

EAST BAY INNOVATIONS

The **INSIGHT**

Spring 2020

MOVING FORWARD



We've never appreciated our community more. Our staff, families, colleagues, friends, and donors keep us moving forward during the Covid-19 pandemic that's affecting us all. Despite the difficulties we face, with your support, EBI remains fully committed to addressing our consumers' needs.

As an agency, we need to be resourceful, and our staff are rising to the occasion every day. They're providing services remotely, telephonically, and in person, all the while talking to consumers about the need for social distancing and ways to prevent infection. They're helping eligible individuals access their stimulus payment, and assisting consumers who lost jobs to apply for unemployment benefits. If you take a look at the Employee Spotlight in this newsletter, you'll learn more about what our employees are doing.

Our consumers are resilient, despite experiencing dramatic changes in their routines as they shelter in place. Families are being as flexible and helpful as possible -- stepping in, when they can, to provide support to their sons and daughters and siblings.

So many of you are part of our community. You make it possible for EBI to continue serving more than 500 consumers with autism and other developmental disabilities and individuals who've become disabled as a result of health crises, chronic illness, accidents, and acts of violence. The Donor Spotlight describes the contributions our extensive community is making to keep our consumers and staff healthy and safe.

While we can't predict what the next months will look like, we're heartened by knowing we're in this together.

Please take good care of yourselves,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom H." with a stylized flourish.

Tom Heinz, Executive Director



EAST BAY INNOVATIONS

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Thanks!

We usually highlight one person in our Donor Spotlight column, but this time, we want to acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of so many people. There are too many EBI supporters to name, but we hope you'll recognize yourselves in our description of your wonderful contributions.



In March, we reached out to you for monetary contributions so we could purchase hand sanitizer, disposable gloves, disinfectant wipes, and food for our clients, who were no longer able to shop for groceries. You came through for us, and we were able to buy much-needed supplies. But what we didn't know, then, was that we also needed items that money couldn't buy.

We approached you again. This time we needed masks, so we reached out to crafters, sewers, seamstresses, and quilters. Within 24 hours, many of you offered not only to make masks, but to recruit family and friends to do the same. Altogether, you quickly made and gave us more than 400 beautiful, whimsical, washable masks.



You made batches of hand sanitizer and connected us with food pantries. Local relatives and friends of our consumers did – and are still doing -- whatever they can to help. Those living far away thoughtfully express how much they appreciate our ongoing connection with their family member during this time of isolation. You understood that as the pandemic continued, we needed to purchase more and more supplies to keep our consumers and staff safe and you contributed to the Rapid Response Fund we'd launched last fall, before we'd ever heard of Covid-19. Your generosity has made – and will continue to make -- a difference in many lives.

Thank you!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



If you've read our newsletters, you know that we routinely feature one employee. This newsletter will be different, because we want to give a shout out to our dedicated staff.

These committed workers go into consumers' homes to offer personal care and support. They're providing job coaching to employees working in grocery stores and manufacturing plants. They're communicating, regularly, with the individuals on their caseloads who don't require face-to-face support. And they're helping consumers connect with their peers and friends using video communications apps, like Zoom.

Staff are devising skill-building games on an online platform in the format of popular game shows, like Jeopardy and Who Wants to be a Millionaire. They're teaching employment skills by customizing the content of these games through an online game builder and making it possible for consumers to play remotely with each other as they shelter in place.

Our staff transformed an EBI conference room into a pop-up food pantry filled with non-perishable items from the food banks we're partnering with. They scour local stores for reasonably priced groceries and deliver food to consumers. They made hand sanitizer, sewed masks, and stocked and restocked a closet at EBI with the personal protective equipment (PPE) they amassed.



And that's just a sample of the tasks EBI staff are doing on-the-job in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. In their lives outside of work, they're exploring ways to take care of themselves, sharing wellness apps, tips, and recipes. They're baking, bird watching, painting, and gardening, to name just a few new hobbies. EBI staff enhance the lives of so many people, and it's great to know they're finding creative ways to enrich their own lives, too.

Thank you, EBI staff, for all that you do!

THANK YOU!

To the individuals who so generously support EBI with monthly and periodic gifts, annual contributions, car donations, workplace giving, etc., and to the growing number of people assisting EBI during the Covid-19 pandemic.

THANK YOU!

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

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May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
Social Security Ticket to Work Program
Charles H. Stout Foundation
Vital Link Medical Alert Systems
Wells Family Foundation

THANK YOU!

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

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Do you have a vehicle you no longer want?

When you donate your vehicle (car, truck, van, motorcycle, RV, or boat) to East Bay Innovations through Car Donation Services (CDS), you're supporting individuals with disabilities.

Thank you!

CDS makes the process easy and accepts most vehicles, even those with high mileage, running or not.

Just complete a simple form at eastbayinnovations.org/donate/ or contact CDS directly at (888) 686-4483.

If you have questions for EBI, please contact lratner@eastbayinnovations.org

RAPID RESPONSE FUND

Now, more than ever, EBI needs your donations to our Rapid Response Fund. As this newsletter goes to press, the cuts to California's budget, and the impact on EBI, are not yet known. We do know that EBI, along with other human services agencies, will likely see sizable reductions in public reimbursement of our services. This will make it even more challenging for EBI to rapidly respond to unanticipated client needs.

In the past, we used the Rapid Response Fund for:

- ★ First month's rent and/or security deposit when a client was without resources to immediately move to a safer living situation.
- ★ Emergency food supply for clients experiencing food insecurity. Given today's circumstances, EBI has needed to purchase and deliver groceries to many of our clients.
- ★ Clothing and shoes for clients moving into the community after a stay in a skilled nursing facility. With concern about the spread of Covid-19 in skilled nursing facilities, EBI anticipates an increase in the number and urgency of individuals wanting to return to the community.

Please consider donating to our Rapid Response Fund online at:

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/eastbayinnovations>

THANK YOU!