

# CBC Collaborates to Raise Funds for COVID-19 and Exceeds Goal

Photos and article courtesy of Chunchi Ma, Member, CBC & Huaren Rotary Club

In March of 2020, when COVID-19 was hitting Wuhan, China, hard, Dr. Herbert Chiu of CBC and Huaren Rotary Club discussed ways to help out China. Many of us, from both organizations, who originally came from China and still have close family and friends living there, had the strong desire to help. We also collaborated with BAHN (Bay Area Homeowner's Network, a non-profit organization representing small property owners), and came up with the idea of raising funds to purchase protective personal equipment. Approximately \$20K was collected which enabled us to purchase over 250,000 medical grade gloves. These gloves were donated to two hospitals in Wuhan, China, to aid in their fight against COVID-19.

A month later, as the tables turned and as the virus was spreading across the Pacific and into our home turf in the U.S., many of us in the local Chinese-American community wanted to help out once again. This time, with the collection efforts again led by Dr. Herbert Chiu and in coordination with Huaren Rotary Club, we worked alongside three other great non-profit organizations: BAHN as in the previous cause, SVCA (Silicon Valley Chinese Association) and ECAA (Evergreen Chinese American Association). A new fund raising effort was started with a similar goal of \$20K. In the end, the original goal was far exceeded and over \$70K was collected from several hundred members of the five organizations.



We purchased about 70,000 surgical masks, imported from China, which were distributed to the East Bay, South Bay and Peninsula/SF communities. Approximately, 23,000 to 25,000 masks were allocated to each community. The masks were then donated to several dozen (medical and non-medical) facilities in each region, totaling the recipient count in excess of 100 from the three regions of the Greater Bay Area. Also, over 300,000 medical gloves and over 4,000 face shields, made locally by high school students in Fremont, were purchased and donated to area hospitals and medical facilities. The recipients expanded to include City government, Police and Fire departments, homeless shelters, senior care facilities, homes for kids with special needs, etc., basically covering all of Alameda County.

From our joint effort, we received much praise and appreciation from the recipients. Non-medical employees from a couple of the hospitals told us that since they were NOT considered front line personnel, who directly face COVID-19 patients, no masks were provided to them. This caused them great concern and they were scared to face and interact with numerous people each day. As we know, some COVID-19 patients who test positive can be asymptomatic. Hence, they were so grateful for our donations as we provided them with a bit of self-protection which gave them peace of mind.

When looking back at this epic battle against this common enemy of human-kind, we can proudly say that we did our part, and contributed a little bit to fight COVID-19. The final credits are due to our wonderful members of the five organizations and common folks in our communities who participated in this effort. Also, kudos to Dr. Herbert Chiu (CBC VP and Health Committee Chair) and to one of the great non-profit organizations known as CBC, for spearheading this donation drive.



 **To Our Heroes**

Donated by:

- HuaRen Rotary Club of Silicon Valley
- Bay Area Homeowners Network (BAHN)
- Citizens for Better Community (CBC)
- Silicon Valley Chinese Association Foundation (SVCAF)
- Evergreen Chinese American Association (ECAA)

