



For Immediate Release
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It Takes A Village - 150 Local Volunteers and Local Business Combine Resources to Make and Donate PPE for Hospital Workers Across the Bay Area

Oakland, CA - A grassroots Bay area volunteer group that has adopted the name "It Takes A Village," has set an ambitious goal of sewing 50,000 fabric face masks and making 5,000 face shields to be donated as valuable PPE for local hospitals.

As the Universal Masking requirement becomes enforceable for many Bay Area counties and cities this coming Wednesday, April 22, 2020, the need for fabric face masks that the group sews has grown tenfold in three weeks since the group was founded. It Takes A Village has partnered with Bryn Walker, a women's clothing retailer located in Berkeley, California to hire professional sewists and locate materials.

The group has already donated 8,000 face masks and 1,000 face shields to SF, East Bay and Santa Clara Hospitals.

According to group founder Shelly Wong of Alameda, "We are growing to meet the need. We started with a goal of sewing 1,000 face masks but as counties and cities are adopting mandatory Universal Masking, requests have grown to over 25,000 face masks and over 5,000 face shields from hospitals in the South Bay, East Bay and San Francisco." The community group, which grew from Shelly, her husband Alex and sons and friends has grown to involve 150 people, including 3 generations of volunteer sewists, washers, drivers and face shield assemblers from San Francisco, Oakland, Alameda, Piedmont, Orinda, Danville, Fremont and other South Bay communities.

When Ms. Wong began her efforts in March, she reached out to family, friends and Bryn Walker, a women's clothing retailer in Berkeley, California. Bryan Walker and Michelle Min have been crucial in supporting It Takes A Village and helping it scale, donating fabric, elastic and all of the materials needed to help the effort, and most recently finding commercial sewists to help accelerate production to meet larger orders and face shields. "We are one of the groups that can provide volume with the help of Bryn Walker's professional sewists. We have requests from Zuckerberg SF General for 10,000 face masks and Alameda Health systems for 8,000 to name a few."

Ms. Wong added: " We are trying to navigate big volumes of need in a small amount of time. We focus on cloth face masks and face shields for health care workers, not all of whom need an n95. For example,

in one system of eight hospitals, they have told us about 15% need surgical masks and the other 85% can use cloth coverage. We ask the hospitals and systems what they need and then try to meet it.”

To date, donations include the following local hospitals and hospital systems:

Alameda Health Systems (requested 8,000 face masks), Zuckerberg SF General (requested 10,000 face masks), Alta Bates Berkeley (requested 1,000 face masks), Santa Clara Valley County Medical, Palo Alto VA, Laguna Honda, Chinese Hospital -SF, Sutter Health San Francisco, Mission Neighborhood Health Center, San Francisco.

It Takes A Village has set up a GoFundMe to help its goal of creating and donating 50,000 cloth face masks and 5,000 face shields to hospitals and health care centers. Donations are tax deductible through the fiscal agent TMC Community Capital, an Oakland based micro-loan provider. In addition to fundraising, the group is seeking volunteer sewists.

To donate, go to GOFUNDME page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/making-and-donating-face-masks-and-face-shields>

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