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## Vallejo mobile home tenants grateful for food, 'safe at home' kits

Elizabeth Hoffman: 'It's almost like Christmas'



Rebuilding Together Solano County volunteer Wilford Alexander, right, hands a bag of onions to a resident of Vallejo Mobile Home Estates on Friday. (Richard Freedman/Times-Herald)

By **RICHARD FREEDMAN** | [rfreedman@timesheraldonline.com](mailto:rfreedman@timesheraldonline.com) | Vallejo Times Herald



Wilford Alexander was working for the military sealift command in Norfolk, Va., and he made his decision.

“I told my wife I was saving my money to buy a Harley and she told me she would divorce my Black (rear end),” Alexander said. “To keep the peace, I bought me a truck.”

Not only did the Vietnam veteran manage to make his way to 34 years of marriage, that truck led to Alexander’s current truck — a hefty F250 diesel that’s helped tote thousands of pounds of food on behalf of Rebuilding Together Solano County.

It all started with a call from Rebuilding Together’s executive director Elizabeth Hoffman.

“She asked me to go pick up stuff at Costco since I have a big ol’ diesel truck,” Alexander said. “And then she asked if I’d be interested in volunteering.”

That was a year and a half ago. And Alexander — a prostate and kidney cancer survivor — is still at it, tackling Hoffman’s latest assignment Friday as Rebuilding Together Solano County distributed produce, non-perishables, and a “Safe at Home” kit to more than 200 residents at Vallejo Mobile Home Estates Park.

Volunteering “is a good thing to do. I’m helping out people who really need it. I love it,” said Alexander, handing bags of onions to grateful residents.

A five-year volunteer, Gloria Standafer, has offered her time for RBSC since retiring.

“Just seeing all the people, the need, the smiles on their faces and in their heart,” Standafer said. “They’re so grateful for the food.”

Aimee Henry had the trifecta: she’s a volunteer for Rebuilding Together, is an employee of the sponsoring Phillips 66, and is a Vallejo resident.

When the distribution is finished, “I feel wonderful,” Henry said. “It’s like I’m doing my part to help those who are needing it most.”

On a personal level, “it’s helping out your neighbors,” added Henry, a 12-year Vallejoan. “It’s important to serve those where I live.”

Hoffman was all smiles, running around directing volunteers.

“We’re here every month and a lot of the people are repeats. A lot of seniors, a lot of veterans,” Hoffman said. “It’s really neat when they come here. It’s almost like Christmas.



“It’s awesome,” said Cesar, adding that the food distribution “is really important, especially with the pandemic and holidays. Some of us are working, some of us are not. It’s perfect timing.”

On this day, there wasn’t anything in particular Cesar was grateful for.

“Anything is welcomed. You can’t take it for granted,” he said.

Hoffman said the distribution wouldn’t happen without its sponsors. Phillips 66 contributed \$25,000 to Rebuilding Together, as did Home Depot, which supplied much of the “Safe at Home” contents, including smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, fire extinguishers and PPE.

Back to Alexander. Working the onion table, he realized how he’ll smell by the end of the distribution at 4 p.m.

“Don’t worry about that. I’m going to take a shower regardless,” he said. “If it takes 15 to 20 minutes, then it’ll take 15 to 20 minutes.”

For more about Rebuilding Together Solano County, [rebuildingtogethersolanocounty.org/](https://rebuildingtogethersolanocounty.org/)

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