



Dear members and parents of PCSC,

March 1, 2016

To provide funds for events, such as buying groceries to cook lunch for low-income seniors at [St. Mary's Center](#), providing power tools, paint, and more at our spring workdays with Rebuilding Together Oakland ([RTO](#)), and supplying snacks for Burmese refugees while members tutor them, Piedmont Community Service Crew will be holding a fundraiser at OMCA's [White Elephant Sale](#). In the morning, baked goods will be sold, followed by tacos in a bag in the afternoon. To make sure this is a successful fundraiser, help make the 2 PCSC posters we need, attend or host a baking event, or volunteer at the sale. Sign up for baking events on the [FB group](#), and sign up for volunteer shifts at the sale on [Signup Genius](#). Contact VP of Finance, Colin Dixon, for more information on any of these.

### **New Event: Babysitting at Elizabeth House**

Co-VP of Program, Rose Eisenbach, has created an amazing opportunity for members to babysit the kids at the [Oakland Elizabeth House](#), which gives their mothers a chance to catch up on other important activities such as studying or preparing for new careers that will enable them to eventually live independently. The Elizabeth House is a "residential transitional program for women with children who have experienced homelessness, violence, addiction, and/or poverty." The 1st event occurred Monday, February 29, and look on the Facebook group for more to come.

### **Spring RTO Donations & Fundraising**

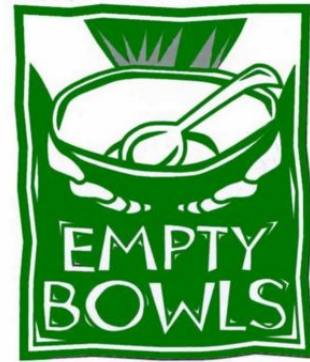


*Above: Workplace for this April's RTO project*

**Donations from Members:** To revive the house, we need lots of equipment, so help us reach our goal of \$7,500, and write a tax-deductible check written to Rebuilding Together Oakland, and mail to Treasurer, Colin Dixon, at 6861 Estates Dr in Piedmont.

### **Empty Bowls Event**

PCSC will be working with the Havens community service group to organize an Empty Bowls event. Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement to help end hunger. Ideas include an event where the Havens Elementary School kids paint soup bowls while learning about hunger, a banquet in which we use those bowls with an entry fee of a can of food to donate to the [Alameda Food Bank](#), or a dinner in which the bowls are used, giving different guests differing amounts of food, exposing the disparity in economics as well as hunger within the Bay Area as well as the world.



### **Venturing Officer's Association**

Recently, Piedmont BSA has established a Venturing Officer's Association to share ideas and strategies for success between Venturing crews, the co-ed clubs of Boy Scouts of America that include PCSC and [High Adventure Crew](#) (HAC), Film Production Crew, and Ship 16, a sailing club. Nina Adarkar will serve as VOA president until May, and in that time the VOA will be searching for new officers for the coming year, May 2016-April 2017.

This increases interactions between crews, such as when the Film Crew came on an HAC backpacking trip, or when HAC members attended trail restorations with PCSC. With more publicity, all crews will benefit and have more fun! If you'd like to share potential strategies or take advantage of these leadership opportunities, participate by joining the [Piedmont BSA VOA](#) group on Facebook.



**White Elephant Sale:** PCSC will be selling baked goods and tacos in a bag at the annual White Elephant Sale, a garage sale-like fundraiser for the Oakland Museum. Read the intro blurb to help support the fundraiser.

### Annual PCSC Retreat

Save the date for the annual retreat this Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29. Most attendees will leave Friday evening, but members can arrange rides later in the weekend, and everyone



[Above: Members playing cards at a past retreat] returns Sunday afternoon. For the past two years, PCSC has gone to the Yeh's house in Groveland (near Yosemite), near a beautiful lake. On the retreat, members will bond with each other from watching movies, swimming in the lake, and cooking meals together. Attendees will also receive leadership training, a prerequisite to attend National Youth Leadership Training in the summer. Sign up on the FB event when it's posted.

### Website Updates

Check out the [PCSC website](#), maintained by Webmaster, Skyler Liu! This winter, she added a debrief on Native Plant Nursery event, written by co-VP of Program, with pictures. Also, if you ever want to access the monthly newsletters and don't want to sort through your email, go to the website and click the tab all the way on the right, labeled Newsletters, and click on the month you'd like to see. Keep checking the website for new photos, articles, and general updates.

### Tracking Service Hours

PHS has a new system to track community service hours called [Track it Forward](#). Students log their own hours online throughout the year, no authorization required, but are encouraged to still fill out the blue forms that can be picked up at the high school's College & Career Center, in case

### Poster Making for Clausen House

In honor of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month this March, the [Clausen House](#), an organization that provides housing support and education to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The weekend of March 12-13, VP of Admin, Shannon Yan, will host a poster-making event, showcasing people with developmental disabilities that overcame their obstacles. These posters will inspire the residents of the Clausen House during this motivational month.

### 2016-2017 Elections

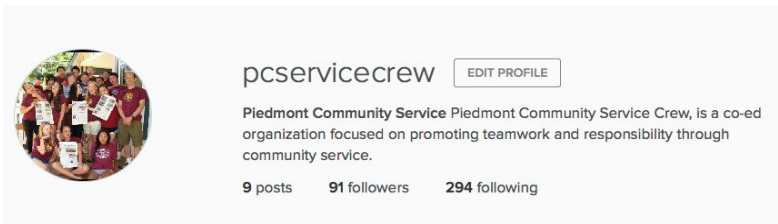
Elections for the coming crew year will happen at the retreat (above), and anyone can run for any position. Saturday night, candidates will be asked to give a short speech, then will be interviewed by members, followed by a secret ballot vote. Officer positions are President, VP of Finance/Treasurer, VP of Communications, VP of Administration, and VP of Program. All members are encouraged to run and develop their leadership qualities, like Colin Dixon who reflects, **"It has taught me the value of planning ahead. I used to do things day to day, but things just can't get done if one doesn't plan ahead."**



If you are considering running for a position, become more involved with the crew, and talk to the officers holding the positions that interest you, as well as have a talk with crew advisor, Ken Li to learn more about the responsibilities. It is recommended that you attend [National Youth Leadership Training](#) this summer to be prepared for your role in the fall. In addition, you'll learn outdoor skills and make friends from all around California.

### Instagram

Follow Piedmont Community Service Crew on instagram [@pcservicecrew](#). Email or Facebook message your photos from events to have them featured on the account.





proof is ever needed. For PCSC members, instead of tracking each individual event you attend, you should log all your hours with the crew at the end of the year, so it's less of a hassle. So, at the end of the crew year, go to Track it Forward, click Log Hours, add Piedmont Community Service Crew as the organization if it's not already there, and type 30, 50, or however many hours were recorded as your total on the [spreadsheet](#), kept by crew advisor, Ken Li, from May 2015-April 2016. For the date of service, type the date of the day you log the hours. Contact VP of Communications, Nina Adarkar, at [nina.adarkar@gmail.com](mailto:nina.adarkar@gmail.com) if you're still unclear.

Thank you for your interest and/or involvement in PCSC!

Sincerely,

Nina Adarkar (VP of Communications)

For further information or other questions, email any of PCSC's officers:

Emma Seevak, Crew President, [emmaseevak@gmail.com](mailto:emmaseevak@gmail.com)

Ellie Coleman, Co-VP of Program, [ellen.coleman@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.coleman@gmail.com)

Rose Eisenbach, Co-VP of Program, [roseeisenbach2@gmail.com](mailto:roseeisenbach2@gmail.com)

Colin Dixon, VP of Finance, [colindixon5@gmail.com](mailto:colindixon5@gmail.com)

Shannon Yan, VP of Administration, [shannon.yan1@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.yan1@gmail.com)

Skyler Liu, Webmaster, [skyler.liu@gmail.com](mailto:skyler.liu@gmail.com)

Ken Li, Crew Advisor, (510)-410-4283, [Ken.i.Li@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Ken.i.Li@sbcglobal.net)