



Report: Gratitude from Midway Shelter and Building Futures

Dear Bay Area Chinese Bible Church congregation:

We thank you for your steadfast support over the years: directing financial donations our way, donating holiday jammies, food, books, and other in-kind donations. We are doing well here at Building Futures but the resurgence of COVID is so disappointing. We have had folks who have tested positive for COVID at Midway. We work closely with the County so we are confident we will be able to contain the spread of the virus and so that everyone will be okay. Pastor Steve Quen said to us last year: "We know that God's heart is for the vulnerable, especially in ***this*** holiday season" and we are so grateful for the prayers and moral support you have provided us over the last year.

We write you today to report back on your generous December 2020 donation last Holiday season of \$4,000, with your note "Christmas love offering for Jammie Drive." It is a true testament to the strength of our Alameda community, as you had connected with us by way of the *Holiday Jammie Drive* led by that Meredith Mehlberg, and specifically the fund-a-need campaign in which individual donors also gave \$4,000. Then, we were thrilled to see another donation of \$6,400 from your Church in February, in support of Midway in general. What an amazing and unexpected boost for us, right when we needed it!

The goals for the December donation were to help fund a "Children's Room refresh" for the Midway Shelter, an emergency homeless shelter for women and children in Alameda. Midway uses every inch of indoor space to serve their residents. Your donation supported our multi-age and multi-purpose "Children's Room" helping babies, kids and teens stay engaged, stay safe, and lift their spirits. Revamping this space was vital to creating a fun and safe space for the young residents of Midway. Because this space hosts kids of different ages, it needed to be a space where at 10am babies can crawl and toddlers can toddle; and then at 4pm bigger kids can also do homework. Specifically, some of the highlights of what was refreshed include:

- Couch and cozy chair for the Children's reading program
- Bookshelf space saver wall "book tree"
- Rugs, an Alphabet activity carpet 6x9 and a classroom carpet with leaves design on it 6x9
- Fresh paint job of the Children's Room
- Two Shelves, Mobile Preschool Storage unit on wheels
- Table, Flex-space Mobile Rectangular table
- Six Chairs- stacking chairs built especially for children
- Educational wall décor and bulletin board materials (photos below, please reach out before sharing photos)

Your donation also helped make covid-safe improvements at the Midway Shelter, especially things that we have had to do to allow residents to socially distance, such as purchasing two 6-foot-long tables for outside meals where families can sit together in their "pod" but eat separately and socially distant from other "pods" and families. Thank you!

As you may know, Midway serves 25 women and children (pre-covid). Homeless women (single women and mothers) and children who are from Alameda have preference to get into the shelter. More than half the residents are children. Services include case management, domestic violence support, and connection to income/ benefits, employment, health care, and mental health care. All of our programming is aimed at connecting individual and families to housing. The

name “Midway” represents the shift in the lives of women and children served, where the cycle of homelessness and domestic violence falls away and a new future can be built.

Last year, during the pandemic, 103 women and children came to Midway for shelter and services they needed to overcome barriers to housing. With your help, we provided 6,155 nights of shelter and services. We are proud of the capacity and leadership shown every day by our shelter team, who work each day to calm the anxiety that our residents and staff feel amid the pandemic with care, professionalism, and love to help each individual stay focused on their goals leading to permanent housing.

The Midway Shelter has been operated in and supported by the city and community for over 28 years. Midway was founded by the Alameda Homeless Network (AHN) in 1989; in 2000 AHN contracted Building Futures to operate the shelter. AHN continues to this day to raise money in support of the Midway Shelter – and we work together closely.

We are in talks with the City of Alameda about replacing the four portable structures that make up the Midway Shelter. The shelter is sited on Navy-owned land and leased to the city; the city leases the land to Building Futures. Midway is comprised of four portables (a kitchen/community room, a staff/ children’s room, a 25-bed dormitory, and a bathroom/laundry trailer.) The dormitory and the staff/children’s rooms were installed 28 years ago, in 1993. The kitchen trailer was installed over twenty years ago, in 2000. The City of Alameda funded the replacement of the bathroom trailer in 2018. The four portables are connected by a deck and arranged around a courtyard. The portables and the deck are well beyond their useful life and we are working to get them replaced this year.

As we look forward, Building Futures is proud to be housing more families than ever before! Our aim is to connect 150 households to housing in the year ahead. As they rebuild after homelessness and domestic violence, most will be moving to their new homes with only a few personal items. We are calling upon our local community to get them off to a positive start with much needed “move in kit” of household supplies! There are three ways to plug in and can be found at www.bfwc.org/inkind or folks can “shop” for a family [here](#). This year’s Jammie Drive fund a need will also be focused on our “move in kit” drive as well as gift cards for our Holiday Gift Drive.

Finally, I wanted to share a story of inspiration and hope, about Ms. Woods’ experience at Midway, a 4 minute long video. It can be found [here](#) by skipping to the 9-minute mark of our virtual gala celebration, accessible on YouTube anytime or by searching: BFWC Virtual Jazz it Up.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your support of Midway, a longtime Alameda program that has supported and housed hundreds of homeless women and children over the last 28 years. We are so honored to have such strong community partners like the Bay Area Chinese Bible Church.

Thank you,

Ana

Ana Maria Mahiri
Director of Development and Communications, Building Futures
Direct Line 510-924-3090 / development@bfwc.org

This report was prepared on 11/10/21 for the congregation at the Bay Area Chinese Bible Church (Attn Pastor Steve Quen) who raised and donated \$4,000 (dated 12/8/2020) and then another \$6,400 for Midway (dated 2/2/2021).

