



Episcopal Community Services Newsletter Summer 2020



A Letter from our President

Dear Supporters of Episcopal Community Services,

As I write this, we are all sheltering in place; though some counties are lifting restrictions. This has been quite a year. Some of us have been harder hit than others. For some Shelter in Place is a maddening experience. For others it is a time for meditation and enjoyment of God's creation. Most of us, I suspect are somewhere in the middle.

I have noticed that virtual worship has brought together communities of worshippers who would not have dressed and driven to "church". Church has turned out to be what we really always knew it was—the worshipping community, rather than the building.

Right now, many congregations are stepping up to help those who have been hardest hit by Covid-19. Emmanuel in Grass Valley and Epiphany in Vacaville are two congregations that I am aware of that are continuing to regularly serve meals to the hungry. Grace in St. Helena is working with local congregations to support local restaurants so that they can provide meals for the homeless. Jesus is active in many places. We've always known that too.

Just prior to the shelter in place directive, ECS was working on a new initiative that we are calling *ECS's Bishop Megan Transformer Award*. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge and honor what our congregations are doing to transform communities for Christ. I suspect that ultimately every congregation in the Diocese will have a certificate recognizing their service to God and the community. All of us are serving

our community in one way or another—as our abilities allow.

Once our congregations can go back to meeting in person there will be many new opportunities for service. Episcopal Community Services will be there among these Christian servants to aid with best practices, start up hints, and, of course, cash. If you are one of those who will be working on a new project, do go to norcalecs.org to contact us or write me at :

cookie.clark@sbcglobal.net

Please read about how St. Martin's, Davis and St. Francis, Willits, are making an impact on their community. It is your dollars which fund that impact. Please be generous. .

Yours in Christ

Rev. Cn. Beatrice "Cookie" Clark

President, Episcopal Community Service

St. Martin's , Davis

The Families Together Project

The Families Together Project (FTP) has supported two families seeking asylum since March 2019. We have collaborated with many faith-based groups in our community and FTP has brought together people from several congregations to help with: day-to-day support of the families, fundraising events, and leadership.

One family, Pablo and Gloria (pseudonyms for privacy reasons), arrived with three children, with a baby born in the USA in June. The other family consists of a single woman, Maria (also a pseudonym), who hopes her son soon will join

her. FTP supports both families with medical appointments, transportation when needed, and fundraising, and integration into their communities. Below is some information about the families—with the names changed for confidentiality reasons.

María has connected with the local community through the FTP, attending church and fellowship activities at the Davis United Methodist Church and at a local Spanish-language evangelical church, and ESL classes. Until Covid-19 restrictions, she attended classes in Woodland four mornings a week. She practices speaking English at home, which builds her self-confidence.

María currently lives with a housemate, while gardening and walking as she shelters in place. María and her housemate have daily study sessions in English and Spanish literacy, practical skills, and arithmetic. She recently received authorization to work and is looking for a job, and has been approved for living in an affordable housing unit in Davis!

María also is a beautiful singer and a wonderful cook, and shares these gifts with members of the FTP team. She's determined to overcome obstacles and become self-sufficient.

Pablo and Gloria's family has connected with the



Davis community through school, sports, and church. The three older children are engaged in school and an afterschool enrichment program. All three played AYSO soccer in 2019 and made strong contributions to their teams. Pablo, like María, attended ESL classes in Woodland four days each week. Both parents do all of the family's grocery shopping.

The family has become well-integrated into the St. Martin's parish. Father and daughter serve as acolytes and all three older children attend Godly Play, give drawings to parishioners, and engage in vigorous post-church soccer games with other parishioners. The baby (born in Davis in June of 2019) played the role of the baby Jesus in the Christmas Pageant, eliciting an audible "awwwwww....." from the congregation.



Pablo and Gloria have received work permits. Pablo works for a landscape company, and assists with maintenance projects and a soup kitchen at St. Martin's.

Both families love Davis and are grateful to be somewhere they aren't worried about their personal safety or about where to find their next meal. Financial support from ECS helped make this possible and we thank you for that support!



St. Francis in the Redwoods, Willits

Willits Daily Bread Project

We at Saint Francis in the Redwoods in Willits, and our ministry partners at Willits Daily Bread, are so thankful for the grant we received to update our kitchen, dining room and storage areas! Willits Daily Bread, a local non-profit, has been feeding the hungry out of the tiny kitchen in the St Francis parish hall for a few years, and dreamed of being able to work more efficiently and invite people indoors to sit down together, instead of handing out "sack dinners" out the back door. We were able to reach that goal last fall, before winter weather set in!

As spring approached, we celebrated on Shrove Tuesday with church members serving a special festive sit-down pancake supper to our WDB guests. We handed out sparkly Mardi Gras beads and decorated with bright colors.



Little did we know that night that soon we would be serving people outdoors again due to the Coronavirus restrictions. The numbers served have increased to 60 or more people each day currently, expected to continue to go up until jobs are available again.



At this time we're especially grateful for the stainless steel sink and counters, unchipped stove, new plastic topped tables, new linoleum flooring, and secure cabinets for food storage, all of which are making it easier to keep the kitchen and supplies extra sanitized as required at this time.



We're looking forward to returning to serving in the dining room again some day!

NOTE

ECS has extended the 2020/2021 grant proposal deadline to August 1, 2020.

Also

ECS has money available for emergency grants.

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Sacramento CA 95825

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