

# EAST BAY INNOVATIONS

The **INSIGHT**

Fall 2017

## MOVING FORWARD



For low-income Alameda County residents living in skilled nursing facilities, and individuals who are homeless and have chronic health conditions, one of the greatest barriers to living successfully in the community is the lack of affordable housing.

And for many, the need for a physically accessible home compounds their limited housing prospects even further.

**This dismal outlook is about to change for the older adults** EBI's California Community Transitions team is working with who are preparing to move into 30 senior housing units at "808 A. St." in Hayward. An elderly woman in a long-term care facility who was evicted from her apartment while in a coma; stroke survivors who are unable to return to inaccessible apartments because they are now wheelchair users; and, people living on the streets or in cars with HIV diagnoses, are just a few examples of individuals who will be moving once construction is completed.



EBI's collaboration with Meta Housing Corporation -- a housing developer, and Libertana -- a home health agency, is resulting in a model of housing and care at 808 A. St. that will receive federal, state, and locally funded subsidies and services. Affordable rent and the availability of in-home care will make it possible for EBI clients residing there to receive the support they need to live in the community.



**There's another component that makes this model unique.** EBI identified clients who had completed job training internships, were currently seeking jobs, and who expressed a desire to be employed as caregivers.

Working closely with staff, five clients are now participating in a multi-part training series addressing the basics of in-home services and emergency preparedness, attending presentations by the Public Authority, reviewing written instructional materials, and applying to Libertana to be hired as careproviders at 808 A. St.

In housing and employment, individuals with disabilities are motivated to move forward, and EBI is committed to creating strategies to make that happen.

## EBI'S THIRD ANNUAL ONLINE AUCTION

*November 25th ~ December 4th*

TRAVEL, TUNES, TICKETS, TASTINGS & MORE!

*Check out our auction at [www.biddingforgood.com/ebi](http://www.biddingforgood.com/ebi)*

EBI's goal is to assist individuals with disabilities to live and work as independently as possible.



**EVERY BID BRINGS US CLOSER TO THIS GOAL!**



# EAST BAY INNOVATIONS

(510) 618-1580

[www.eastbayinnovations.org](http://www.eastbayinnovations.org)

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### DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS:

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## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### *The Lane Family*

When Meri Lane attended EBI's first Ramping Up for Independence series at the Ed Roberts Campus in 2011, she was looking for information that would one day help her son, William, in his search for employment. Flash forward six years. William completed college, participated in

EBI's tailored day (employment) service, and began an internship with the State Department of Industrial Relations.

In October, Meri and Jeff Lane hosted a fundraising party for EBI at their home. Speakers and partygoers talked about the need for advocacy and services to address the staggeringly high percentage of individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities who are unemployed. EBI, the Lanes, and their guests, celebrated William's pioneering role as a paid intern under a newly implemented California law -- and the very real possibility that William will be eligible to apply for permanent employment with the State. And, William just received a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Performance!



Meri, Jeff, William, and Meri's mother, Rose, reached out to family, friends and colleagues to come learn about EBI, to understand the need for more employment training and job opportunities, and to support EBI's work. "EBI relies on donors like us for many aspects of their work, including the type of legislative advocacy that led to William's internship program," Meri said in her appeal for donations. "They are at the forefront of developing innovative ways to help those of us with developmental disabilities, or our friends, family members and neighbors with developmental disabilities live up to their potential...."



EBI appreciates the many gifts invitees made to EBI, and years of generosity on the part of the Lanes and their extended family. Beyond their significant monetary support, EBI greatly values their role as partners, not just in our work with William, but in our shared commitment to seeing many more individuals with disabilities become employed. Thank you!

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Meet Samara Metz

Born in the Sierra Nevada foothills, attending high school and college in Sacramento, then moving to Cape Cod, where she worked at Filene's Basement and Dartmouth College, today Samara Metz calls the San Francisco Bay Area "home."

Samara, who's been employed as an Office Assistant at EBI for a little over five years, is one of the first people you meet when you arrive at the office. You'll see her busily at work in the reception area, copying and filing multiple forms and time cards for EBI's 180 employees, assembling seasonal mailings, and always at the ready to assist with miscellaneous tasks and projects. EBI's Executive Director describes Samara as, "an employee with perfect attendance, a welcoming smile, and someone who always wants to do things right." Her supervisor adds, "She's an asset to the administrative team, has an amazing work ethic, and brings great energy to the office." What does Samara say, when asked what she likes best about her job? Her immediate response -- "The people!"

When she's not at work, Samara enjoys spending time with her sister, sister-in-law, five year old niece, three year old nephew, and mother, who also live in Alameda County. You might find her playing Mahjong, on the treadmill at a fitness center, or enjoying a comedy or action movie.

As for the future, Samara wants to keep working at EBI and learning new skills. She'd also like to move from her studio apartment into a larger place, with space for a roommate, a cat, and maybe a small dog.

A few fun facts about Samara....She was born in Paradise. Her coveted childhood pet was "Cocobuttons," a black rabbit. And, she's now getting ready to celebrate her 40th birthday on the island of Kauai!

**"She's an asset to the administrative team, has an amazing work ethic, and brings great energy to the office."**



## THANK YOU!

**To the many individuals who so generously support EBI with monthly and periodic gifts, annual contributions, car donations, workplace giving, etc.**

## THANK YOU!

**To the funders and foundations that are making our work possible.**

AC Care Connect  
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Department of Health Care Services  
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## THANK YOU!

**To the sponsors of EBI's Third Annual Online Auction fundraiser.**

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**Thank you, Samara, for the work you do!**

## WHO WE ARE

Established in 1994, East Bay Innovations (EBI) today supports more than 500 individuals with disabilities to live as independently as possible in their own homes, to be successfully employed, and to feel a sense of membership in their community.



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Check out our website at [www.eastbayinnovations.org](http://www.eastbayinnovations.org)

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### #GIVING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28TH

#GivingTuesday, a national day of giving, takes place this year on November 28th, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. We have a \$5,000 match this year, so your donations will be doubled! Proceeds will be used for services to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities, and to adults who've become disabled as a result of health crises, accidents, and acts of violence.

Your participation makes a difference, so please consider donating, whatever amount you can, at [www.eastbayinnovations.org](http://www.eastbayinnovations.org).

**Thank you!**



### GET READY TO START BIDDING! ONLINE AUCTION BEGINS NOV 25TH

Check out EBI's auction website! [www.biddingforgood.com/ebi](http://www.biddingforgood.com/ebi)

