joy to myself. Incredibly, EHP had just such an opportunity: their garden had been dormant for a couple of years and needed a Garden Manager! It was a perfect fit! I love to grow food for others and have had a vegetable garden for most of my life (except for the 6 years I lived in an apartment in NYC). I have some good growing skills that I wanted to share. The EHP Garden is an ideal size and includes a "pizza" garden - ten pizza slice shaped beds that form a pizza! We will soon have a volunteer group come in to help us clean out the beds, organize the tool shed and quite possibly, plant strawberries in the pizza garden.

The plan for the EHP garden includes finding some regular volunteers, hopefully from the EHP client base, who are interested in helping work the garden on a weekly basis. They will share in the bounty we grow - making our garden a true community garden! We are hoping that any food we have left over can be donated to the EHP Food Bank to serve even more clients! Fresh, locally grown food - how good is that? Apart from strawberries, we will grow tomatoes, peppers, onions, cucumbers, lettuce, radish and carrots (to name a few) as well as continue to nurture Jimmy's artichoke plant!

So if you know anyone who is interested in spending a few regular hours in a peaceful garden setting, growing food for folks who need it, send them my way! I'll be the one in the back garden weeding in the sun.

“The clients  
EHP serves  
may not be  
rich, but they  
still deserve  
respect.”

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT - *Brian Hunwick*

As longtime supporters of EHP, my family is proud to continue to support and encourage our neighbors. Whether it is financial assistance, physical objects, personal time or moral support, to recognize and build upon community is a gratifying endeavor.

Going back to the early years of the inception of EHP, my family has been involved with, and supportive of the interfaith efforts and community building of EHP. You don't have to be a missionary kid, as I was, or live in a country where you are a member of a tiny minority to appreciate the common dignity and primary goodness of our fellow humans in their varied ethnicities and religions. While EHP is built on communities of faith coming together to encourage and support the currently less fortunate, it is not limited to faith-based individuals, or groups, but is built by people, for people. I encourage everyone to share in the acceptance of a community of humanity, and support each other in positive ways. I find EHP to be a particularly appropriate, and fiscally intelligent approach to assistance. I encourage you to join me, and my family, in whichever manner you choose, in the support of the Ecumenical Hunger Program.

*\*\*In loving memory of Marilyn and Lynn Hunwick ~ Longtime friends and supporters of EHP\*\**



*Brian & Sita Hunwick*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - *Rena Davidow*



*Rena Davidow*

Rena Davidow has been an EHP volunteer for almost two years. Her specialty is linens: she sorts and organizes sheets and other bedding. Often though, she helps her supervisor Teresa with whatever pressing jobs pop up in the warehouse: sorting children's clothes, helping with clients, etc.

Rena has volunteered in many settings, but her work at EHP is her favorite. "This is a direct service," she says. "We address immediate needs. We receive the donation, sort them and in some cases clean and repair items for our neighbors." She loves that when people leave EHP, The quality of their lives is materially better.

She also enjoys the personal nature of her work. "I get to know and speak to our clients," she says. "I have seen lovely prom dresses go to young teens who could never afford them otherwise. I have seen the joyful faces of parents who receive a beautiful layette set for their new babies."

Rena makes things neat, beautiful and organized for our neighbors. She is grateful she has the opportunity to do this fulfilling work.

Rena was a teacher for many years, her background was in the field of special education. Over the years, she found her way back to her original love - writing - and wrote advertising copy as well as free-lance articles for the Mercury News, Palo Alto Weekly and various online sites. She worked as the essay coach for a career and counseling group for over a dozen years, helping students put their hearts and best writing into their college applications.

She is retired now, except for an occasional student, and is happy to be able to have the time to work with our EHP volunteers.

“This is a  
direct service.”

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - *Caitie Field*

There comes a time in life when our children start leaving for college and we are left wondering what we are going to do our time and what our purpose is now that our children have left the nest. This is my story. I could no longer say "I'm a stay-at-home mom" when my youngest child was 17 and my other two children no longer lived at home.

I had spent 15 years volunteering at the schools that my children attended and when my oldest went off to college, I decided to venture out into the community to find new volunteer opportunities.

I now spend my days volunteering at EHP, the South Palo Alto Food Closet, Second Harvest Food Bank, The Anderson Collection at Stanford, and I occasionally do household repairs with Habitat for Humanity.

It was time to find out what my own interests and strengths were. I truly enjoy interacting directly with people in need in the community and doing hands on work.

Four years ago, as I was perusing the NextDoor app, I learned that EHP was looking for volunteers to help sort clothing and household items in the appointment closet, and work directly with clients by helping them "shop" for items in the closet. This is an area that I had experience in as I had previously managed a used book and uniform store and instantly, I knew it would be something I would enjoy."

After I started volunteering at EHP, the Appointment closet moved across the parking lot to the warehouse and was renamed the Community Closet. After the closet was moved to the warehouse, I found my volunteer hours getting longer and longer each day. I was enjoying the experience so much that I could not get myself to leave when my shift was done. I started staying until closing and then added another volunteer day to my schedule. I enjoy helping clients shop and taking time to search for just the right thing to put a smile on their faces. I especially enjoy helping teens find current fashions and families just arriving in the United States shop for items for their new homes.

The EHP staff encourages volunteers to take ownership of jobs they enjoy such as making layettes, sorting donations or helping clients shop which has made my volunteer experience rewarding and extremely satisfying.

My personal goal is to ensure that clients always feel welcome, cared for and respected. I think of myself as a shopkeeper, serving clients and ensuring they leave EHP feeling better than when they arrived. No matter what is going on in their lives, I want to make their time at EHP positive. What I didn't expect was the effect this experience was having on me. I was given as much as I was giving, if not more! No matter what is going on in my life, I always leave EHP feeling better than when I arrive. I truly enjoy being a part of EHP's volunteer family.



*Caitie Field*

~

**"My personal goal is to ensure that clients always feel welcome, cared for and respected."**

~

Impact, Outcomes, Stories





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