

The Spotlight

August '18

Highlighting People, Programs, and Services



A Message from our Executive Director, Beth Stokes

Our fiscal year has just begun, and with it come fresh eyes for the year ahead. There is a lot we'd like to accomplish in the coming months to advance our mission to help individuals who have a lived experience of homelessness obtain the housing, jobs, shelter, and essential services they need to prevent and end homelessness.

The Minna Lee, a supportive housing site where ECS provides programs and services, is open and residents have moved into bright, freshly renovated units. We are looking forward to the opening of the 5th & Bryant Navigation Center.

With our commitment to end homelessness, we must fervently look beyond shelters to program rich permanent supportive housing. We are excited to continue toward the construction of our innovative modular supportive housing development at 1064 -1068 Mission. As the largest supportive housing development of its kind to date in the city, it will provide permanent homes for up to 265 people experiencing chronic homelessness, with 100 of these new units earmarked for formerly homeless seniors, age 62 or older.

Just over a week ago, seven ECS staff and I attended the 2018 National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Washington, DC. I had the pleasure to speak on improving the safety and housing outcomes of single women experiencing homelessness, sharing best practices with leaders in the field nationwide was inspirational and ECS will continue to advocate for the dignity and well-being of our most vulnerable unhoused neighbors. Thank you for joining us in these efforts.



Executive Director

Mayor London Breed Signs Budget at ECS's Bishop Swing Community House

Press Conference Spotlight

Mayor London Breed held a press conference on August 1 at ECS's Bishop Swing Community House. With SF Board of Supervisors President Malia Cohen by her side, Mayor Breed signed into law the City and County of San Francisco's two-year balanced budget, an \$11 billion framework for both Fiscal Year 2018-19 and Fiscal Year 2019-20. The budget advances a number of Mayor Breed's priorities, including expanding shelter and services to address the homelessness crisis, creating more housing and keeping residents housed, and investing in programs to keep the City clean and safe.

Mayor Breed worked to ensure \$60 million in new funding for critical homelessness service programs over the next two years. This includes funds to create 430 new permanent supportive housing units, \$4.4 million to fund the operation of a new Navigation Center for Transitional Age Youth, and \$2 million to create two new access points to connect families and residents struggling with homelessness to support and services. To quickly help those who have fallen into homelessness, \$12 million is also allocated to rapid re-housing programs.

Keeping residents housed is a key component of addressing the homelessness crisis. Building on these efforts, the budget includes \$5.8 million to fund a right to counsel for tenants facing eviction and \$1 million to help stabilize residential care providers, which will ensure over 350 people continue to be housed and receive care.



San Francisco Mayor London Breed

Workforce Development Spotlight



CHEFS Graduation

On July 11, George Shoungutsie, Richard Sanchez, and Anita White officially graduated from the CHEFS program. During the graduation ceremony, these three most recent graduates were recognized by their instructors and peers. ECS is proud of these graduates and wishes them success in their future endeavors. We are also grateful for the support of our CHEFS internship host sites: Project Open Hand, Raphael House, and TAWLA SF.

CHEFS (Conquering Homelessness through Employment in Food Service) is a 5-month culinary training program that provides instruction in technical and professional skills enhancement necessary for entry into the food service industry. Students are provided with classroom instruction, in-kitchen hands-on training and an internship at a local restaurant or institutional kitchen setting.



CHEFS Graduates George Shoungutsie and Anita White

Adult Ed Center Achievements

On July 26, the ECS Adult Education Center celebrated the achievements of all our AEC students, highlighting high school diploma completion of the high school diploma by students Yaritza Castillo, Alton McCrea, and John Murphy. Congratulations to all AEC students.

The Adult Education Center specializes in providing a stable, caring and individualized learning environment for students who are coping with the inter-related challenges of homelessness, illiteracy, learning disabilities, substance abuse, and mental health issues.



2018 National Conference on Ending Homelessness

Conference Spotlight

Each year, more than 2,000 service providers, government leaders, advocates, and consumers come together in our nation's capitol to work together on innovative solutions to homelessness and to meet with Members of Congress. This year, eight ECS staff members, including our Executive Director and Director of Programs, attended the conference. ECS Executive Director Beth Stokes spoke on a panel titled "Improving the Safety and Housing Outcomes of Single Women," and ECS Assistant Support Services Manager Anica Leon-Weil shared best practices on a panel titled "Helping Children Thrive in a Harm Reduction Environment". Anica is passionate about her role at ECS and emphasized during the panel, "It's important to draw a distinction between harm reduction, and 'anything goes'."



Nedra Robinson, Simpson Housing Services; Anica Leon-Weil, ECS, and Lauren Velez, Avalon Housing

Staff Spotlight



Director of Programs, Kathy Treggiari

Kathy Treggiari, Director of Programs, recently celebrated her eight-year anniversary at ECS. Kathy is a true veteran of homeless services with over 20 years experience, including a six-year stint as ECS Director of Shelters, managing both Next Door and Sanctuary sites. Kathy is still amazed by the adaptability of shelter guests and their ability to build community in the most dire and unnatural of circumstances. This appreciation for people with lived experience of homelessness has carried her throughout her shelter career.

For Kathy, the true heroes are the tireless shelter staff who work around the clock and are expected to wear countless hats and shift roles quickly. “They are expected to be doctors, social workers, maintenance workers. They are truly resilient!”

Kathy continues to love her work at ECS and our new initiatives at the cutting edge of homeless services. “ECS is innovative, piloting new projects, expanding programs, building capacity.”

Listen to Kathy discuss Navigation Centers on KQED's Forum.



Director of Programs, Kathy Treggiari

Fuzzy Pet Health Clinic

Program Spotlight

Fuzzy Pet Health, in partnership with ECS, held its first veterinary clinic for pets of residents of Bishop Swing Community House July 19.

Pets are vital to the emotional health of many of ECS's supportive housing residents in San Francisco. With Fuzzy's mission to make pet care accessible, affordable, and delightful for every pet parent, the clinic was a chance for low-income residents to help their best friends and tailored pet health care recommendations and services. There were lots of barks, meows, and smiles in support of Fuzzy from both pets and residents.

Vaccinations and monthly flea, tick, and heart worm medications were distributed as well as physical exams, consultations, and appropriate diagnostics such as heart worm test for dogs or FeLV/FIV tests for cats. Additional preventive medications will be delivered monthly by Fuzzy, individually packaged for each pet resident.



Exec Director, Beth Stokes; Dr. Gina Henrikson, Dr. Robert Trimble, Fuzzy staff, and residents with their pets

Grant Spotlight



William G. Gilmore Foundation

ECS applauds the William G. Gilmore Foundation for their recent award of \$25,000 for ECS's crisis shelter services and housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness. The William G. Gilmore Foundation has been donating to ECS's work for over 30 years, and we are grateful for their generosity.

The Gilmore Foundation funds the provision of shelter, food, and other services to families in need, as well as support services for people with disabilities and enrichment programs for children and youth.

WILLIAM G. GILMORE FOUNDATION

Senior Center Volunteer Swami Varadan

Swami Varadan was born in India and moved to Silicon Valley as a toddler. Having experienced a wave of losses and upheavals that could lead many to homelessness, Swami had a personal awakening in his early 30s that prompted him to become a meditation and mindfulness teacher in Los Angeles. His goal is to bring mindfulness to the masses. Moved by how individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty embrace meditation practice, Swami began offering weekly guided meditation classes at ECS's Canon Kip Senior Center in May.

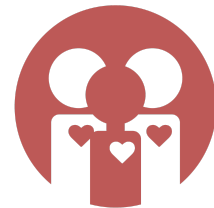
For many, this was their mobility or differing abilities meditated while seated in chairs. Helping his group of mainly elderly Filipina participants to embrace new centering and breathing techniques, giving them strategies to carry with them into daily life. Half the participants in Canon Kip Senior Center programs have lived experience of homelessness, and their new guided meditation practice helps them focus on their well being.

Thank you, Swami Varadan!



Swami Varadan and Senior Center participants

Volunteer Spotlight



Donor Spotlight



Sustaining Donor, Johnny Cochran

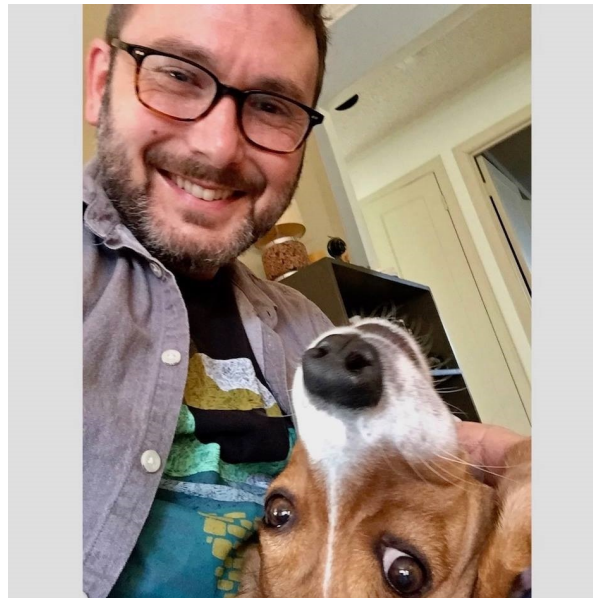
What inspired you to start giving to ECS?

I wanted to help people experiencing homelessness because it's hard walking by them every day and going home to my warm bed, well fed, without doing something meaningful to help them. My parents taught me values like helping the less fortunate, showing compassion to prisoners, giving shelter to strangers, and I believe we will be judged by how we treat all of our brothers and sisters. Donating monthly to ECS is a great way to create positive change in the world, and the best way to end homelessness is to provide more homes!

Thank you to all the ECS employees and volunteers who work to provide shelter when the sun goes down and services when the sun comes up. My hope is that one day our society will take care of each other so well that we don't even need organizations like ECS, but until that day comes keep up the good work.

Thank you, Johnny! We appreciate your partnership as we work to make homelessness a thing of the past for more people.

Show that you value the programs and services we provide to San Francisco's poorest residents. Join Johnny and become a sustaining supporter. When you give monthly, you can provide for the programs you care about all year round. It's easy! Simply select "Monthly Gift" and choose your monthly amount. Then set it up through your credit or debit card. Make your difference now and become a sustaining supporter of ECS.



Johnny Cochran with Waylon

Episcopal Community Services | 165 8th Street | 415.487.3300 | ecs-sf.org



