

PIEDMONT Post

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING THE CITIZENS OF PIEDMONT

Local group sets goal of making, donating 50,000 face masks

A grassroots Bay Area volunteer group, 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 personal protection equipment for local hospitals.

As the masking requirement became enforceable for many Bay Area counties and cities on April 22, the need for the type of fabric face masks 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 in Berkeley, 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.

"We are growing to meet the need," explained founder Shelly Wong of Alameda. "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 Bay Area."

And in only three weeks, the group has grown to involve 150 people from throughout the Bay

Area, including Oakland, Piedmont, Orinda, and Danville.

Since Wong began her efforts in March, Bryan Walker and Michelle Min have been crucial in helping it scale, donating fabric and elastic, and finding commercial sewists to help meet larger orders. "We are one of the groups that can provide volume. We have requests from SF General for 10,000 face masks and Alameda Health systems for 8,000 to name a few," added Wong.

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.

To donate, go to GOFUNDME page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/making-and-donating-face-masks-and-face-shields>

For more information contact Shelly Wong at wong.shelly1@gmail.com.

**IT TAKES A
+ VILLAGE**