

FEBRUARY 2021

Episcopal Community Services

The Spotlight

Dear Friends,

For nearly 40 years, Episcopal Community Services (ECS) has been an essential lifeline for thousands of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in San Francisco. Yet, the essential nature of our work was not inevitable. Simply, we are a necessary product of a 400-year history that could have been written much differently.



Our nation's painful past continues to cast a long shadow over today's realities. While 2020 opened the wounds for all to see, it was simply a snapshot in time of a lifetime of systemic racism, injustice, and exclusion. This is a history that has led to disproportionate rates of homelessness, unemployment, and incarceration among Black and Brown people – the very issues that ECS exists to address. At its core, our job today is to rewrite tomorrow based on the lessons of yesterday.

As we mark Black History Month, we are reminded of the millions of individual and collective struggles, sacrifices, and triumphs that Black people have made for themselves, their families, and our nation. These are stories, voices, and insights that can – and should – take us lifetimes to commemorate, not simply 28 days of any given year.

As we stand on the shoulders of these countless giants that came before, I stand shoulder-to-shoulder alongside ECS staff as we proclaim that **Black Lives Matter** – today, tomorrow and every day.

With gratitude,



Beth Stokes
Executive Director

Canon Kip Senior Center Keeps Seniors Safe During the Pandemic



Canon Kip Senior Center continues to be proactive and creative in addressing the increased vulnerability and isolation brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. As seniors face a particularly high risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19, a vaccination clinic was held on February 8th at Canon Kip Senior Center. Word about the clinic spread swiftly among ECS's senior community, and the clinic was a resounding success. Among those vaccinated, 76 recipients were 65 years of age or older, 80 were ECS program participants, and 40 were Canon Kip Community House residents. On March 1st, those who received their first vaccine will receive their

second dose, and any seniors who had previously signed up for the February 8th vaccination clinic but were unable to attend will have a second opportunity to receive the vaccine.

Over the next several months, we are hopeful that more and more of our participants, staff, and neighbors are vaccinated. In the meantime, we will continue our ongoing safety precautions and care for each other.

Granada Hotel Welcomes New Residents

Episcopal Community Services' **Adult Coordinated Entry, Project RoomKey, and Supportive Housing** staff are working together to welcome new residents to the Granada Hotel, ECS's new permanent supportive housing site. The City of San Francisco, in partnership with ECS, received \$45 million from California's Project HomeKey to acquire and preserve the 232-unit Granada Hotel, which is located in lower Nob Hill.



The Granada is the first of several new **supportive housing residences** that ECS is opening over the next 12 months. "Increasing our **permanent supportive housing portfolio** is critical to our efforts to prevent and end homelessness," says ECS Executive Director Beth Stokes. "ECS is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the City of San Francisco and State of California to purchase the Granada Hotel, which will allow us to

provide stable housing and permanent exits from homelessness for 232 San Franciscans."

ECS Staff Share Why We Wear Our Masks



Program Staff in ECS Apparel

ECS Adult Coordinated Entry, Problem Solving, and Rapid Rehousing program staff now wear branded shirts and jackets to identify them throughout San Francisco as individuals and teams who can assist our vulnerable neighbors.

As Heather, Rapid Rehousing Navigator, noted, "Thank you so much for my work jacket. It looks very nice, and I appreciate that we look very professional and like a team. I walked home in the rain today, and I am just so grateful at the quality jacket you provided for us. These coats are warm and waterproof."



Address Homelessness Every Month

Join the growing number of heroes who are making an automatic donation of \$20-\$500 per month to serve those experiencing homelessness in our community. Just go to **Donate Monthly** (ecs-sf.org/donatenow) select the “Recurring Donation” option, and complete the information.

When you become a monthly donor, you join ECS’s group of partners who make a difference in the lives of seniors, veterans, families, and children who are experiencing homelessness every month.

Sign Up Now and Get a Free ECS Mug: If you sign up as a **monthly donor** of \$25 or more by March 31, 2021, we will send you a fabulous Episcopal Community Services mug as a thank you for your generosity!



What are you waiting for? **Make a difference this month** – and every month!

Become a part of the solution to homelessness.

[Donate Today](#)

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