

## Help! I Need Ovens

BeNeighbors.org

Julie Daly volunteered to cook eight pans of lasagna for a friend’s memorial service. After realizing her oven was too small to cook them in time, she reached out to her Neighbors Forum to ask for help, ***“I have 8 pans of lasagna for a dear friend’s memorial service today, and realized my oven is too small to cook all of them in time for the service today. If you are home today and could offer some oven space, I would sincerely appreciate it!”***

Within an hour, she got back to her forum with this response, ***“Thank you. All eight pans are in ovens. Ahh, the kindness of strangers. Thank you!”*** Through the forum, Julie was able to ask her neighbors for help right when she needed it and all of her lasagnas were baked and ready in time for her friend’s memorial service.



## Helping One of Our Own

Blog.E-Democracy.org

Donna Evans is our African-American “grandmother” figure and the Summit-U volunteer Forum Manager for E-Democracy. This summer, Donna worked with our Outreach team going door-to-door to connect with neighbors and invite them to our forums. Donna worked with youth baseball coach and outreach team member Vang Yang, who recruited his team of 11 and 12-year-olds to help by translating in Hmong. When Donna shared her experience with the rest of the team, she said, ***“Working with these young people and seeing them connect with the Hmong-speaking community in a way that I could not, brought to life the importance of building connections and reaching out to people where they are.”***



Donna’s experience with these Hmong youth culminated in late summer when the team helped her in her own personal journey. Nearly six years ago, Donna was living in her truck and on friends’ couches, after a house fire left her homeless. Near the end of this summer, with the help of Yang’s team, Donna moved into her first permanent housing since the fire. ***“These youth, at such a young age, understand the importance of building community. Their desire to connect with their neighbors and to help me in building my community is what E-Democracy is all about.”***

## A Neighborhood Gives Back Christmas

BeNeighbors.org

Martha Bird shared the story of an immigrant family that was burgled just before Christmas and their daughter’s birthday. Their little girl simply asked if Martha could make her a birthday card when she told the story of how her family was left with little for the holidays. Martha then asked the forum for help. Within three days, Martha posted this in response to the overwhelming generosity of her fellow forum members, ***“Thank you everyone who responded ... I was able to deliver 4 bags of gifts for mom, dad and daughter that people donated; as well as some for daughter’s birthday. ...Because I’ve known them over time we were able to talk in depth about the decision of where to “keep” money. We had cash donations of \$130 and dad and I drove to the bank and deposited the money so the money would not be in the house. They were incredibly appreciative and thankful. They said when their daughter saw all the presents she said Santa had come and it was magic! I love this neighborhood and you all as my neighbors. Thank you for your generosity.”***

