

# GOOD NEIGHBOR STORIES

Be a good neighbor • Share good stories



# CONTACTS

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## About Goodneighborstories.com

The Good Neighbor Stories website was launched in June 2010, by San Francisco Bay Area journalist and long-time community volunteer Pam Marino. Pam defines “neighbor” in a global sense: the choices we make in how we live and interact with the world impacts those near us, or half way around the globe. Her website’s mission is to encourage each of us to “be a “good neighbor” and share “good stories.”

Good Neighbor Stories shares inspirational stories of people and organizations positively impacting their communities and the rest of the world. The site regularly features stories covering young people giving their time to those less fortunate, nonprofits striving to improve the lives of others in the community, and passionate adult volunteers who share their skills with those in need.

The goal is to inspire readers to take action in their own lives to create better homes, neighborhoods, communities and even a better world. Good Neighbor Stories also gives readers a chance to share their own stories about the helpful things they are doing, or about how someone else showed kindness toward them.

In addition, nonprofit organizations are encouraged to use Good Neighbor Stories as a resource. The site includes a resource page and a free community calendar listing. Pam is always looking for passionate guest bloggers to contribute posts about events or programs benefiting Bay Area communities.

# DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013

MONDAY <b>31</b>
TUESDAY <b>1</b> <div>NEW YEAR'S DAY</div>
WEDNESDAY <b>2</b>
THURSDAY <b>3</b>
FRIDAY <b>4</b>
SATURDAY <b>5</b>
SUNDAY <b>6</b>

*A happy New Year! Grant that I may bring no tear to any eye, when this New Year in time shall end, let it be said I've played the friend, have lived and loved and labored here, and made of it a happy year. — Edgar Guest*



# Celebrating Community Service

While some companies' employees are toasting the holidays with Champagne and hors d'oeuvres, NVIDIA's employees forgo the party and instead take part in one of Silicon Valley's largest-ever annual employee volunteer service events, known as Project Inspire.

About 1,500 employees, their families, and other volunteers descended on the nonprofit Full Circle Farm in Sunnyvale one weekend in December, to saw wood, swing hammers, shovel dirt, paint, and more. The result was a huge boost to the farm's ability to provide nutrition education to students and fresh produce to the community.

"I think parties are kind of selfish and this is selfless," said Chris Pedersen, a content developer for NVIDIA, who was busy digging raised beds with his wife and two kids. "I think it's awesome; you always go home with a really good feeling."

The technology company started volunteer projects in lieu of a party in 2000. The events started with about 500 employees and other volunteers, but over the years have continued to grow. Marshaling that many people in a two-day service event is no small feat; since 2009 the company has worked with City Year to organize the operations.

**Want to know how NVIDIA's Project Inspire organizes so many people for its holiday work parties? Scan the QR code, or go to <http://goodneighborstories.com/?p=823>**



## JANUARY

MONDAY

7

TUESDAY

8

WEDNESDAY

9

THURSDAY

10

FRIDAY

11

SATURDAY

12

SUNDAY

13

*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. — Anne Frank*

JANUARY

MONDAY	14	
TUESDAY	15	WORLD RELIGION DAY
WEDNESDAY	16	
THURSDAY	17	
FRIDAY	18	
SATURDAY	19	LABA FESTIVAL – DAY BUDDHA ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT
SUNDAY	20	INAUGURATION DAY

I want you to be concerned about your next door neighbor. Do you know your next door neighbor? — Mother Teresa

JANUARY

MONDAY	21	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
TUESDAY	22	
WEDNESDAY	23	
THURSDAY	24	MAWLID UN NABI – BIRTH OF MOHAMMAD
FRIDAY	25	
SATURDAY	26	
SUNDAY	27	

Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. — Martin Luther King Jr.



# JANUARY/FEBRUARY

MONDAY	28
TUESDAY	29
WEDNESDAY	30
THURSDAY	31
FRIDAY	1
SATURDAY	2
SUNDAY	3

*Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person. — Fred Rogers*



Every February around Valentine’s Day when we share love with those near and dear to us, there’s a chance to let that love ripple through our neighborhoods, community, and the world, through what’s become known as Random Acts of Kindness Week.

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation encourages everyone to engage in acts of kindness throughout the week, leading up to Random Acts of Kindness Day.

What act of kindness will you share with someone? Here’s to hoping the world will be just a little nicer during this year’s Random Acts of Kindness Week!

## Kindness Ideas

- Smile at a minimum of five people in one day
- Hold the door open for someone
- Pick up trash you see while out walking
- Let the person behind you in line go ahead of you
- Call a friend you haven’t seen in awhile just to say “hi”
- Go through your closet and find several items to donate to charity
- Refrain from making negative comments for one week
- Tell someone who works for the public—a teacher, police officer, nurse, mail carrier, etc.—how much you appreciate his or her service
- Look someone straight in the eye, ask them how they are, and then really listen
- Organize a mini-food drive for the local food bank on your block or in your building

**Want more ideas? Scan the QR code, or go to <http://goodneighbor-stories.com/be-a-good-neighbor/ways-to-be-a-good-neighbor/>. Thank you to the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation for the permission to use the graphic on the preceding page.**



## FEBRUARY

MONDAY

4

TUESDAY

5

WEDNESDAY

6

THURSDAY

7

FRIDAY

8

SATURDAY

9

SUNDAY

10

LUNAR NEW YEAR

*While the spirit of neighborliness was important on the frontier because neighbors were so few, it is even more important now because our neighbors are so many. — Lady Bird Johnson*

# FEBRUARY

MONDAY	<b>11</b>	
TUESDAY	<b>12</b>	MARDI GRAS NATIONAL FREEDOM TO MARRY DAY
WEDNESDAY	<b>13</b>	ASH WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	<b>14</b>	VALENTINE'S DAY
FRIDAY	<b>15</b>	NIRVANA DAY – DEATH OF BUDDHA
SATURDAY	<b>16</b>	
SUNDAY	<b>17</b>	RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY

*You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. — Ralph Waldo Emerson*

# FEBRUARY

MONDAY	<b>18</b>	WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
TUESDAY	<b>19</b>	
WEDNESDAY	<b>20</b>	
THURSDAY	<b>21</b>	
FRIDAY	<b>22</b>	
SATURDAY	<b>23</b>	
SUNDAY	<b>24</b>	LANTERN FESTIVAL PURIM

*How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these. — George Washington Carver*



## FEBRUARY/MARCH

MONDAY

**25**

TUESDAY

**26**

WEDNESDAY

**27**

THURSDAY

**28**

FRIDAY

**1**

SATURDAY

**2**

SUNDAY

**3**

*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not. — Dr. Seuss*



When members of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Pacifica, CA., headed to the Gulf Coast every winter to help rebuilding efforts in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, they were so passionate about their visits, that passion became infectious.

The work groups that made the journey included friends, family, people from other churches and faiths – even people who don’t go to church.

“It’s nice St. Andrew collects people and brings them along,” said Ann Mason during a February 2011, trip to New Orleans. She attends the Unitarian Universalists Church in San Mateo.

Pacifica drywall subcontractor Paul Wayne returned multiple times after hearing about the trips from a St. Andrew member at a party. He’s Jewish, but he said it makes no matter. He enjoys working with his St. Andrew friends year after year.

Reaching out and becoming more connected to the people of New Orleans has inspired the St. Andrew congregation to become more connected to its own community along the way. Members who can’t make the annual trek are getting involved in local efforts such as Rebuilding Together and Relay for Life.

***Want to learn more about how St. Andrew members involved their community in New Orleans rebuilding efforts? Scan the QR code, or go to <http://goodneighborstories.com/?p=469>***



MONDAY	4	
TUESDAY	5	
WEDNESDAY	6	
THURSDAY	7	
FRIDAY	8	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY
SATURDAY	9	
SUNDAY	10	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MAHA SHIVARATRI – HINDU FESTIVAL TO HONOR SHIVA

*Every good act is charity. A man’s true wealth hereafter is the good that he does in this world to his fellows. — Mohammad*

# MARCH

MONDAY <b>11</b>
TUESDAY <b>12</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>13</b>  BLUE DRAGON FESTIVAL
THURSDAY <b>14</b>
FRIDAY <b>15</b>
SATURDAY <b>16</b>
SUNDAY <b>17</b>  ST. PATRICK'S DAY

*The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt. — Frederick Buechner*

# MARCH

MONDAY <b>18</b>
TUESDAY <b>19</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>20</b>  FIRST DAY OF SPRING
THURSDAY <b>21</b>
FRIDAY <b>22</b>
SATURDAY <b>23</b>
SUNDAY <b>24</b>  PALM SUNDAY

*Every day you have the opportunity to learn and experience something and someone new. Seize the opportunity. Learn and experience everything you can, and use it to change the world. — Rodney Williams*

# MARCH

MONDAY <b>25</b>	
TUESDAY <b>26</b>	PASSOVER (THROUGH APRIL 2)
WEDNESDAY <b>27</b>	
THURSDAY <b>28</b>	MAUNDY THURSDAY
FRIDAY <b>29</b>	GOOD FRIDAY
SATURDAY <b>30</b>	
SUNDAY <b>31</b>	EASTER

*When a person is down in the world, an ounce of help is better than a pound of preaching. — Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton*



# Granting Birthday Wishes

Every child has a birthday wish. But some children from poor or homeless families don't get those wishes fulfilled, which is why 8th grader Yasmine Davis decided to step in and make a difference.

Davis and her family are founders of the nonprofit Make a Birthday Wish, which provides presents and birthday parties for more than 300 disadvantaged children and teens in the Silicon Valley.

Along with her mom, Nike McDonald, Davis shops for presents for children and teenagers, then throws a party complete with decorations and cake for all the birthday boys and girls of one month. The children and teens are matched to Make a Birthday Wish through West Valley Community Services, headquartered in Cupertino, CA.

"It helps me be more grateful for what I have, and not take for granted anything," Davis said of the parties she coordinates. "It's just a really great feeling to be with all the kids and see how appreciative they are for Make a Birthday Wish."

***Want to find out more about Yasmine and the birthday parties she throws for homeless and other disadvantaged children and teens? Scan the QR code, or go to <http://goodneighborstories.com/?p=1204>***



APRIL

MONDAY

1

CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

TUESDAY

2

LAST DAY OF PASSOVER

WEDNESDAY

3

THURSDAY

4

QING MING JIE – CHINESE MOURNING DAY

FRIDAY

5

SATURDAY

6

SUNDAY

7

YOM HASHOAH – DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST

*The most important question in the world is, "Why is the child crying?"*  
— Alice Walker

APRIL

MONDAY
8
TUESDAY
9
WEDNESDAY
10
THURSDAY
11
FRIDAY
12
SHANGSI FESTIVAL – TRADITIONAL CHINESE WOMEN’S DAY
SATURDAY
13
SUNDAY
14

Listening is where love begins: listening to ourselves and then to our neighbors. — Fred Rogers

APRIL

MONDAY
15
TUESDAY
16
WEDNESDAY
17
THURSDAY
18
FRIDAY
19
SATURDAY
20
SUNDAY
21

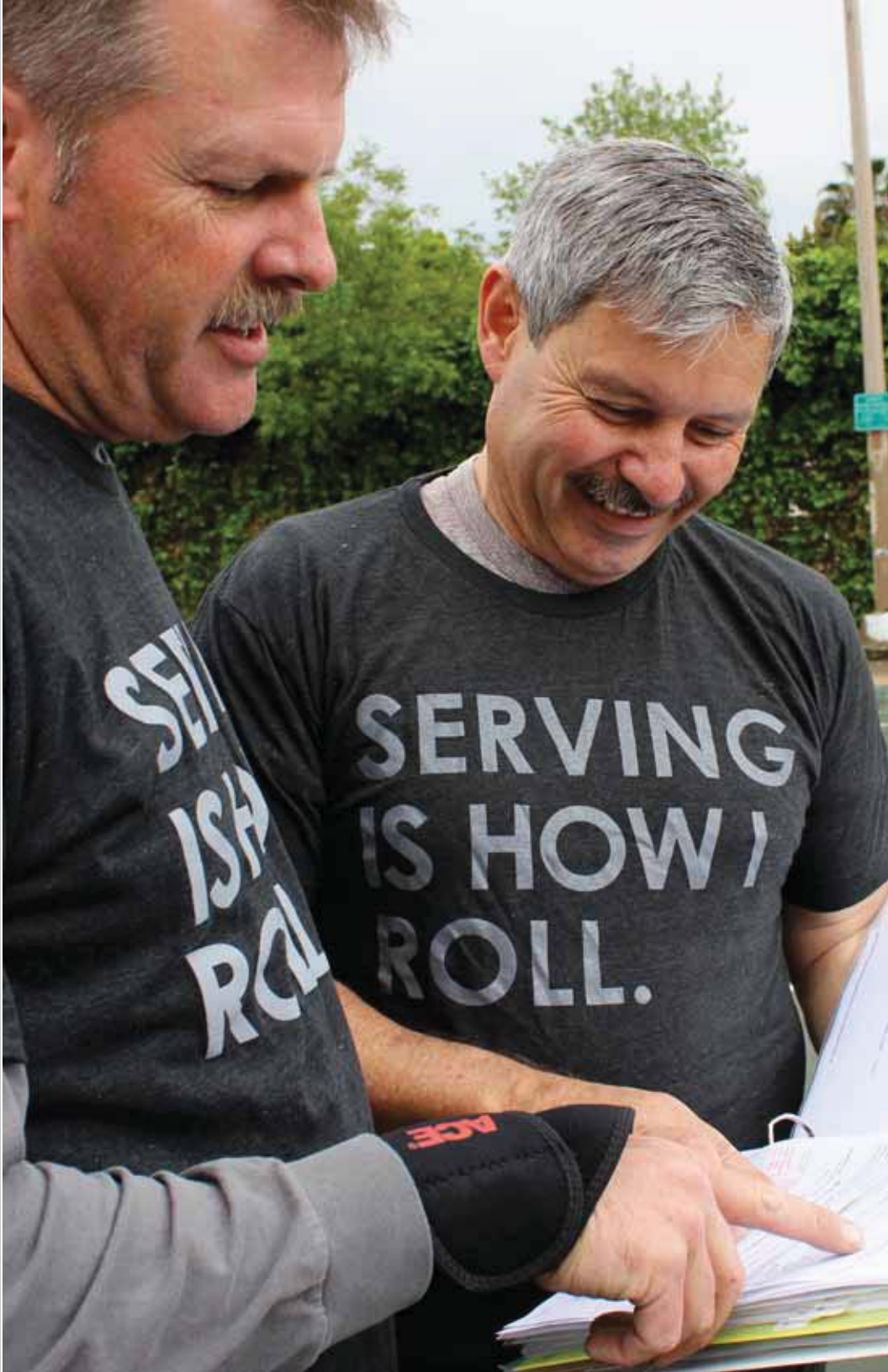
In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us. — Flora Edwards



APRIL

MONDAY	22	EARTH DAY
TUESDAY	23	
WEDNESDAY	24	
THURSDAY	25	
FRIDAY	26	ARBOR DAY
SATURDAY	27	
SUNDAY	28	

*He that plants trees loves others than himself. — Thomas Fuller*



# Serving a Neighborhood

Retired police officers Bob Froese and Jim Buchanan once looked upon the small low-income San Jose area of Alviso with hardened cops' eyes: a place with a few rough characters, and all the social ills that come with being a neighborhood of people living on the margins of society.

But after the two found themselves leading possibly one of the largest community service projects ever in Alviso, their hearts melted and they began to see the neighborhood with softer eyes.

"After our experience here we have a passion for the people of Alviso," Froese said. He said the stereotypes he once held for the community have completely disappeared.

With the precision of a major police operation, the two marshaled the forces of 600 volunteers one spring weekend for the "Awaken Alviso" project, one of 17 projects tackled by a San Jose coalition of churches, nonprofits, businesses and governmental agencies called Beautiful Day.

The two divided the neighborhood into zones and appointed block captains to coordinate work on 41 sites in the small community of 2,200 residents and nearly 500 homes.

"We planned it down to how many nails we'd need," he said.

***Want to find out more about how Jim and Bob found their lives changed while transforming an entire neighborhood? Scan the QR code, or go to <http://goodneighbor-stories.com/?p=662>***



APRIL/MAY

MONDAY

29

TUESDAY

30

WEDNESDAY

1

MAY DAY

THURSDAY

2

FRIDAY

3

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

SATURDAY

4

SUNDAY

5

CINCO DE MAYO

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. – Margaret Mead*

# MAY

MONDAY	<b>6</b>	MAY DAY
TUESDAY	<b>7</b>	
WEDNESDAY	<b>8</b>	
THURSDAY	<b>9</b>	
FRIDAY	<b>10</b>	
SATURDAY	<b>11</b>	
SUNDAY	<b>12</b>	MOTHER'S DAY

*There are women who make things better... simply by showing up. There are women who make things happen. There are women who make their way. There are women who make a difference. And women who make us smile. There are women of wit and wisdom who—through strength and courage—make it through. There are women who change the world everyday... Women like you.*  
— Ashley Rice

# MAY

MONDAY	<b>13</b>	
TUESDAY	<b>14</b>	
WEDNESDAY	<b>15</b>	SHAVUOT
THURSDAY	<b>16</b>	SHAVUOT
FRIDAY	<b>17</b>	
SATURDAY	<b>18</b>	ARMED FORCES DAY
SUNDAY	<b>19</b>	PENTECOST

*Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?*  
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

MAY

MONDAY

**20**

VICTORIA DAY (CANADA)

TUESDAY

**21**

WEDNESDAY

**22**

THURSDAY

**23**

FRIDAY

**24**

SATURDAY

**25**

SUNDAY

**26**

*It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.*  
— Ralph Waldo Emerson





# Providing Healthy Food for Kids

San Jose pediatrician Daniel Delgado had a big problem.

His young patients – all from low-income families – were overweight or obese and in danger of developing diabetes. Many did not have access to the fresh fruits and vegetables vital for better nutrition.

How to connect his patients with the foods they so desperately need?

Delgado pinned his hopes that some of that need would be met through monthly visits from Second Harvest Food Bank's Produce Mobile to the East Valley Clinic of the Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center. The refrigerated truck is chock full of free, fresh produce reserved for qualified low-income families.

"It's the very first county clinic site where this type of collaboration is happening," Delgado said. "It's groundbreaking."

An estimated 200 families lined up to take advantage of the truck's bounty on the first visit, including Beatrice Romero and her 10-year-old son, Sanny. Romero came at the invitation of a doctor at the clinic.

"I think it's very good for my children and my money," Romero said. "It's a help."

***Want to learn more about how Dr. Delgado, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, and a community partnership brought fresh fruits and vegetables to help children in need? Scan the QR code, or go to <http://goodneighborstories.com/?p=370>***



MAY/JUNE

MONDAY

27

MEMORIAL DAY

TUESDAY

28

WEDNESDAY

29

THURSDAY

30

FRIDAY

31

SATURDAY

1

SUNDAY

2

*Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope... and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance. — Robert F. Kennedy*

# JUNE

MONDAY <b>3</b>
TUESDAY <b>4</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>5</b>
THURSDAY <b>6</b> LAILAT-UL-MIRAJ – THE HEAVENLY JOURNEY OF THE HOLY PROPHET MOHAMMAD
FRIDAY <b>7</b>
SATURDAY <b>8</b>
SUNDAY <b>9</b>

*The true essence of humankind is kindness. There are other qualities which come from education or knowledge, but it is essential, if one wishes to be a genuine human being and impart satisfying meaning to one's existence, to have a good heart. — Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama*

# JUNE

MONDAY <b>10</b>
TUESDAY <b>11</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>12</b> DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL
THURSDAY <b>13</b>
FRIDAY <b>14</b> FLAG DAY
SATURDAY <b>15</b>
SUNDAY <b>16</b> FATHER'S DAY

*Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day. — Sally Koch*



JUNE

MONDAY <b>17</b>
TUESDAY <b>18</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>19</b> JUNETEENTH (AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATION)
THURSDAY <b>20</b>
FRIDAY <b>21</b> SUMMER SOLSTICE
SATURDAY <b>22</b>
SUNDAY <b>23</b>

*At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us. — Albert Schweitzer*

JUNE

MONDAY <b>24</b> LAILAT UL BARAT – NIGHT OF PRAYERS (MUSLIM)
TUESDAY <b>25</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>26</b>
THURSDAY <b>27</b>
FRIDAY <b>28</b>
SATURDAY <b>29</b>
SUNDAY <b>30</b>

*The only people with whom you should try to get even are those who have helped you. — John E. Southard*

# JULY

MONDAY

**1**

TUESDAY

**2**

WEDNESDAY

**3**

THURSDAY

**4**

INDEPENDENCE DAY

FRIDAY

**5**

SATURDAY

**6**

SUNDAY

**7**

GURU PURNIMA – FULL MOON OF THE GURU (HINDU)

*Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value. — Albert Einstein*



Jean Wilder's broken heart over the death of a beloved cat is now overflowing with love for the almost 400 kittens she has fostered since 2001.

Wilder is a Kitten Foster Parent for Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV), saving the lives of young cats and socializing them in preparation for their new adopting families.

"It's so rewarding to see these little kitties develop and become social," she said. "It's probably the most fulfilling thing I've done, work-wise."

The 33-year Santa Clara resident used to be an analyst for Hewlett Packard, but now she considers it her job to make sure the kittens that stay temporarily in her home are ready to get along well with both people and other cats and become "nice family pets."

This new volunteer job is the legacy of a beloved cat named Gomer she owned more than 10 years ago.

When he died, she cried a lot of tears, but swept them away after she heard about kitten foster parenting at HSSV and soon greeted her first of many litters.

"I enjoy it so much," she said. "If you like animals, I encourage anyone to do it."

**Find out more about how Wilder cares for all those kitties by scanning the QR code, or go to <http://goodneighborstories.com/?p=1389>**



MONDAY

8

TUESDAY

9

RAMADAN BEGINS

WEDNESDAY

10

THURSDAY

11

FRIDAY

12

SATURDAY

13

SUNDAY

14

BASTILLE DAY

*You will rise by lifting others. — Robert G. Ingersoll*

# JULY

MONDAY <b>15</b>
TUESDAY <b>16</b>  TISHA B'AV – JEWISH FAST DAY
WEDNESDAY <b>17</b>
THURSDAY <b>18</b>
FRIDAY <b>19</b>
SATURDAY <b>20</b>
SUNDAY <b>21</b>

*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. — Helen Keller*

# JULY

MONDAY <b>22</b>  GURU PURNIMA
TUESDAY <b>23</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>24</b>
THURSDAY <b>25</b>
FRIDAY <b>26</b>
SATURDAY <b>27</b>
SUNDAY <b>28</b>

*If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap... If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody. — Chinese Proverb*

JULY/AUGUST

MONDAY	29
TUESDAY	30
WEDNESDAY	31
THURSDAY	1
FRIDAY	2
SATURDAY	3
SUNDAY	4

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY

Have a heart that never hardens, and a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts. — Charles Dickens



More than three decades ago, Donna Baranski-Walker took a stand to change the world by helping oppressed people in far-off Communist Poland. What she didn't know then was that changing the world would become the focus of her life.

From helping people living under Communist rule, to advocating for peace in times of war, to now helping rebuild communities torn apart by war, Baranski-Walker has always worked in one form or another for peace.

Her first efforts were recognized in August 2010, when she was awarded the Medal of Gratitude from the European Solidarity Committee in Poland, as the country celebrated the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Solidarity Movement.

Baranski-Walker was 25 and a newly graduated electrical engineer when she stood up at a university lecture in Chicago and proposed forming the group Support of Solidarity (SOS) – Chicago. The non-violent Solidarity Movement contributed to the collapse of Communism in Europe in 1989.

Now executive director of the group Rebuilding Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to rebuilding war-torn communities, Baranski-Walker has continued to work for peace and reconciliation throughout her life.

"I didn't realize when I was right out of college that this would become my life's work," she said.

***Want to learn more about how Baranski-Walker helped people in Poland while still in the states, or how she continues to help people in war-torn countries? Scan the QR code, or go to <http://goodneighborstories.com/?p=406>***



## AUGUST

MONDAY

5

TUESDAY

6

WEDNESDAY

7

RAMADAN ENDS

THURSDAY

8

FRIDAY

9

SATURDAY

10

SUNDAY

11

*Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If you cannot, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them go their own way. — Swami Vivekananda*



# AUGUST

MONDAY <b>12</b>
TUESDAY <b>13</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>14</b>
THURSDAY <b>15</b>
FRIDAY <b>16</b>
SATURDAY <b>17</b>
SUNDAY <b>18</b>

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*  
— Gandhi

# AUGUST

MONDAY <b>19</b>
TUESDAY <b>20</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>21</b>
THURSDAY <b>22</b>
FRIDAY <b>23</b>
SATURDAY <b>24</b>
SUNDAY <b>25</b>

*We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobiles, rather than by the quality of our service and relationship to humanity.* — Martin Luther King, Jr.

# AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

MONDAY

**26**

TUESDAY

**27**

WEDNESDAY

**28**

THURSDAY

**29**

FRIDAY

**30**

SATURDAY

**31**

SUNDAY

**1**

*Believe that there's light at the end of the tunnel. Believe that you might be that light for someone else. — Kobi Yamada*



# New Life for Neighborhood

With each deliberate stroke of their color-laden paintbrushes, volunteers brought new life to a beloved landmark in the Gardner Neighborhood of San Jose, and in the process, brought the possibility of new life to the neighborhood itself.

The landmark was a faded spray paint mural of an Aztec calendar on the back of an old cement handball court in Biebrach Park, created in 1995 by a young man who grew up there. Some in the neighborhood were feeling a bit faded themselves, after city budget cuts brought unwanted changes to the local community center.

The new Aztec calendar mural is now bursting with color, thanks to the work of more than 25 volunteers who worked through an annual spring service event in the Silicon Valley called Beautiful Day.

"I think this mural is going to bring a lot of peace to the neighborhood," said 18-year-old Jacob Palomares-Mason, who grew up in Gardner. "It's bringing this community together once more."

***Some neighbors were skeptical at first about the offer to renew the mural. Find out a gracious offer to help from the heart changed their minds, and how the community celebrated the new creation. Scan the QR code, or go to <http://good-neighborstories.com/?p=1345>***



## SEPTEMBER

MONDAY

2

LABOR DAY

TUESDAY

3

WEDNESDAY

4

ROSH HASHANA

THURSDAY

5

ROSH HASHANA

FRIDAY

6

ROSH HASHANA

SATURDAY

7

SUNDAY

8

*Every child should have a caring adult in their lives. And that's not always a biological parent or family member. It may be a friend or neighbor. Often times it is a teacher. — Joe Manchin*

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY	9	
TUESDAY	10	
WEDNESDAY	11	DAY OF SERVICE
THURSDAY	12	
FRIDAY	13	
SATURDAY	14	YOM KIPPUR
SUNDAY	15	

*You are never strong enough that you don't need help.— Cesar Chavez*

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY	16	
TUESDAY	17	
WEDNESDAY	18	
THURSDAY	19	MOON FESTIVAL SUKKOT (THROUGH SEPT. 25)
FRIDAY	20	
SATURDAY	21	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
SUNDAY	22	FALL BEGINS

*Indifference and neglect often do much more damage than outright dislike. — J.K. Rowling*



# SEPTEMBER

MONDAY

**23**

TUESDAY

**24**

WEDNESDAY

**25**

LAST DAY OF SUKKOT

THURSDAY

**26**

FRIDAY

**27**

SATURDAY

**28**

SUNDAY

**29**

*I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do. — Edward Everett Hale*



# Repairing Bikes and Lives

“What goes around, comes around,” is one western interpretation of Karma, and there’s probably no better illustration of the concept than Good Karma Bikes of San Jose, where those who once sought free help for their broken down bicycles are now helping others—while repairing their own lives in the process.

Under the motto, “Transportation for transformation,” the two-year-old nonprofit has grown from one laid off engineer fixing bikes for homeless people in St. James Park, to a team of volunteers that not only fix thousands of bikes each year for homeless and low-income clients, but also provide job training, as well as a friendly place to belong.

Every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Good Karma volunteers offer a free repair clinic to anyone who needs help with a broken bike. Nearly 50 people line up every week at the nonprofit’s headquarters at 345 Sunol St.

While it may look like Good Karma Bikes is one more nonprofit providing free services to the community, founder and Executive Director Jim Gardner insists it’s something more.

“This is not about bikes. What this is about mostly is self-esteem reparation,” said Gardner.

***Want to learn why Jim Gardner started this inspirational nonprofit and how it helps rebuild lives? Scan the QR code, or go to <http://good-neighborstories.com/?p=1407>***



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

MONDAY

30

TUESDAY

1

WEDNESDAY

2

THURSDAY

3

FRIDAY

4

SATURDAY

5

NAVARATRI BEGINS – NINE NIGHT  
HINDU FESTIVAL HONORING  
THE DIVINE MOTHER, SHAKTI

SUNDAY

6

*The willingness to share does not make one charitable; it makes one free.*  
— Robert Brault



# OCTOBER

MONDAY <b>7</b>
TUESDAY <b>8</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>9</b>
THURSDAY <b>10</b>
FRIDAY <b>11</b>
SATURDAY <b>12</b>
SUNDAY <b>13</b> HAJJ – MUSLIM DAY OF TRAVEL TO MECCA

*It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little - do what you can. — Sydney Smith*

# OCTOBER

MONDAY <b>14</b> DAY OF ARAFAT – MUSLIM DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYING THANKSGIVING (CANADA)
TUESDAY <b>15</b> EID UL ADHA – MUSLIM FESTIVAL OF SACRIFICE
WEDNESDAY <b>16</b> EID UL ADHA
THURSDAY <b>17</b> EID UL ADHA
FRIDAY <b>18</b>
SATURDAY <b>19</b>
SUNDAY <b>20</b>

*Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you. — Mother Teresa*

# OCTOBER

MONDAY

**21**

TUESDAY

**22**

WEDNESDAY

**23**

THURSDAY

**24**

FRIDAY

**25**

SATURDAY

**26**

SUNDAY

**27**

*I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.*

— Maya Angelou



# Warming Body and Soul

A small non-profit organization is warming the heart of East Palo Alto, CA., both figuratively and literally.

Project WeHOPE (“We Help Other People Excel”) founded the struggling city’s only warming shelter for homeless people in 2009. Every night from November to April, nearly 30 people on average come in from the cold for a hot meal, medical attention, and a warm place to sleep.

The shelter opened after it became apparent through a San Mateo County homeless census that East Palo Alto has the greatest percentage of homeless in the county.

“Very little was being done...no one was housing the homeless,” said Pastor Paul Bains, President of WeHOPE and co-founder with his wife Cheryl. They did what only made sense to them: opened the shelter in the organization’s gym, located in an industrial park warehouse.

Bains wasn’t satisfied with just a place to come in from the cold. The shelter had to be, in his words, “not a hand out, but a hand up.” Everyone looking for help was evaluated for their medical and mental needs, and given help with connecting to longer-term transitional housing.

“We help them to restore their dignity,” Bains said.

**Want to know more about Project WeHOPE’s efforts to help East Palo Alto? Scan the QR code, or go to <http://goodneighborstories.com/?p=321>**



## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

MONDAY

28

TUESDAY

29

WEDNESDAY

30

THURSDAY

31

HALLOWEEN

FRIDAY

1

ALL SAINTS DAY

SATURDAY

2

SUNDAY

3

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

DIWALI BEGINS – FIVE DAY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

*Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness, to pull another hand into the light. — Norman B. Rice*

# NOVEMBER

MONDAY	<b>4</b>	ISLAMIC NEW YEAR
TUESDAY	<b>5</b>	ELECTION DAY
WEDNESDAY	<b>6</b>	
THURSDAY	<b>7</b>	
FRIDAY	<b>8</b>	
SATURDAY	<b>9</b>	
SUNDAY	<b>10</b>	

*You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. – Kahlil Gibran*

# NOVEMBER

MONDAY	<b>11</b>	VETERAN'S DAY
TUESDAY	<b>12</b>	
WEDNESDAY	<b>13</b>	ASHURA – REMEMBRANCE OF MUHARRAM
THURSDAY	<b>14</b>	
FRIDAY	<b>15</b>	
SATURDAY	<b>16</b>	
SUNDAY	<b>17</b>	WATER LANTERN FESTIVAL

*Being a man or a woman is a matter of birth. Being a man or a woman who makes a difference is a matter of choice. — Byron Garrett*

# NOVEMBER

MONDAY

**18**

TUESDAY

**19**

WEDNESDAY

**20**

THURSDAY

**21**

GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

FRIDAY

**22**

SATURDAY

**23**

SUNDAY

**24**

*Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.*  
— Mark Twain





Dave Severns used the power of 88,000 Christmas lights to feed a lot of hungry people in the San Francisco Bay Area.



What started as a modest display of lights 15 years ago grew into one of the largest, most creative computer-automated—and solar powered—local holiday displays in the Silicon Valley. It was so big it covered the house, roof and yard of Severns home, and the house and yard of his next-door neighbors, the Pease family.

With “snow” blowing from where an automated Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer sat perched on top of Severns’ garage, to cute joking elves, to the 88,000 lights choreographed to rousing music, the display was extremely popular with both kids and adults alike.

Severns put out collection barrels for Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, and a secured box to collect money. The first year they raised \$8,000 in a combined total of food and money.

“Every year since we’ve done better than the previous year, even in the economic downturn, which really surprised me,” he said. In 2010 Severns gathered a record \$84,000.

**Want to know more about how Dave Severns and his 88,000 light display? Scan the QR code, or go to <http://goodneighborstories.com/?p=430>. Thank you to the Severns family for the photos on previous page.**



## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

MONDAY

25

TUESDAY

26

WEDNESDAY

27

HANUKKAH (THROUGH DEC. 5)

THURSDAY

28

THANKSGIVING

FRIDAY

29

SATURDAY

30

SUNDAY

1

ADVENT BEGINS  
WORLD AIDS DAY

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.*  
— John Fitzgerald Kennedy



# DECEMBER

MONDAY <b>2</b>
TUESDAY <b>3</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>4</b>
THURSDAY <b>5</b>  LAST DAY OF HANUKKAH
FRIDAY <b>6</b>
SATURDAY <b>7</b>
SUNDAY <b>8</b>

*No one has ever become poor by giving. — Anne Frank*

# DECEMBER

MONDAY <b>9</b>
TUESDAY <b>10</b>  HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
WEDNESDAY <b>11</b>
THURSDAY <b>12</b>
FRIDAY <b>13</b>
SATURDAY <b>14</b>
SUNDAY <b>15</b>

*You must be the change you wish to see in the world. — Gandhi*

# DECEMBER

MONDAY <b>16</b>
TUESDAY <b>17</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>18</b>
THURSDAY <b>19</b>
FRIDAY <b>20</b>
SATURDAY <b>21</b>  WINTER SOLSTICE
SUNDAY <b>22</b>

*The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers.*  
— Martin Luther King Jr.

# DECEMBER

MONDAY <b>23</b>
TUESDAY <b>24</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>25</b>  CHRISTMAS
THURSDAY <b>26</b>  KWANZAA – SEVEN DAY AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL
FRIDAY <b>27</b>
SATURDAY <b>28</b>
SUNDAY <b>29</b>

*The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.* — Franklin D. Roosevelt

# DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014

MONDAY <b>30</b>
TUESDAY <b>31</b>
WEDNESDAY <b>1</b>  LAST DAY OF KWANZAA
THURSDAY <b>2</b>
FRIDAY <b>3</b>
SATURDAY <b>4</b>
SUNDAY <b>5</b>

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does. — William James



## About Reach and Teach

Reach and Teach ([www.reachandteach.com](http://www.reachandteach.com)) is a peace and social justice learning company, working to transform the world through teachable moments. We offer books, films, music, curriculum, games, toys, fair-trade gifts, and other products focused on peacemaking, gender equality and sustainable living. Launched online in 2004 we opened our first brick-and-mortar storefront in San

Mateo in 2010. More than just a place to buy products, the Reach And Teach shop is a place where people can learn about making the world a better place, see peacemaking in action, and get involved.

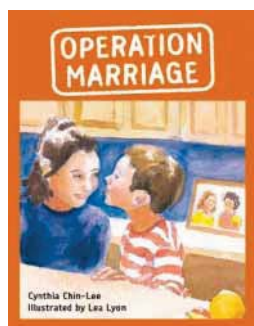
We are honored to be working with Good Neighbor Stories in creating this datebook, lifting up the incredible things people are doing right now and across the world. Good Neighbor Stories is about people and organizations being good neighbors to others, with a focus on the San Francisco Bay Area. It's good news, good ideas, good sharing about how we can all be better neighbors in our own communities and in the world.

*The datebook was designed by our friends at Design Action Collective, a worker-owned cooperative that has been empowering social justice movements through communication arts for over a decade. Visit them at [www.designaction.org](http://www.designaction.org) to learn more about their work.*

*The datebook was printed by our friends at Inkworks Press, serving the community since 1974. Inkworks Press is a leading ecologically and socially conscious offset printer offering a full range of the highest quality green printing services. They print booklets, posters, postcards, flyers, brochures, business suites, envelopes and more; all with vegetable oil based inks, recycled paper and union labor. Inkworks is organized as a democratically run worker collective. Please visit [www.inkworkspress.org](http://www.inkworkspress.org).*

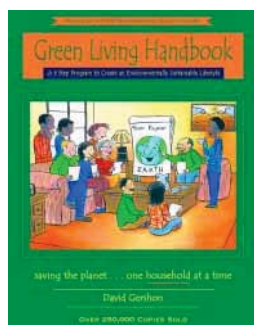


**Reach And Teach** – the Peace and Social Justice Learning Company  
Transforming the World through Teachable Moments Since 2004  
Books, music, films, posters, toys, games, puzzles, and fair-trade gifts



### Gender Equality

Products that let people know they are wonderful no matter what gender they are, wherever they are on the spectrum.



### Peacemaking

From anti-bullying for children to getting along with difficult adults to intervening in long-time military conflicts through nonviolent resistance, the tools that are needed to give peace a chance.

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## 2013 Calendar

JAN							FEB							MAR						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

APR							MAY							JUN						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JUL							AUG							SEP						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
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29	30	31	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	1	2	3	4	5	6

OCT							NOV							DEC						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31	1	2	3	4	5

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