

***Interim Grant Report: One-Year Grant
Eden Health District***

Grantee Organization Name: Mercy Retirement & Care Center

Program or Project Name: Mercy Brown Bag Program

Application Number and Grant Amount: #16-012 \$15,000

Beginning and Ending Dates of Grant Period: January through December 2016

Organization Contact Person and Phone Number: Krista Lucchesi, 510.534.8547x369

Date: 06/23/17

Signature and title of the person preparing the report

1. Please list the objectives of your grant and describe the progress you have made toward meeting each one.

70 additional low-income seniors throughout Eden Area will enroll to receive twice-monthly nutritious groceries, by the end of the grant period.

Since January we have enrolled: 22 people at Hayward Senior Center and Wittenberg Manor, 16 at Ashland and Kent Gardens, 1 at Fargo, 4 at Eden Issei, 3 at Broadmoor Plaza, 5 at San Leandro Senior Center, 11 at SOS Meals on Wheels, this equals 62 people. We are on track to meet this goal by the end of the year.

Link2Feed database will be successfully operating in 95% of our distribution locations throughout Eden Area by the end of the grant period.

We have started the Link2Feed database at SOS Meals on Wheels, Eden Issei, and Hayward Area Senior Center. We are scheduled to start all of the Ashland Senior Center sites in July. We are confident we will meet this goal by the end of the grant period.

By the end of the grant period, 75 Eden Area volunteers will be enriched by meaningful volunteer opportunities at our sites in neighborhoods across the area.

We are well on our way to meeting this goal. Because we piloted the mobile grocery truck in Hayward at Eden Issei, we have a new team of 8 volunteers who have helped us put the groceries in bags, help seniors shop, hand out and call numbers to help with distribution, use the Link2Feed database to enroll recipients and record visits, and deliver bags to those who cannot come outside to get their bag. This team adds to the 63 volunteers at other Eden sites.

2. Do you expect to be able to complete the grant objectives by the end of the grant period? Please explain.

We do expect to meet all of our grant objectives by the end of the grant period. We have been working very hard to advance the distribution of groceries at our sites and to reach out to additional seniors in the neighborhood. We have our new Mobile Grocery Truck serving seniors in the Eden Area and will add sites to this route. We have dates to start the database at each of the Eden sites. We are recruiting volunteers and new recipients continually.

3. How does your actual progress differ from the timeline in your project application? Please explain.

Mercy Brown Bag Program is an ongoing program that operates year round. The timeline of our project fits with that. We took a little longer than planned to get our mobile truck up and running because it took over 4 months to find a qualified driver to hire but our other distributions have been running smoothly.

4. Do you expect to achieve the measurable outcomes specified in your grant application? Please list those outcomes and explain your current expectations.

We do expect to achieve our measurable outcomes. Because of the way the program is built and that the food has no cost to the recipients, it allows all of these outcomes to be achievable with the population who regularly come for groceries at our sites. 100% of participants are better able to pay for basic necessities. 100% experience increased socialization; and 75% of the seniors (non-homebound) benefit from the physical activity of going to a site to pick up their bag. Community involvement and self-esteem is fostered through meaningful volunteer opportunities to over 500 seniors; 100% of whom gain increased physical activity and socialization while assembling and/or delivering to homebound seniors. 70% of the participants self-report they feel healthier as result of participating in the program. 80% of new program participants report improved food security and health status after one-year participation in the program.

5. Have you encountered any unexpected problems or opportunities in the course of this grant? Will they change your outcomes? Please explain.

We are the proud owners of a one-of-a-kind truck which, with a push of a button, turns into a mini-market of nutritious groceries. This came about because the Thomas J. Long Foundation decided to sunset and gave us a large donation to design, custom build and purchase this new hunger fighting tool. We can fit food to feed 300 in each load on the truck and then bring that food to the doorsteps of low-income senior housing buildings.

The city of Hayward has asked us to partner with them in reaching more seniors with this truck and we hope to make a great difference in the new Eden Area elder's lives.

Additionally we were granted funds to purchase a new cooler and freezer to double our capacity for fresh produce and other perishable items. We believe this will greatly impact our ability to serve the seniors who come to us for nutritious food. The construction process has been delayed but we expect it to be finished before this grant funding is ended.

6. Is there anything else you would like the Eden Health District to know about your project?

We are truly grateful for your partnership in feeding seniors in the Eden Area. You have been supporting us for so many years and have touched the lives of thousands of your older adult neighbors. It is only because of your support that we have been able to continually serve the Eden Area. Thank you for your compassion and for this opportunity to tell you what a difference your funds are making. .