



notes from Make it Home

January 2023

861

**Households
Furnished
to Date**

806

**Children
Supported
to Date**

240

**Foster Youth
assisted
to Date**

1,858

**Humans
Bolstered
to Date**

947

**Tons saved
from Landfill
to Date**

A Home and a Safe Haven

Since 1853, St. Vincent's School for Boys (SVSB) has dedicated itself exclusively to the care of traumatized boys. That work continues in 2023 as Catholic Charities' SVSB transitions to a shelter for unaccompanied minors arriving alone in the SF Bay Area. Make it Home, in partnership with IDF Studio and principal Kassin Adelman, jumped in to help. Together, we reimagined 4 homes on the campus that will offer safety and comfort to 50 boys ages 7-17. Nearly 40 volunteers spent three full days making these spaces friendly, safe and comfortable. These vulnerable children will feel safe and welcome after their dangerous journeys from their home countries - often alone - to our community. The unaccompanied minors will reside and receive essential care by the Catholic Charities team at St. Vincent's School for Boys while they wait for documentation and to be united with family members and/or sponsors. With your help, we are striving to give them to give them a comfortable, comforting home as they start on their new lives. IDF Studio and Make it Home #made it happen, showing that fresh starts are possible.





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With a Little Help from our Friends

We are working hard to end furniture poverty and believe that individuals and families that are recovering from crisis or trauma should not have to choose between buying a couch, or buying groceries. Many people who finally receive housing, often return to shelters because sleeping on the floor and sitting on crates does not feel like a home, and the shelters have beds, blankets, dining rooms and common living spaces.

We know children thrive when they eat their meals at a table instead of off a cardboard box. People's clothes belong in dressers, not in plastic garbage bags. Everyone should be able to sleep in a clean, new bed and not on the floor.

We are so grateful to have such amazing community partners in both the **Sleepy Hollow Aquatics Club (SHAQ)** and the **Elan Fitness Center of San Anselmo**. For the second year in a row, these two incredible organizations have used the holiday season to galvanize their members in support of Make it Home. The SHAQ Club hosted the One Cozy Bed Drive and as a result nearly a dozen people will be able to move off the floor and into a comfortable and safe space for sleeping. The unbelievably generous members of Elan exceeded their generosity from last year with their Giving Tree by collecting kitchen essentials and raising nearly 5,000\$ in donations. The continued support of these wonderful community partners allows us to help individuals and families #makeithome.



 follow us on Instagram @makeithomebayarea



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Thriving in the East Bay- Walnut Creek Make it Home

Make it Home in Walnut Creek is firing on all cylinders. This second little MIH warehouse opened its doors in October of 2022 and is already having a tremendous impact in Contra Costa County and beyond.

MIH is thrilled to welcome the East Bay team that includes, Chris Davenport, Donna Baum and Farrell Vance. These committed and dedicated team members are dialing in the warehouse space, sorting donations and curating items for clients' new spaces.





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Holiday Wish Come True for a Mother and Daughter



For Brianni Peters, there was only one wish this Christmas - a home.

"This is my home for now. It's got me through the rough times this year. It isn't much, but it has been home. It had kept me out of the cold. I paid \$300 bucks for it," said Brianni Peters while she pointed to her RV. For the first time in her life, Brianni and her 14-year-old daughter had become homeless. Brianni, and her daughter Abria, lived in their RV under the Richmond Parkway for the last year. Enter Richmond Mayor Tom Butt. Frustrated with how city council was responding to the homeless crisis in his city, he used the funds from the mayor's community fund and paid one year of rent for nine different families. Now, as his term is coming to an end, he's not stopping. "Two to three months ago I ran out of funds for that, but I just got a grant from Chevron for \$20,000. I've got another \$4,000 in a Go Fund Me account. So I'm going to put those together, \$24,000, to buy an apartment for a year," said Mayor Butt. He found a landlord in San Pablo that agreed to rent to Brianni and her daughter. Luz Pena, of ABC News, covered the holiday story on her Instagram, and a mutual follower connected Ms. Pena and Make it Home. We jumped in and were able to get Brianni and her daughter all of the home essentials they needed, just in time for the holidays. Ms. Pena came to Make It Home to interview Carolyn and see the warehouse for herself. So, for Christmas, we got ABC7 news coverage!

You can see the report by going to our press page: www.makeithomebayarea.org/press



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RESOLVE TO DE-CLUTTER & BRING US THE GOOD STUFF!

Our warehouse is low on **COFFEE TABLES, LOUNGE CHAIRS, NIGHTSTANDS, ART, SMALL DRESSERS, SMALL KITCHEN TABLES AND CHAIRS, END TABLES AND MIRRORS!**
BRING US THE GOOD STUFF!

