

THE KEI LIN FOUNDATION

A Private Foundation

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October 2020 – GOOD NEWS

Update with TRUSTEE MARGARET TSAI

I will never get used to the “new way of life”. Dining on a dusty street under a tent, 6 feet away from other tables, and missing peoples smiles through the masks. If it is necessary, it still provides little dignity to people. When will it end? I’m sure that I do not know. But we should never stop seeking dignity.

How can we have dignity at a distance? It seems impossible, but we must try. We give what we can. A phone call, a smile, a kind word or helping a neighbor. I will continue to try and hope that it works. There is hope in making a difference like in the story below. I hope you will join me in spreading hope for people like John.



SENIOR CITIZEN COVID IMPACT REPORT

Several local agencies undertook a county wide effort to identify isolated seniors in need of services as a result of the COVID crisis. They shared a report that identified 500 seniors who had never received help, but were in need of critical services as a result of the increased restrictions. A majority of the seniors were assessed to need ongoing services after the restrictions are lifted (mental health, medical care and nutrition assistance). We are looking into ways in which the foundation can ensure that these seniors needs are met.

A Kei Lin Success Story: **Empty shelves**

Do you remember the empty shelves of toilet paper, paper towels and bleach in March and April. Many of us were alarmed by the empty shelves of toilet paper at store. But what alarmed Buellton Senior Center Executive Director Pam Gnekow were the empty shelves of Depends. She recalled, “As we began delivering meals to seniors, many openly worried that they would run out of these critical supplies.”

With no way to leave home and local supplies depleted, Pam could see a real crisis for seniors like 82-year-old, retired railroad employee John. Under normal circumstances, he was active and worked hard to remain independent. The lockdown brought his independence to temporary halt. After a week of receiving home delivered meals, he shared with the volunteer that would run out of supplies in less than a week. When asked what he would do in a week, he responded jokingly, “Ever since I started wearing them, I have imagined my life without them. But this is not what I was imagining.”

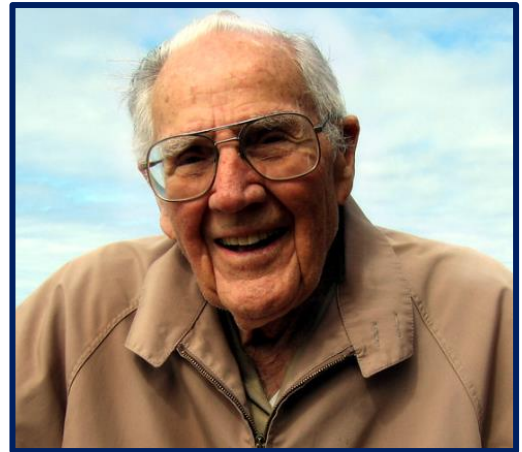


Photo is only for illustration

Pam recognized the coming crisis for seniors like John and began looking for ways to get the supplies (finding them as far away as Los Angeles and Fresno). With all available funds being diverted to meet the need for meal, she wondered, “How on earth will we pay for this?”

In April, the answer came in a call from Kei Lin Foundation Trustee Mr. Harvie. He shared that the foundation wanted to help with a \$10,000 emergency grant to help with the increased need for home delivered meals program. Pam was elated. The \$10,000 grant would support the critical need for home delivered meals and free up some smaller donations to secure incontinence supplies. “Going into the crisis, I would never have guessed that I would need money for Depends or know how to ask for a grant. The emergency grant from Kei Lin Foundation was a godsend. It gave us the confidence that we would have enough to provided meals and devote some resources to meeting other critical needs.”

When John found his volunteer at the door with his supplies, he breathed a sigh of relief. Then he said with a half-smile, “I never thought I’d be so happy to see these again.”

Donations from people like you help the Kei Lin Foundation work with local agencies to meet the needs of seniors like John. Donate today to continue the vital work of the foundation.

2021 KEI LIN FOUNDATION GRANTS

We have received several grant applications and will be reviewing them this month. We will share more about our opportunities to make an impact and opportunities for you to partner with local organizations in 2021 in the newsletter next month.

IF YOU ARE NOT INTERESTED IN RECEIVING OUR NEWSLETTER CALL 1-805-688-5816 OR EMAIL director@keilinfoundation.org TO BE REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST.