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Fall Edition  
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Back to School

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## Standing in Solidarity

*EHP has been in continuous operation since 1975 and a core part of the organization's mission has been to enable African Americans and other people of color to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. It is now 2020 and this focus has not changed.*

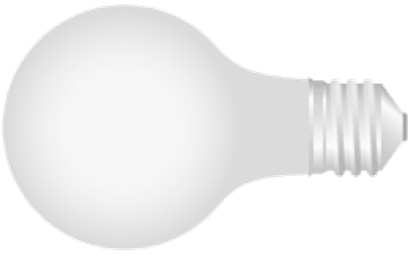
*During the past 6 months, we have been overwhelmed with the demand for safety-net resources in the local and surrounding communities and our staff, donors and volunteers have come together to respond to that need and respond powerfully. In the midst of managing our pandemic response, we faced another crisis in this country that was sparked by the tragic killing of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis and the resulting outpouring of grief, pain, anger and violence rocking U.S cities has been incredible. We at EHP are committed to our values of an inclusive and diverse community and culture. We condemn discrimination and injustice in all of their forms, and we are committed to the necessary and important conversations specific to racial injustice of the Black community and other communities of color.*

*EHP is working to fight structural racism within our own organization and community by continuously analyzing how structural racism disproportionately segregates communities of color from access to opportunity and fair treatment, and developing practices within the organization to ensure that the entire EHP family including staff, clients, donors, volunteers, board members and the local community, play a crucial role in ongoing conversations and development of lasting solutions.*

*We stand with everyone who is suffering and processing the myriad of emotions resulting from the ever-growing list of people falling victim to discrimination, injustice and hate—George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Botham (Bo) Jean and countless others. This has to stop.*

*There is still work to do, and we are continuing to take action on our commitments to diversity and inclusion. The onus is on all of us to be a part of the conversation and a part of the solution.*

Chair of the Board, Arnold Hart



## O'CONNOR & SONS ELECTRIC

Commercial · Residential · Remodeling

EHP started receiving donations from various individual donors with the note “in lieu of payment for electrical services.” The donations kept coming in and donors started included notes naming Tom O’Connor and O’Connor and Sons Electric in Palo Alto as the company who had decided to start their own donation drive to help their neighbors in need.

It wasn’t easy tracking the senior O’Connor down but when we were finally able to speak to him to thank him personally, he didn’t want our thanks. We told him that we wanted to write a small article about him in our newsletter and he was hesitant. We finally convinced him that this would be a good thing as it would motivate other donors to do the same.

Tom is a local electrician. He isn’t exceptionally wealthy but he says he is blessed. “It was a real eye-opener for me when I learned how many families in our community lost their jobs and needed food assistance. I wanted to help somehow and the first person that came to mind was Nevada Butler and EHP. I felt really bad for the families that were facing the triple hit: mom and dad both out of work and with kids at home. Where would they go if EHP wasn’t there? So I posted an ad on NextDoor and offered to do emergency electrical work in exchange for donations to EHP.”

We tried our best to thank Tom and told him how incredibly generous it was for him to offer his services in exchange for donations to EHP. Most businesses would offer a percentage to go to charity but he was giving 100%. He simply said, “Although business

has slowed down, I’ll survive this. To some people, a hundred bucks isn’t much, but one hundred dollars can make a real difference to somebody else. It made it a lot easier that my customers all knew of EHP and EHP has a good name.”

Tom will continue to trade emergency electrical work for donations for as long as he is able. Tom says, “If anyone needs an electrician, we’ll help them out.”

We at EHP are incredibly grateful to Tom and his humble generosity. It is support from donors like him that has allowed EHP to survive even in the worst of times.

Thank you Tom and sons!

## Food for Thought ...

From March 2019-July 2019, we served  
2,426 households, 7,087 individuals and 10,198 food boxes

From March 2020-July 2020, we served  
4,700 households, 11,147 individuals and 16,038 food boxes

We registered 1,803 new families

And the numbers continue to rise ...  
What will happen during the holiday season?

Ecumenical Hunger Program  
**COMMUNITY**

**BLOCKFEST 2020**

Wednesday, August 26th

10am - 12pm & 2:30pm - 4:30pm

2411 Pulgas Ave. East Palo Alto, CA

*JOIN US*

**FOR A DRIVE-THRU CELEBRATION!**

- SPECIAL TREATS
- ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS!
- INFORMATION RESOURCES - Learn more about EHP and other community groups.



“For some people a hundred bucks isn’t much, but one hundred dollars can make a real difference to somebody else.”

- Tom O’Connor



## Help a Neighbor-in-Need with Back-to-School Needs

School is already in session and our children need your help! The virtual learning environment has exacerbated the already existing digital divide and we at EHP need your help to bridge this divide. Families already struggling are also facing increased utility bills, food costs and child-care costs.

Please donate what you can today. Cash donations are appreciated but you can also donate gift cards that will be designated to families on a wish list for supplies and other critical assistance.

Please contact LaKesha at [LaKesha@ehpcares.org](mailto:LaKesha@ehpcares.org) for more information or if you would like to sponsor a family today!

Due to the current health crisis, we are encouraging our families to stay safe and distance.

We are asking our families to shop online when they can and donations of gift cards will make this possible. You can help keep our families safe!

### Gift Cards

- Target, Walmart, Costco (gift cards do not require membership), Amazon, Best Buy, etc. are encouraged.

### Other Donations

- Laptops & tablets
- Basic school supplies
- Cash resources for families to cover technology expenses
- Cash resources for families with children at home to cover extra food expenses and utilities



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***Our Mission:***

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

**BOARD OF  
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DIRECTOR**

Lesia Preston



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, demon-  
strating its commitment to transparency. Write a review about us!

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