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Lamorinda Chinese-Americans deliver lunches to frontline health workers during Chinese New Year

Submitted by Jamiel Liu and Laura Liu



Young artists in the community produced artwork and cards for project. Photos provided

for over 200 lunch boxes and Feng volunteered to call for young artists in the community to produce decorations and artwork for this project.

After outreach to secure approval from the site coordinators, six vaccine sites were identified as the lunchbox recipients: Tice Valley Community Gym in Walnut Creek, DVC in Concord, Nick Rodriguez Community Center in Antioch, Pittsburg Health Center, West Contra Costa County Regional Hospital in San Pablo, and Miller Wellness Center in Martinez. Zhang designed the main decoration using red envelopes. On Feb. 7, Feng coordinated a group of young artists who gathered at Commons Park and decorated enough red envelopes. The children enjoyed the project so much that they even painted many beautiful pictures for the health workers to say "Thank you!"

After Alice ordered 250 or so lunchboxes from Oakland Bloom, 14 volunteers were recruited through WeChat and the action date was set for the Chinese New Year. The delivery group was known as the "Blessed Lunchbox Action Team," as each lunchbox had a sticker of the Chinese character meaning "blessing" on top, besides the red envelope with a golden-foil wrapped chocolate inside. All the volunteers showed up on Feb. 12, the first day of the Lunar New Year, in their elegant traditional Chinese outfits, some also with their children and family, joyfully distributing the decorated lunch boxes to the vaccine sites.

For all, the appreciation they received from the health workers was overwhelming and rewarding, and all the volunteers also expressed how very meaningful this Chinese New Year was for them.

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