A Message from our Executive Director, Beth Stokes

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
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.


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.

To view this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taiHLWCROSQ
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.
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:

Thank

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.
Directly engage and be a part of the solution.

Volunteer Opportunities
http://www.ecs-sf.org/getinvolved/volunteer.html

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