

Community *Matters*

During this holiday season, we celebrate the generosity of spirit that makes community possible. We celebrate the various ways that people give of themselves and extend our appreciation to all those who support the ESC and ESC Foundation mission to provide life-changing support for seniors.

A Community Draws Together: Weathering Northern California's Worst Natural Disaster

In early October of 2017, a series of wildfires swept through Sonoma and Napa Counties. Early on Monday, October 9th, independent living residents at Spring Lake Village were evacuated due to the fierce and swift nature of the fire. It was important to get as many people off campus as early as possible to assure safety. All residents receiving care were soon evacuated after orders from the Emergency Operations Center, with 40 ambulances and five buses arriving to transport those with health care needs. Spring Lake Village has a detailed disaster response plan – and it was evident that the resident and staff drills were effective when nearly 500 residents of Spring Lake Village were all safely evacuated.

Jennings Court residents were advised to evacuate on October 11th because of the increasingly poor air quality in Santa Rosa, and Oak Center Towers opened its doors to



Spring Lake Village welcomed home the nearly 500 residents who were evacuated during the recent firestorms that swept through Santa Rosa. Other ESC communities hosted many of these residents. "An emergency like this shows the value of community living," noted one resident.

welcome those who needed accommodations.

Many Spring Lake Village residents with cars went to stay with family or friends, while others – including residents receiving care support – were evacuated to designated Emergency Shelters, accompanied by staff. Over the next few days, as emergency crews

poured in from throughout the state and beyond to fight the fires, Episcopal Senior Communities relocated many Spring Lake Village residents from shelters to other ESC communities. Residents were welcomed at St. Paul's Towers in Oakland, San Francisco Towers, Webster House in Palo Alto, and Los Gatos Meadows. Some residents with Memory Care or Assisted Living needs were also welcomed by partner organizations who had space and staff to provide appropriate support. SLV staff members traveled to help support the residents in other communities, even though some team members had no way of knowing if their own homes were still standing.

The St. Paul's Towers community opened its arms to welcome 77 displaced Spring Lake Village community members, with many residents offering to share their apartments.

Donated supplies – from toothbrushes to shirts

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Living the Spirit of Giving: Margaret Handelman



Margaret Handelman, an advocate of community service, volunteers her time at San Francisco Towers, with ESC and the ESC Foundation, and within the community at large. Photo Credit: John Spicer

Margaret Handelman, a member of the San Francisco Towers

community, cares deeply about giving back to her special communities in both the Towers and the City of San Francisco. Her generosity includes a long-time commitment as a community volunteer and fundraiser in addition to being a donor to her favorite causes.

A native of Minnesota, Margaret grew up in a family that valued community service. Her mother, who regularly volunteered throughout Margaret's youth, served as a role model for her daughter's extensive community involvement. After receiving her B.A. in Economics from Carleton College, Margaret decided to go West and she and a friend

embarked on an adventurous move to California. The two picked up a car from an agency in Minnesota, drove cross country and delivered it to Fresno, and then took a Greyhound bus to San Francisco. She quickly found a position with Macy's, where she worked for 15 years and met and married her husband. Her career in retail also included 10 years of opening and managing stores for Bullocks when it expanded to the Bay Area. She later worked with Nina McLemore and her eponymous clothing line.

Margaret's second career as a community volunteer began when Bullocks closed its Northern California division and she became a Docent for the Asian Art Museum

– a relationship that eventually spanned two decades. Every year, she traveled with the Museum to Asia and when the Museum asked her to open its first ever gift store, she happily volunteered to do so. She also planned the expanded gift store when the Museum moved to a new location.

Prompted by the desire to work out and stay healthy, Margaret also became involved in the governance of the Metropolitan Club, a San Francisco institution founded as the Women's Athletic Club. She served on the Board of Directors for 10 years and was President for four years. During her tenure, the Board oversaw the Club's seismic

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and blankets, socks, and food – poured in to help the evacuees. Many staff members in Santa Rosa had also been evacuated from their neighborhoods and, after the fires were contained, 11 Spring Lake Village staff members found they had lost their homes to fire. The ESC Foundation opened a Spring Lake Village Employee Emergency Fund to help those affected by the fire, and gifts began to pour in.

Throughout the emergency, ESC staff reached out to residents and concerned parties to make sure residents were safe and to share information. Regular updates were provided through an emergency information line, a call-in



Spring Lake Village Executive Director Sharon York, outfitted here at the end of the firestorm with a respirator mask to filter out smoke particulates, led the successful evacuation, repositioning and welcoming home of nearly 500 residents.

“You feel very blessed, especially when you’ve been in a place like the Fairgrounds shelter, where people are coming in as individuals with no sense of where to go next. When you are in a group like this, you know that someone is doing the thinking with you.”

— JOHN NORALL

line for questions and answers, updates on the ESC website, and a daily briefing for residents that was streamed live on Facebook.

As firefighters gained control of the fires, the residents of Jennings Court were able to return home. More than a week after the initial firestorm started, it was finally clear that the Spring Lake Village community was out of danger. Staff met on campus to make it ready to welcome residents home. There was significant smoke and ash to clean, kitchen equipment to sanitize and linens to be laundered. The community itself was safe and residents began to come home.

County Emergency responders and regulatory agencies gave Spring Lake Village high marks for its exemplary response during the firestorm crisis. But it is the feedback from ESC residents, their family and friends that is most heartwarming:

“Thank you SLV staff! Living in Colorado, it is so reassuring to know my parents are in such good hands. You are all appreciated very much.”

“Many thanks to the dedicated SLV staff in this unprecedented emergency. I know you have your own families & homes in peril. SLV is an amazing community led by compassionate and professional people. God bless you!”

“I just wanted to commend the Spring Lake Village team on their professionalism and sensitive approach to assisting with my mother-in-law and countless others. The training, care, courtesy and concern demonstrated was of the highest order. It is in times of stress and difficulty that an organization’s values and mission come alive for others to witness. I appreciate what you have built within the organization, and the people with whom you are building the culture and legacy of Episcopal Senior Communities. Thank you for making a difference in a most difficult time.”

To make a gift to the SLV Employee Emergency Fund to help those staff affected by the firestorm, simply make a note on your check or go to jtm-esc.org/gift to make your gift online.

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retrofit project and created a separate Foundation for fundraising initiatives. While actively campaigning for funds, Margaret also sat on the Foundation Board. Her work was instrumental in helping raise \$5 million in individual and corporate gifts.

Living close to people and having an active social life in the center of the city were some of the reasons Margaret chose to join the San Francisco Towers community. She was impressed with the Towers when she first visited and a number of her friends from the Asian Art Museum and the Metropolitan Club had chosen to live there. “I love the people here and the ease of getting around the city and

doing all the things I like to do,” says Margaret. “It’s a wonderful community of people – well traveled and educated, involved; everyone wants to make this community the best that they can.”

Since moving to the Towers six years ago, Margaret has deepened her connection through her many volunteer activities. She was invited to manage the Towers’ Trunk Show the year she moved in and it flourished under her direction. Margaret created a new layout, recruited additional volunteers and increased the number of vendors, eliminating booth fees and ensuring that parking and lunch were provided. After three years of sales growth, she handed over leadership of the Trunk Show to new volunteers.

Margaret served on the ESC Foundation’s Celtic Cup Fashion Show committee from 2013-2015, which led her to join the ESC Foundation Board. In April, she will have completed her first three-year term. When the Fashion Show evolved into a new event – “A Tasteful Affair” – Margaret joined the committee, helping to plan the annual event that raises funds for seniors in the ESC Life Plan communities who have outlived their resources.

“Community members like Margaret are the embodiment of the Episcopal Senior Communities’ mission,” said Melody Mitchell, San Francisco Towers Executive Director. “She cares about other people and she puts that compassion into action.”

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We have made every effort to be accurate and comprehensive in this list of donors. If we have made an error or omission, please accept our sincere apologies and contact Michelle Haines at 925.956.7448 with any changes, suggestions or questions.

*Deceased

Helping out with HOME Team



Seniors in Oakland recently received much-needed home maintenance assistance

from local Rotary Club members. Rotary HOME Team, a partnership with Episcopal Senior Communities, helps with such chores as replacing light bulbs in hard to reach areas, changing smoke alarm batteries and fixing leaking faucets or squeaky doors.

Hays Englehart started Rotary HOME Team in 2010 in memory of his father. (HOME stands for Home Maintenance for the Elderly.) “We used to work on the ‘to-do’ list together around the house,” Hays said. “And when my dad passed away, I missed that.” Hays, who serves on the ESC Foundation Board, explains that older adults may have a difficult time with common household repairs due to physical limitations or safety issues. In some cases the cost of hiring a handyman or contractor to perform minor repairs

is prohibitive, and there may not be any family able or willing to assist. “So it made sense to put together a project that would pair volunteers with seniors who need some home maintenance.”

Hays organized the first Rotary HOME Team with volunteers from his Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club. ESC provides intake, outreach and coordination for the program, taking calls from seniors and scheduling the Rotary volunteers. Since the start of the program, Hays has spread the word to other Rotary Clubs and HOME Team is now active in more than 20 Bay Area communities.

ESC’s Vice President of Community Services, Tracy Powell, says that the program makes a huge impact in the lives of seniors who are typically alone and are unable to take care of basic home maintenance. “Not only do the volunteers improve the quality of someone’s

“Working together to improve our community sometimes happens one person at a time.”

— HAYS ENGELHART



Rotary HOME team grew from one man’s good idea to a service helping seniors in more than 20 Bay Area communities.

life, they provide a little social interaction, too, which everyone enjoys,” she said.

Just as importantly, says Hays, is that ESC has taught HOME Team volunteers how to keep an eye out for things in seniors’ homes that could affect their quality of life. Volunteers report back on situations such as food security, hoarding or safety problems. That way, ESC staff can help connect a senior with other resources that can be of benefit.

“Working together to improve our community sometimes happens one person at a time,” Hays said. “I think my dad would approve.”



ESC’s Community Outreach program provided a “hand spa” at the Food Pantry it operates at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Oakland. Said one participant, “It was so nice to feel a little pampered when things are so hard.”

Year-End Giving: Your Gift, Your Way

With the end of the year approaching, now is a great time to consider the tax benefits that can amplify the value of your gift to the ESC Foundation. Tax law changes could affect the charitable deduction in 2018, making this year especially important for deducting gifts.

Whatever form your gift takes, your support will have an impact on providing healthy communities for seniors. We hope you will make a philanthropic investment today by making a gift to support the ESC community or program of your choice.

Outright Gifts

Making an outright gift can maximize your charitable deduction and confer immediate benefits to the fund of your choice.

- ◆ Mail your check or credit card request in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.
- ◆ Or, make your gift online at jtm-esc.org/gift.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

A gift of appreciated stock may allow you to make a larger gift than you thought possible.

If your stocks have appreciated in value, you can avoid the capital gains tax that would result from selling the shares. You are also allowed an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the securities. With the tax savings, the “cost” of your gift to the ESC Foundation may be much less than the actual value of the gift you are able to make—which may make this form of giving all the more appealing.

- ◆ Your broker should transfer your gift of stock directly to the ESC Foundation’s stock account.

Gifts from an Individual Retirement Account

A direct charitable gift rollover from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a nonprofit organization can keep you from being bumped into a higher tax bracket. Amounts distributed as a “Qualified Charitable Distribution” can be counted towards satisfying your required minimum distribution for the year, up to \$100,000, and can also be excluded from your taxable income.

- ◆ Your retirement plan administrator must transfer funds directly to ESC before 12/31.

Charitable Gift Annuity: The Gift that Gives Back

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) benefits both you and your community. A CGA allows you to make a tax-deductible charitable gift of cash or stock and create fixed income for your lifetime. Because the payment rate is fixed based on your age, your income will never change and a portion of your payment could be tax free. (As an example, the rate for someone aged 81 is 7%.) Establishing the gift annuity with stock you’ve held for a number of years allows you to bypass the capital gains tax you would owe if you simply sold the stock.

For information or assistance with year-end gifts, please contact Katharine Miller, ESCF Executive Director, at 925.956.7414 or kmiller@jtm-esc.org.



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Volunteers from Google, Hands On Bay Area, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Santa Clara University's Delta Gamma Sorority and the Palo Alto City Council joined residents of Lytton Gardens and Webster House Health Center for the 2017 Alzheimer's Walk. Google donated iTunes gift cards to be used for the Health Center's new Music & Memory Program.

Save-the-Date

Join Us for ESC Foundation's 7th Annual Celtic Cup Golf Tournament, Dinner and Awards Presentation



Monday, May 21, 2018
Orinda Country Club

Supporting Life-Changing Services for Seniors

Reserve a sponsor opportunity at CelticCup.org or call Michelle Haines at 925.956.7448.



You can donate your vehicle to the ESC Foundation!

It's tax deductible at no cost to you. Call Car Donation Services at 1.888.686.4483 or donate online at www.jtm-esc.org/escf.

**ESC FOUNDATION:
A Tradition of Community,
Compassion and Generosity.**

If you have a suggestion for the *Community Matters* newsletter, please contact Michelle Haines, ESCF Development Associate, at mhaines@jtm-esc.org or 925.956.7448.

E P I S C O P A L
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- St. Paul's Towers
- Los Gatos Meadows
- Spring Lake Village
- San Francisco Towers
- Webster House

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