



## A Message from our Associate Executive Director, Karen Gruneisen

Happy 2019, y'all!

January is a time for looking back and forward. For me, it's especially poignant because, after ten years in the best job I've ever had, I am joining my husband in retirement come February.

Ten years at ECS evokes scores of "Yes! Celebrate!" feats. But premier is this: our homeless neighbors' gains - housing, eating nutritiously, physical and mental health, income through employment, choices through education, safe shelter, a place of belonging and stature in our community - come despite poverty, racism, violence and trauma, outrageous housing prices, the unavailability of excellent education and growth jobs for all, and fragmented personal support networks. These realities form our conviction and drive our work. I celebrate our clients' spirit, resiliency, courage; our frontline staff's ingenuity, devotion, resolve; our leaderships' foresight, stewardship and willingness to take risks.

Looking forward, with inadequate space here to tout all the remarkable work on the horizon, I introduce programs championed by three new ECS Directors and our new Chief Development Officer.

2019 finds us . . .

- at the lead of SF's Adult Coordinated Entry System, with immediate beneficial impact on resolving homelessness for some and the promise of exposing with data the scope of investments needed to end homelessness for all (welcome Chris Block, Director since July);
- raising the value of work – growing our employment programs, targeting opportunities for our tenants and professionalizing our Chefs Kitchens social enterprise (welcome Jason Pruett, Director of Workforce Development, starting January);
- expanding our focus on the needs of older adults beyond the Senior Center across all ECS programming (welcome Liz Tarzon, Director of Healthy Aging since November);
- and fortifying our economic sustainability to continue our current activities and bring to fruition our remarkable Staff Directors Team's visions (welcome Jennifer Jayme, Chief Development Officer since December).

With deep appreciation for you, all the very best in this New Year!



Karen Gruneisen Associate  
Executive Director



## Mayor Breed Steers Windfall to Help Cities Homeless

On Dec 20th, Mayor London Breed unveiled a detailed proposal to direct the \$181 million in available funding from the City's recently announced windfall to programs for homelessness, affordable housing, behavioral health, and street cleanliness.

The Mayor's proposal would support the creation of over 900 new units of affordable housing, preserve and improve over 1,000 units of existing affordable housing, fund the expansion of 300 new spaces in homeless shelters and Navigation Centers, and open 86 behavioral health and substance abuse hospital beds.

From the podium, ECS Executive Director Beth Stokes supported the Mayors plan. "Every unit of housing is a solution to homelessness, and using these unexpected funds to support those amongst us who are most in need is the right thing to do," said Beth Stokes. "Making significant investments in new housing units while also increasing our capacity to provide shelter for people while that housing is built, will go a long way in meeting our shared goal of ending chronic homelessness in San Francisco."

Press  
Conference  
Spotlight



ECS Executive Director Beth Stokes, Mayor London Breed and community members

See press conference here: [http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/32092?view\\_id=18](http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/32092?view_id=18)



## Program Spotlight



### Extraordinary Generosity

Our annual Holiday Gift Drive once again uplifted the people under our care over the holidays, with extraordinary generosity from the community this year. Individuals, corporate teams and faith-based groups rallied to contribute holiday gifts for people across our programs, providing gifts to over 2,500 men, women and families living in homelessness and poverty.

Many donors not only contributed gifts and funds, but volunteered their time to personally wrap the presents. Gifts included coats for seniors, blankets and care packages for guests at shelters and navigation centers, and household items like comforter sets and bath towel sets for supportive housing residents. Unique gifts were given to each person, reminding them they are individually valued.

Our deepest gratitude to extraordinary donors like **Atlassian**, who gave our seniors holiday gift bags filled with jackets, a thermos, tea, mittens, scarves and other items. Other especially generous donors included corporate partners **Allen Matkins, Slack, Clever, Charles Schwab, Dropbox, Adobe** and **Box**, non-profit partners like **S.F. Association of Realtors' Welcome Home Project, Project Night Night**, and **Family Giving Tree**, and faith-based groups at **Grace Cathedral, St. Ignatius Parish** and **St. Luke's Church**.

The outpouring of kindness was a fitting symbol of ECS' wish to nurture hope and dignity in each person we encounter, and was received by our men, women and families with humble gratitude. The Holiday Drive touched people like Mya, a guest at Central Waterfront Navigation Center, who said, **"This is my first Christmas in San Francisco and alone away from any family... thanks, and one day I hope to make someone have a smile."**



*ECS's Jonathan De Souza and Clever volunteer*

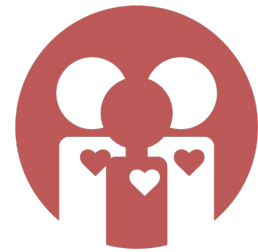
## Double Your Impact: Does Your Company Match?

It's a new year; let's start it off right by giving back. Does your company match employee gifts or volunteer hours? Corporate matching gift programs give employees an opportunity to increase the impact of their gifts by doubling or even tripling their tax-deductible contributions. **An estimated \$4-\$7 Billion in matching funds goes unclaimed each year and 65% of Fortune 500 companies offer matching programs.**

Please **consider ECS when donating or volunteering** and contact your Human Resources Department for details of your company's corporate giving program.



## Giving Spotlight



Corporate Giving

## Giving Spotlight



### Staff Spotlight ECS Finance Manager, Evelyn Lam

Evelyn Lam has worked for Episcopal Community Services for 12 of the 30 years she has worked in the nonprofit accounting space. She loves working with the ECS staff who Evelyn feels are so passionate about serving their clients. Evelyn has always believed the role of Finance/Accounting is to assist and support front line staff in carrying out their work of providing services to clients. Evelyn notes that is also the most rewarding thing about her work, being a partner to those on the front line, making what they do easier – invoicing for funds, providing analytical reports, budget and financial information, etc..



Evelyn Lam

## A Shining Example: Dani Scoville

ECS helps thousands of men, women, and families through vital support from people like monthly donor, Dani Scoville. We recently caught up with Dani, and she shared the moment she was inspired to give to ECS. Dani explained, “I was listening to an interview with someone from the Downtown Streets Team. He mentioned how much he admired the work of ECS. In researching ECS, I realized I already knew about many of their programs, I just didn’t think they were all under the same umbrella!”

For her birthday **Dani chose to do a birthday Facebook fundraiser for her neighbors experiencing homelessness and chose ECS as the beneficiary** nonprofit. She notes, “in the process of researching facts and numbers to motivate my friends to give to ECS, I realized that I wanted to be a regular monthly donor too!” She has been a regular monthly donor for a year now, has held her second annual Facebook birthday fundraiser to benefit ECS and loves seeing her friends participate in supporting a nonprofit she respects.

## Donor Spotlight



*Dani Scoville*

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

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Donate Today

*<http://www.ecs-sf.org/>*

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

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