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BIO-LINK DEPOT DONATES PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT TO HIGHLAND HOSPITAL

Oakland Nonprofit Responds To COVID-19 Outbreak

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, March 23, 2020. Bio-Link Depot (Depot), a local nonprofit that supports STEM education by serving as a critical conduit between biotech companies with surplus laboratory equipment and under-resourced schools, has answered the call to address shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in local health care facilities, due to the outbreak of COVID-19. On Sunday March 22nd, its staff returned to the Depot warehouse to sort through all materials on-hand, donated by Biomedical and Pharmaceutical companies and Educational institutions around the Bay Area. They were able to collect a range of gowning items, masks, gloves, and other PPE that are directly useful to local front-line medical providers. Then they transported these critical materials to Highland Hospital nearby in Oakland that afternoon.

Natoya Lee, Bio-Link Depot coordinator, rallied to this cause with Hank Stern, Board President, who stated, "We at the Depot are very glad we were able to provide over 150 pounds and more than 20 cases of supplies and PPE towards addressing this health care crisis. We are getting this word out now regarding our contributions, to encourage others to do the same."

Natoya added, "Thanks to our many supporters who donated those supplies over the last year, as you are who made this possible. And most especially we thank Bolt Threads, Gilead, Genentech, and Bayer. Your donations went to great use to support the real front-line heroes - the doctors, nurses and all staff at Highland Public Hospital."

Empowering teachers to engage students in hands-on STEM experience with donated scientific equipment and supplies

Bio-Link Depot's mission is "Empowering teachers to engage students in hands-on STEM experience with donated scientific equipment and supplies". It is a Bay Area-based nonprofit that supports STEM education in K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities by serving as a critical conduit between biotech companies with surplus laboratory equipment and under-resourced educators. During the past 13 years, the Depot has distributed over \$5 million worth of equipment and materials, positively impacting over 32,000 students and over 100 schools each year. The Depot fills this need by collecting, sorting, and warehousing equipment and supplies donated from local science and technology companies and institutions, and redirecting the equipment and supplies to schools throughout California, with the majority located around the San Francisco Bay Area. In this way the Depot also diverts a significant amount of materials that would otherwise end up in landfills. Bio-Link Depot became an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in 2015.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Hank Stern, Board President, Bio-Link Depot at (510) 686-3411, or email info@biolinkdepot.org.

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