

MOVING FORWARD

When EBI was invited to participate in California's pilot Assistive Technology program for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, we were eager to see how this evolving technology would benefit our clients. After assessing each participant's needs, together we selected devices and equipment and based on each client's abilities and preferences, created individualized remote monitoring and emergency back-up plans. For the clients involved, their desire to remain in their own homes was key. They also wanted time alone, and were interested in safely reducing the presence of staff in their homes. The descriptions of Jorge, Angie, and Ron that follow offer examples of the impact assistive technology and remote monitoring can have on our clients' lives.

At 69, Jorge lives alone in his apartment and EBI provides daily staff support onsite. He prepares meals for himself, but needs to be reminded to turn off the stove when he's done cooking. He now has a knob sensor that automatically beeps, reminding him to turn it off. Jorge also uses a medication dispenser that alerts him, with verbal prompts, when it's time to take his medication. If Jorge hasn't take it after several reminders, EBI staff are notified and intervene. And, as a prolific artist whose works have been featured in cafes and fashion and art shows, when tremors in his hand interfered with his fine motor coordination, EBI found a device he now wears on his wrist that makes it possible for him to continue his craft.



Angie, a 56 year old client of EBI, has no vision and with growing support needs, EBI thought she might soon require overnight staff. Instead, Angie opted to participate in the assistive technology program. As a result, she now has "help" buttons strategically placed throughout her home and motion sensors monitoring her movements. Her virtual assistant alerts her if someone's at the door and asks who it is, voice activates her microwave, and upon request, reports the news, weather forecasts and plays music of her choice.



Ron, a longtime client of EBI now in his 60s, had staff support 24/7 for several years following a kidney transplant. Like Jorge, Ron uses a medication dispenser that alerts him to take his medication, and notifies staff if it's not taken according to schedule. He also uses a device that monitors his blood pressure and automatically reports the results to staff. Because of these devices and remote monitoring, staff hours in Ron's home have been significantly reduced and he now appreciates time alone in his apartment for 78 hours per week.

From these scenarios, it's easy to see how assistive technology and remote monitoring can safely increase many more clients' independence and improve their quality of life. Access to innovative devices and remote monitoring are creating possibilities for our clients that years ago could only have been imagined.

EBI is moving forward in the rapidly changing world of assistive technology, and working to make it a reality for many more individuals with disabilities.

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Stephen Sidney & Dr. Carolyn Schuman

Dr. Stephen Sidney and Dr. Carolyn Schuman have a history of generously contributing their time and resources as medical professionals, as volunteers, and in their personal lives. EBI is honored to be a beneficiary of their support.

Steve devoted 40 years to leading cardiovascular epidemiology studies at the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research, where he was the Director of Research Clinics. While working full-time, he served as the



Chair of the Alameda County Public Health Commission and on the Board of Directors of the Freight and Salvage in Berkeley. Now retired, he supports heart disease and stroke prevention, participating in two nationally recognized cardiovascular disease prevention advocacy organizations. For his 76th birthday he'll be running 76 laps

to raise funds for a non-profit agency fighting hunger and poverty.

Carolyn began her career in Internal Medicine and became aware of the need for treatment and support for patients addicted to opioids, a largely unknown area of medicine 40 years ago. During four decades of work in this evolving field, she treated patients, trained physicians, nurses, and psychotherapists on treatment strategies, and served as a Principal Investigator of clinical trials sponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse. Today, a dedicated Addiction Medicine physician, her commitment to this population continues.

In their personal lives, Steve and Carolyn's son Joel was one of the first students admitted to UC Berkeley with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. He graduated with highest honors and they were disappointed when he was unable to find employment after searching for more than a year. Eventually they learned about EBI and Joel enrolled in EBI's Project SEARCH job training program. During his internship he rotated through several County of Alameda departments, learning and performing the tasks required in each setting. Demonstrating strong job skills, Joel was hired by the Sheriff's Department, where he has been employed in the human resource section for the last 14 years.

Crediting EBI with Joel's access to employment, Steve and Carolyn are grateful to EBI for the impact work has had on their son's life. Wanting to see EBI's services benefit more people, they regularly donate to EBI and support EBI's fundraising efforts. Beyond helping EBI gain entrée to Berkeley's Freight and Salvage for EBI's successful 20th year anniversary, they hosted a well-attended house party that raised not only funds for EBI, but also awareness about disability.

Thank you, Steve and Carolyn, for helping us reach new donors, for your generous gifts, and for your confidence our work.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Elmira Bassam



A Case Manager in EBI's Transitional Care/Case Management (TCCM) program, for the past two years Elmira has successfully been helping to secure and maintain housing in the community for adults with disabilities, many who were living in skilled nursing facilities when she met them. For adults with multiple medical diagnoses and significant care needs, Elmira's work doesn't end once housing has been found.

In her role as Case Manager, she coordinates the resources and services required for each individual to live safely in their own home; ensures that durable medical equipment, supplies, and medications are available to them; identifies healthcare providers and schedules appointments; arranges transportation; and sees that each living situation is adequately furnished. Elmira provides person-centered support that enhances clients' wellbeing and their ability to live independently.

After Elmira graduated from UC Davis with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and experience working with four and five year olds in a child care setting, she wanted to explore work with a different population, and came to EBI. Asked what she likes best about her job today, Elmira describes "that moment" when a client is handed the keys to their apartment after months – and in many cases years – of living in a facility. Seeing how happy they are to be back in the community gives her great job satisfaction. When she's not working, Elmira enjoys hiking, taking walks with her dog, and travelling. Moving to the United States from Iran at eight years old, she returns there to visit family, and has also traveled to Germany, Italy, Portugal, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey. She's looking forward to a trip to Japan later this month.



A fun fact about Elmira...she's a reader and while she likes the classics, she's also a fan of dystopian novels and loves Dracula!

Thank you, Elmira, for the impact your work has on your clients' lives.

THANK YOU!

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

THANK YOU!

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

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WHO WE ARE

Established in 1994, East Bay Innovations (EBI) today supports 1,000 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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Visit our website at www.eastbayinnovations.org

EAST BAY INNOVATIONS

The INSIGHT

Fall 2025

RAISE THE ROOF!

Thank you to our Virtual Bricklayers, whose generosity is helping our clients access housing.

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For information about becoming a Virtual Bricklayer, please email info@eastbayinnovations.org.

GIVING TUESDAY

December 2nd

#GivingTuesday, a national day of giving, takes place this year on December 2nd, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Proceeds from #GivingTuesday 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 making a #GivingTuesday donation by December 2nd at www.eastbayinnovations.org.

Thank you!

