



Photo courtesy Alex Maleki

The Idealab team, including Managing Directors Tom McGovern and Alex Maleki, has launched a donation drive to feed families in need by ordering through local restaurants.

## Idealab Hatches Plan to Feed Families in Need, Bolster Restaurants

By Camila Castellanos  
The Outlook

When Idealab Managing Directors Alex Maleki and Tom McGovern recently heard that Friends In Deed was going to close its food pantry for up to two weeks, putting the local families who depend on its kitchen staples at risk of hunger,

they put their heads together.

As if the coronavirus pandemic and its wake of economic ruin wasn't already bad enough for those left unemployed — many from the restaurant or services sector — but now a local food pantry providing basic dietary needs had to close after an

See IDEALAB, page 16

## Schiff Honors Claire Bogaard as Woman of the Year

Congressman Adam Schiff has named Pasadena's Claire Bogaard as one of the "2020 Women of the Year," an annual tradition to recognize inspiring women throughout local communities in the 28th Congressional District during Women's History Month in March.

Bogaard was one of 15 women honored for her extensive volunteerism in the community, including that of her work as founding member of Pasadena Heritage, one of the oldest historic preservation groups in Southern California.

Schiff called Bogaard personally to bestow the news.

"Congressman Adam Schiff called me to let me know that I was one of the women chosen as this year's Women of the Year.



OUTLOOK file photo

Claire Bogaard, who was selected by Congressman Adam Schiff as one of the region's "Women of the Year," is pictured with her husband, Bill.

It was a wonderful surprise! As a great admirer of Adam Schiff, I was deeply honored to be recog-

See BOGAARD, page 2

## City Preps For Possible COVID-19 Surge Amid Somber Meeting

By Camila Castellanos  
The Outlook

Pasadena officials convened a special City Council meeting this week in somber recognition of the growing personal toll on the community as confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue rising at an alarming rate.

Mayor Terry Tornek initiated a moment of silence after officials recited the customary Pledge of Allegiance.

"I ask that we all take a moment to reflect on the extraordinarily difficult circumstances that we are facing as a community today," he said. "Also, that we share the grief and the pain that we have suffered due to death and illness in Pasadena and our nation and around the world. Please call upon whatever spiritual strength you can summon to comfort and support others and to hope for an early end to this terrible time."

As of The Outlook's press deadline on Tuesday, the Los Angeles County Department of Health reported 261 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Pasadena, with 28



Photo by Erin Rodick / OUTLOOK

The city of Pasadena, in partnership with Huntington Hospital and the Pasadena Convention Center, launched an alternate medical care facility recently to be used only if the hospital surpasses capacity for COVID-19 patients.

deaths related to the disease. For all of L.A. County (including Pasadena and Long Beach), there were 15,140 confirmed cases and 663 deaths.

According to Huntington Hospital's COVID-19 Dashboard, a webpage resource, there are currently 61 hospitalized patients with the disease. The hospital said it has conducted a total of 1,354 tests for the virus on patients between March 6 and April 20, with 1,111 testing negative and 214 testing positive. There were 28 tests still pending results.

In her address to update the City Council, Pasadena Public Health Officer Dr. Ying-Ying Goh said all of the deaths in Pasadena residents related to COVID-19 were associated with long-term care facilities and were among those 49 years or older. However, about half of the confirmed cases have been among people age 65 and younger, she said.

City spokeswoman Lisa Derderian emphasized the council's

See CORONAVIRUS, page 14

## AbilityFirst Supports Clients Working on Front Lines

By Camila Castellanos  
The Outlook

In recent weeks, grocery store employees have been working harder than ever to accommodate the increased demand triggered by "Safer at Home" policies to slow the spread of coronavirus.

One such employee, Rafael Vera, is a client with AbilityFirst who began his new job at Smart & Final the week the pandemic broke in California and local officials announced measures to encourage residents to stay at home.

Vera, 30, said he is proud to be working on the front lines as a sales clerk and happy to be helping the public during this trying time.

"We're super busy, it's hard to determine when exactly it will get very, very busy, but it's always hectic on the weekends," said Vera, who's grown accustomed to wearing a mask and a double layer of gloves to work at the front-end of the store, restocking items and cleaning carts and door handles.



Photo courtesy AbilityFirst

Rafael Vera just began his new job at Smart & Final when measures to curb the spread of coronavirus hit. Since then, with support from AbilityFirst, he's been working hard to keep the store stocked.

"I try to give people a good experience and brighten up their day; I really enjoy helping people out in general," he said.

Vera, a Pasadena High School graduate, first came to his job at Smart & Final through the Abili-

tyFirst supported employment program, which gives guidance in building a resume and filling out applications, as well as job training and valuable life skills like time management.

From the beginning, program officials were able to determine that Vera had the ability to work and a natural interest in connecting with others. However, he didn't quite know how to start the process of getting a job, and he would feel anxious anytime he needed to ask questions. Before he could begin applying to jobs, he needed to get comfortable with the application process.

Since Vera enjoys being around people, his job developer at AbilityFirst helped him look for job openings that involve interacting with the public. He also worked on tools to increase his prospects, like studying math so that he would be able to use a cash register.

AbilityFirst CEO Lori Gangemi said part of the secret success of its job placement is that the non-profit takes a very individualized

See ABILITYFIRST, page 8