

# CBC Continues to Serve Meals to Most Vulnerable

By Sherry Chang, CBC Coordinator for Homeless Shelter Meals

**Note:** This article was published in the CBC Newsletter issue April – June 2020. On May 29, 2020, CBC received notice that future meal services provided by CBC were cancelled as the Sun Village Shelter residents were being relocated to safer grounds.

None of our homeless shelter meal service volunteers foresaw what was coming in early March 2020. It was still early to prepare for our March 29<sup>th</sup> service at the Sunrise Village Shelter. Besides the stock market drop and nowhere to get one's hands on surgical masks or hand sanitizers in local stores, there was no need to panic about one's daily life. In fact, on March 13, 2020, Ms. Morgan, the shelter director, informed me that "We still need your continued support to prepare and serve the meals to the residents ..."

Within days, the world turned upside down. On March 16, 2020, officials in six Bay Area counties announced orders to "shelter in place" and I got concerned that not a single pack of chicken drumsticks, which we needed to prepare for the meal service, was available at Costco. Then came another email from Ms. Morgan on March 17<sup>th</sup>, "We are only allowed to have the staff and residents living at Sunrise Village Shelter in the building. You will not be able to come here to serve your meal. If you are able to still bring the food for the meal on the date you were planning to serve your meal, this would be greatly appreciated."

Immediately, our Board leaders were notified and given the options by Sherry to either cancel the March 29, 2020, service or to purchase dishes prepared by industrial quality kitchens (as homemade foods are not allowed). Board leaders quickly provided the guideline that CBC will stick to its commitment and set a budget for the March 29<sup>th</sup> service. A call on March 25<sup>th</sup> to the shelter kitchen coordinator, Ms. Quintana, settled our modified menu: two large trays of fried chicken drumsticks, one large tray of assorted vegetables, and one large tray of vegetable fried rice. As Ms. Quintana phrased it, "these are good comfort food choices." Our service brings comfort to those in need and CBC is proud of this commitment.

