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## A Message from our Executive Director, Beth Stokes

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Dear friends,

December is a time when our thoughts turn to home and family. This December, ECS is celebrating the 1,400+ formerly homeless men, women, and children who have a place to call home in our supportive housing program. We also congratulate the 50 men and women who found a home at our Minna Lee housing site this past August after months or years of homelessness. And we couldn't be more thrilled that dozens of unsheltered individuals will soon receive keys to their first homes in years via the Coordinated Entry System and partner agencies. Please take a minute to read more about more exciting activities going on at ECS in our newsletter below.

At the same time, our hearts go out to the families and communities who lost homes and loved ones to the Camp Fire. ECS opened 50 "pop up" shelter beds as a response to the toxic air quality caused by the Camp Fire. This was especially urgent because many people living on the streets struggle with chronic or acute medical conditions. In collaboration with the San Francisco Interfaith Council, ECS extended the Interfaith Winter Shelter, which opened on November 18, 2018 and will now shelter 80-100 men nightly until mid-March.

As many of our neighbors in San Francisco search for a place to call home, ECS's shelters provide human connection, caring staff, hot meals, a warm bed, and temporary respite from the cold and rain. Our navigation centers—smaller than traditional shelters and focused on pathways to housing—provide a sense of community and hope.

This holiday season, please join us in creating shelter and community for vulnerable San Franciscans by donating to ECS.

May you and yours find a renewed sense of home and connection this season,



Beth Stokes  
Executive Director



## Grant Spotlight



### 2018 Neighborhood Builders Award

We are thrilled to announce that ECS is the winner of Bank of America's 2018 Neighborhood Builders Award for San Francisco! The highly competitive and prestigious award recognizes ECS's ground-breaking work in innovating solutions to homelessness, provides leadership development for ECS senior staff, and leverages \$200,000 of unrestricted support for our work in the community. Thank you, Bank of America!

ECS also thanks Covia Communities (formerly known as Episcopal Senior Communities) for their \$20,000 grant in support of our Canon Kip Senior Center and the envisioned expansion of Healthy Aging Services to low-income seniors in other ECS programs.

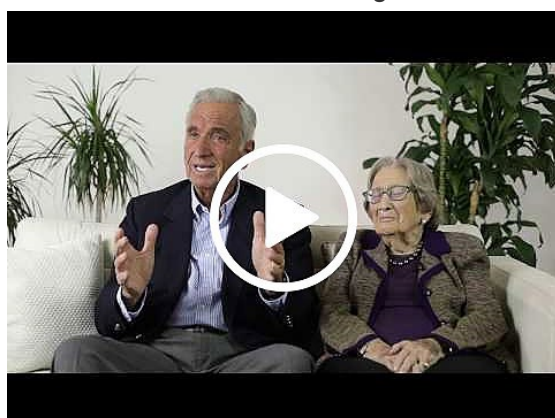
*Read more here: <https://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/news/2018/10/26/innovating-solutions-to-homelessness.html>*



### Interfaith Winter Shelter

At the outset of his term as Mayor, Art Agnos appealed to religious leaders to come to the aid of the City in addressing our homeless crisis. What began as a one-year Emergency Winter Shelter, this year enters into its 30th year. The Interfaith Winter Shelter, the 50+ congregations providing meals, the hundreds of volunteers and community leaders who contribute to the shelter each year were recognized at the annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on November 20. At the breakfast, ECS Executive Director, Beth Stokes, Leader Nancy Pelosi, Mayor London Breed and others spoke about both the rich history and the merits of the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Click below to watch a video of the winter shelter as told by Mayor Art Agnos and Interfaith Council Founding Member, Rita Semel.

### Program Spotlight



To view this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taHLWCRO5Q>

## Staff Spotlight



### **Rose Smith**

Rose Smith is a rare gem at ECS. She's been working at the Next Door Shelter in the Tenderloin for over 13 years. Her own personal experience with homelessness led her to our Next Door shelter where she stayed for a year. Once she overcame her own battles and recovered, Rose wanted to give back and help others facing similar struggles.

Ask anyone at the Next Door shelter, staff or guests alike, and they will tell you that Rose is a positive force for shelter guests, providing both encouragement and hope. Rose has become something of a sage at Next Door, doling out advice. Shelter guests often say, "Ms. Rose, I listen to you." And why not? When she is not putting out fires at Next Door, she is acting as an unofficial cheerleader. She can often be heard telling people, "You can do this!" For Rose, the best feeling is seeing a shelter guest secure permanent housing.



*Rose Smith*

## Holiday Drive Thank You

Thank you community partners for helping ECS provide gifts to more than 2,500 participants, guests and residents in our shelters, navigation centers, supportive housing communities and other programs during this holiday season.

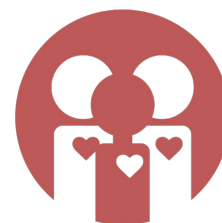
### **Holiday Drive 2018 Donors:**

**Adobe** - Allen Matkins - **Amgen PRIDE-ASF** - **Ascent Private Capital Management of U.S. Bank** - Box - Charles Custer - **Charles Schwab (Bharti Shah)** - **Charles Schwab (Gail Garvey)** - **Christ Episcopal Church** - **Church Of Our Saviour, Mill Valley** - **Church of the Incarnation** - Clever - **Diana Robinson (Uber)** - Dropbox - Family Giving Tree - **First Mennonite Church of San Francisco** - **IDEO** - **Little Barnett** - **Project Night Night** - **Radiance Christian Church** - **Salesforce (Hands on Bay Area)** - **Self-Help for the Elderly** - Slack - **St. Aidan's** - **St. Ignatius Parish** - **St. James Episcopal Church** - **St. Luke's Church** - **The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin** - **St. Thomas More Catholic Church (Brazilian congregation)** - **Welcome Home Project** - **Yarn Lady** - **Pablo and Khena Wong** - **Bombas** - Airbnb Plus - **Atlassian** - **Zoosk** - **Hooray Sock Co.** - **Swift Navigation**

Thank

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## Giving Spotlight



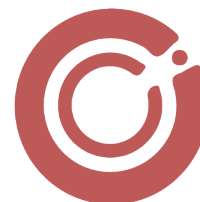
## CHEFS Kitchen: Start Planning for the Holidays Today!

The holidays will be here before we know it. CHEFS Kitchen offers all types of catering, including delicious, full **holiday** meals.

Treat your family, team, partners or your customers to a holiday they will remember catered by our CHEFS Kitchen team. Book early to make sure your date is available.

**CHEFS Kitchen is also available to create a custom menu for your guests for your upcoming events, just email us at [chefscatering@ecs-sf.org](mailto:chefscatering@ecs-sf.org).**

## Program Spotlight



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**Directly engage and be a part of the solution.**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

<http://www.ecs-sf.org/getinvolved/volunteer.html>

**Donate Today**

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registrant/DonationPage.aspx?eventid=209933&langpref=en-CA&Referrer=direct%2fnone>

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Episcopal Community Services | 165 8th Street | 415.487.3300 | [ecs-sf.org](http://ecs-sf.org)

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