



# Home-y Made Meals

## IMPACT REPORT

MARCH - OCTOBER 2020

*We are a community—a network of networks—a family founded and bounded by food.*





**When Covid-19 crept in** and disrupted our personal and communal lives, we received stay-at-home orders. Our unhoused neighbors stayed at home, outside, directly facing multitudes of insecurities. While we started fighting for toilet paper, they continued struggling for survival. Homelessness endured with greater visibility.

As the impact of homelessness magnified, Eayikes, a collective manifesting social connection beyond physical touch, and Polo's Pantry, a respectfully prominent mobile food pantry, joined hands. **Together, we sought to address, replenish, and reallocate the displacement of resources—specifically food.** Our intentions to proximate ourselves to homelessness and close gaps between them and us resulted in Home-y Made Meals (HMM).

# Dear Home-ys,

Home. Home is a sense of belonging; more of a feeling than a place. For our growing population of neighbors without housing, how can they still experience home?

A Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority report found that, before the pandemic, total homelessness across LA County increased by 13% from January 2019 to January 2020 to over 65,000 people. According to a May 28, 2020 study by the UCLA Luskin Institute on the pandemic's impact on evictions and homelessness, an optimistic outlook projects 36,000 additional homeless households with 56,000 children. **Covid-19 has widened the existing gaps in Los Angeles, making them much more visible.** It's in response to this crisis within a crisis that Home-y Made Meals was created.

What began as a conversation on how we could mobilize the Eayikes community to fill the food insecurity gap left by organizations sheltering-in-place, **Home-y Made Meals is estimated to serve over 30,000 homemade meals to unhoused people** by the end of this year! Building upon Melle's relationships within the Services Not Sweeps coalition and beyond, our meals have helped strengthen relationships with unhoused communities as volunteers show up consistently every week with healthy, delicious meals. Meals are usually the capstone of outreach work for many organizations, so having quality food onhand has built trust - a critical component to this work. And it's not just about a dignified meal for unhoused youth and adults.

We're bridging the divide between the housed and unhoused, providing purpose in a socially-distant time. "This project has given me a way to help" is the most common thing we hear from our volunteers. Think about the traditional soup kitchen model. People typically sign-up once-a-year, during the holidays, and it's what we imagine as "giving back". We're creating a new normal, one in which service and compassion are practiced daily. We're re-imagining charity and evolving it into solidarity! The attitude of "someone else will do it" is behind us. This isn't about you giving us your money and us promising to fix the problem. **It's about empowering us all to build a society in which all people call home.** It's about abundance.

Change is going to come from everyday people like you. People are the power. You are powerful, and our most marginalized neighbors are counting on us all to keep showing up. Thank you for saying yes, thank you for being a Home-y!

In solidarity and with gratitude,



Alex  
Eayikes  
Executive Director

*Alex*



Melle  
Polo's Pantry  
Founder

*Melissa Acendera*

# The Perfect Partnership



Eayikes is a **human development organization, healing people.** We connect and break down barriers through Courage, Compassion, and Wonder.



@Eayikes  
**Eayikes.org**



Polo's Pantry is a **mobile food pantry** dedicated to groups helping unhoused and marginalized communities in L.A.



@PolosPantryLA  
**PolosPantry.org**

# The Journey of a Meal

Home-y Made Meals is a **100% people-powered initiative adapted to the safety measures required during Covid-19.**



1. Chefs Prepare



2. Drivers Deliver



3. We Serve Everyday

Within the safety and comfort of their homes, volunteers from all around Southern California **prepare, deliver, and serve homemade meals everyday.** Partnering with shelters and coalitions, we have moved past merely existing as a project.

## OUR MISSION

By serving homemade meals to low-income communities every day, Home-y Made Meals seizes the power of food to nourish our unhoused neighbors, move people towards action, and synthesize tangible solutions supplanting segregation.

**We practice relational work in food justice, prioritizing accessibility and adaptability to protect the ones we serve and the ones serving.**



# Meet the Team

## Behind the Scenes



### **Jenny Pham**

What's the most adventurous food you've ever eaten?

"Wasp larva porridge. The first and only time I've ever tried it was in Vietnam at my grandpa's farm. My uncles took down a wasp nest and I helped my aunties take the larva out to make porridge. It wasn't that bad... and full of protein!"



### **Angela Kao**

What is something you are currently learning about?

"I'm currently learning about web development - I would love to make a Home-y Made Meals app!"



### **Lance Coleman-Davis**

What's the most adventurous food you've ever eaten?

"I believe the most adventurous food I've eaten by far was bamboo"



### **Jaclyn Chu**

How do you define compassion? How do you practice it in your life?

"To me, compassion means embracing people as who they show up as in the moment, which allows us to see the humanity in each other. As others have done for me, I do my best to hold compassionate spaces by setting intentions, remaining curious, and mindfully engaging in dialogue."



### **Sonia Park**

What's the most adventurous food you've ever eaten?

"A whole pack of warheads and destroyed my tongue."



### **Lucas Chen**

What is something you are currently learning about?

"I'm currently learning about caring for different plants. I am finding a lot of joy in figuring out what environment certain plants thrive in through periods of experimentation and observation."



**1,069 Chefs**



**391 Drivers**



**26,027 Meals**

## Expenses

Ingredients & Supplies	\$17,231.33	85%
Gifts/Reimbursements	\$1,126.00	6%
Staffing	\$816.87	4%
Merchandise	\$800.00	4%
Marketing	\$365.50	2%



## Revenue

Individual Donors	\$16,244.05	41%
Grants	\$14,019.08	36%
Company	\$8,752.39	22%
Merch	\$359.73	1%



## Distribution Partners





## Noah Bleakley

### Tell us about yourself

I'm a 22 year old college student who is navigating transferring schools and trying to find some purpose in these strange times. I love exploring and learning about the world around me and the vibrant life that lives in it. I think I'm mostly just trying to find ways to seek out the stories it has to tell me and tell a few of my own as well as doing what I can to make life a little more welcoming and wonderful for all those living things I share the earth with. I also love to cook, eat and meet new people and I really love the Lakers.

### What made you want to volunteer for Home-y Made Meals?

I just wanted to help support my community in some way especially in this time where so many existing support systems have failed and my friend Alex provided me a great opportunity do so with Home-y Made Meals.

### How has Home-y Made Meals impacted you? How has it impacted the individuals and communities we serve?

It has impacted me by making me more aware of the issues facing different people in my Community of Los Angeles and pushed me to want to get more involved. Besides the meals we have provided, I hope we have provided a feeling of community and a safe space for people to see each other in these times of COVID.

### What's a food or a dish that best describes you?

Something weird and spicy but surprisingly pretty good.







## Caitlin O'Malley

### Tell us about yourself

I develop recipes and write food content for a lifestyle brand, but have worked in the food world in some capacity or another since I was a teenager. I'm currently working from my home in HLP where I live with my husband and our cat Gigi.

### Talk about a highlight from your volunteer experience.

Getting my sister and nieces involved! They were inspired and wanted to start doing it themselves. I am someone who typically doesn't like signing up for stuff, but Home-y Made Meals makes it so easy to get involved and I was glad to show that to my friends and family.

### What do you hope the readers will gain from your sharing experience?

I hope that they see how doable this work is, largely because the program is so thoughtfully organized. It's flexible and allows people to contribute what they can when they can. You don't have to be a chef, you don't have to make 45 meals, you don't have to have tons of experience in mutual aid and social justice work. If all you can manage is 8 PB &Js that's incredible meaningful too.

### What is the biggest takeaway from Home-y Made Meals?

This year has been insane and there have been so many social justice and mutual aid organizations that I donated to or wanted to get involved in. But it started to feel like I was giving a little bit of myself, my time or money, to a bunch of different causes and it felt like it hardly made an impact. What I've loved about Home-y Made Meals is that it's been a gateway for me to learn about the homelessness crisis here in LA. I've come across so many other similar groups working on different sides of the issue, whether it's water drops during a heatwave or supplying hygiene kits. I'm developing a much deeper knowledge of the issues surrounding homelessness and how complicated it is and I feel empowered to do more because of that. This depth of knowledge in one issue versus a breadth of knowledge in several issues has made me feel more committed to this particular cause as well.

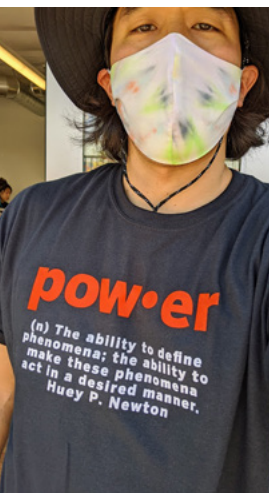
### What's a food or a dish that best describes you?

Chicken parm—it's not fancy, but it's a classic for a reason.



# Partner Spotlight: LA CAN

People Powered



Every Sunday, we serve around 200 meals to our unhoused neighbors in Skid Row through our partnership with the Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN). Not only does this help with immediate relief, but more importantly, it brings people together in a holistic and humanizing way. This collaboration has been nothing short of transformational and the leadership of LA CAN has empowered, not only us, but other coalitions and the community to use our voices, organize people power, and build together.



Skid Row is known as the epicenter of homelessness in our country, and in 1999, 25 Downtown LA residents came together, acknowledged the problems in their community, and made a commitment to create change. In the earlier years, LA CAN mostly focused on civil rights issues and prevention in criminalizing poverty, but has since added projects addressing women's rights, the human right to housing, healthy food access, economic development, civic participation and voter engagement, and community media. Though Downtown LA is their home base, they've expanded their housing and healthy food access work into South Central LA.



LA CAN has been leading human rights work for over 20 years and it continues to be a center committed to true freedom in the actions they take every day to ensure their communities are not only surviving, but also thriving. Their extensive work includes policy work on Measure J; the Downtown Women's Action Coalition, which was formed to address the lack of emergency services and assess the current needs for women in Skid Row; EcoHood, where they've created a new model for sustainable and energy efficient housing; COVID-19 Prevention, where they've deployed hundreds of hand washing stations, masks, and health services to Skid Row residents; and Wellness Wednesdays & Sunday Strong, where they serve meals, hygiene products, music, and love with the community. LA CAN doesn't wait for others to act, but instead they are proactive in moving forward with the work that needs to happen.

We are beyond grateful to be doing this work alongside the remarkable leaders of LA CAN; and we've gained much more than we could have ever imagined by being part of this intercultural and intergenerational movement.





*“What we do have is People Power. We embody the democratic principles and ideas that people are talking about. We represent that chance and opportunity to be greater than the image they put on us. What we wanna do is get our people strong, with this radical love and this revolutionary idea of giving food, and giving service, and building power. Let’s continue building power together. Let’s build family together.”*

— Pete White, Executive Director



# Thank You Donors!

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Yenna Chang

You make it all possible!

# Ways to Help



## 1. Donate

Every bit helps. The average meal costs about \$4 dollars to make.

[paypal.me/Eayikes](https://paypal.me/Eayikes)

## 2. Get Home-y Swag

Shop Masks, T-shirts, and Hats on our website:

[homeymademeals.com/support](https://homeymademeals.com/support)

## 3. Corporate Giving

Choose us for any end-of-year **non-profit donations**, like **employee matching**, and **community service opportunities** for your team!

[hmm@eayikes.org](mailto:hmm@eayikes.org)

## 4. Volunteer with Us

Sign up and experience cooking or driving with us! Do you have any other skills or resources? Please reach out to us directly and start the conversation.

[bit.ly/hmmhelp](https://bit.ly/hmmhelp)

## 5. Help while you shop!

Select **Eayikes** as your non-profit to donate a portion of your purchase at no additional cost.

