



Gratitude and Determination in the Year Ahead

By Beth Stokes, Executive Director

As 2019 comes to a close, I am reminded how grateful I am for every person and every organization that helped us serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness and make strides in creating and strengthening the services we provide. I feel more determined and hopeful than ever about what we can achieve in the coming year.



I am grateful for our staff, who dedicate their energy, expertise, and hearts to serve our clients. I'm grateful for the ECS Board of Directors who give their time, resources, and guidance to ensure that ECS runs efficiently and fulfills its mission.

I am grateful for our partners in the city—Mayor London Breed and her staff, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), Department of Aging and Adult Services, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, as well as partner organizations such as Mercy Housing, Council of Community Housing Organizations (CCHO), San Francisco Interfaith Council, SF-Marin Food Bank, and many others.

Most of all, I am grateful for your support and dedication to helping us provide our neighbors with pathways out of homelessness. With your donations and volunteer support, this past year, we served more than 13,000 people; housed 1,500+ formerly homeless individuals, including children, in 14 supportive housing sites; provided more than 300,000 meals; and provided education and workforce development support to more than 50 people. You have provided ECS with the opportunity to more effectively reduce homelessness in our city.

ECS is the lead organization for **Adult Coordinated Entry** in San Francisco, and we have the ability to ensure the most critical services are provided to those who are the highest need. As an organization with its roots in faith, ECS has an obligation to step forward and take on that responsibility. One year ago, we opened the Bryant **Navigation Center**, a successful program designed to shelter San Francisco's highly vulnerable and long-term homeless residents. In February 2020, in partnership with Mercy Housing, we will break ground on San Francisco's

largest supportive housing development for formerly homeless people, located at 1064 Mission Street. The two-building development to be built near 7th and Mission streets will provide permanent homes for up to 265 adults experiencing chronic homelessness, including dedicated units for seniors. It is also the future home of the CHEFS Kitchen, the workforce development program and an affiliated foodservice social enterprise.

Despite our sustained efforts, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in San Francisco is increasing. In 2020, we will continue to innovate, and introduce new programming to address the humanitarian crisis in our streets. We are constantly improving and expanding our systems of care to successfully address the complex nature of homelessness.

In the bright new year ahead, we look forward to making greater strides to ensure everyone has a home to enjoy a happy holiday.

In gratitude,



Beth Stokes, Executive Director

ECS's Newest Supportive Housing Site Opens at 455 Fell Street



ECS is proud to partner with Mercy Housing on the new affordable housing site in November in Hayes Valley at 455 Fell Street. Of the 108 units in the building, 33 are dedicated to supportive family housing with services provided by ECS. The rest are below-market rate units provided by Mercy Housing.

ECS-provided services include: Voluntary individualized case management, access to basic needs, ongoing needs assessment and service plans, emotional support, advocacy, problem solving/conflict resolution, community building, support groups, and an after school program.

"We're excited to provide 33 more supportive homes for homeless families in our community," says Shelly Brown, ECS's Associate Director of Housing Services. "Every family deserves to have stable housing, and our dedicated staff will work every day to ensure these formerly homeless families can have a better life."

The addition of Fell Street brings the current count of homes that ECS provides to families to 130 units.

Welcome to Carrie Gray, ECS's New Director of Coordinated Entry



ECS is excited to announce that Carrie Gray will join us as our new Director of Coordinated Entry this month. She will oversee ECS's operation of San Francisco's **Adult Coordinated Entry** system, the gateway for people experiencing homelessness in the city to be matched with the services they need.

Carrie brings extensive experience coordinating homeless services and retention in care. Previously, she was a Program Coordinator at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Los Angeles, where she coordinated outreach to connect veterans with federal services. Prior to that, Carrie was a Project Director and Social Worker at the Center for AIDS Research, Education, and Services, as well as a Case Manager for people living with chronic mental illness at Sierra Vista Hospital.

Carrie holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Social Work from California University State University, Sacramento and Fordham University, respectively. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Air Force veteran.

About Adult Coordinated Entry

ECS became the lead agency of Adult Coordinated Entry (ACE) for the SF Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing in November 2018. Since then, ECS and its partners have developed ACE into a full-fledged program designed to provide a clear, standardized, citywide system to assess and prioritize the needs of people living on the streets, as well as a streamlined process to connect them to solutions to help them exit homelessness.

Learn more about Adult Coordinated Entry in our **blog post from August**. (<https://ecs-sf.org/?p=4607>)

Dec. 19 - The Vigil: Annual Homeless Persons Memorial

On Thursday, December 19th, we will gather for a candlelight vigil at Civic Center Plaza to remember our unsheltered neighbors who died this past year.

This annual memorial service is co-hosted by Grace Cathedral, the Coalition on Homelessness, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, and other partners.



Image: San Francisco Interfaith Council

The event will be held from 6:00pm - 7:30pm at United Nations Plaza (Market Street between 7th and 8th streets).

Find more info and RSVP on the **Facebook event page** (<https://www.facebook.com/events/683171525538902>).



Let CHEFS Kitchen Cater Your Holiday Party

*The
holidays
are here!*



By ordering party platters or holiday catering through **CHEFS Kitchen Catering**, you will enjoy delicious, healthful food, as well as support our CHEFS social enterprise! Your patronage will help support the CHEFS (Conquering Homelessness through Employment in Food Services) students who participate in ECS culinary arts training.

View the menu and order today (<http://chefskitchenonline.org/order-now>) to ensure your date is available. You can also **request a custom menu** (<https://chefskitchenonline.org/about/#contact>) to be created for your guests.

**WELLS
FARGO**

Thank You, Foundation and Corporate Partners

ECS salutes our foundation and corporate partners who, through their financial support, serve people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Since our last update, we have received grants from **the James Boyd Fund, Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Dolby Laboratories, the Joseph Barbonchielli Fund, Dodge & Cox, Comerica, the Charles and Frances Field Foundation, and the Wells Fargo Foundation.**

The financial support of our partners helps us serve the community in a variety of ways – from addressing basic human needs such as a hot meal and a safe place to sleep, employment services, and the many kinds of support services we provide to individuals on the pathway to permanent housing. We greatly appreciate your partnership in our efforts to serve our unhoused neighbors.

Volunteer This Holiday Season

Volunteering at ECS is a rewarding way to give back to members of your community. Individuals and groups can assist staff by helping to prepare and serve holiday meals, wrapping gifts, facilitating social activities, or distributing groceries. Your time will help ensure all of ECS's clients have a happy holiday! Learn more about the opportunities on our [Volunteer webpage \(ecs-sf.org/volunteer\)](https://ecs-sf.org/volunteer).



Happy Holidays From ECS!

ECS wishes all of our friends and neighbors a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year!



Directly engage and become a part of the solution.

[Volunteer Opportunities](https://ecs-sf.org/volunteer)

[\(ecs-sf.org/volunteer\)](https://ecs-sf.org/volunteer)

[Donate Today](https://bit.ly/2hCt2nx)

[\(bit.ly/2hCt2nx\)](https://bit.ly/2hCt2nx)

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