

**Empowerment Through Action at Hillsdale
Peace Pantry ~ Community Garden ~ Community Closet**

September 2025

**“Empathy is about standing in someone else’s shoes,
feeling with their heart, seeing with their eyes.”**

– Daniel H. Pink



September 2, 2025

Hillsdale Community,

We hope all of you are off to a great start to the 2025-26 school year at Hillsdale. If you are new to Hillsdale or new to the San Mateo/Foster City Community, we are pleased to share that we support 150 Hillsdale families with weekly groceries, essential items, organic fruits and vegetables harvested directly from our community garden access to our Community Closet and access to our Community Closet.

During the 2024-25 school year we had over 200 volunteers at our Peace Pantry, Garden and Closet proving that Hillsdale is a community that stands together to support all families.

Almost all of our volunteers start by simply showing up to a shift at the Peace Pantry or Community Garden. By jumping in as a volunteer, you soon understand the levels of support offered by these programs at Hillsdale and what the volunteering entails.

One thing we do know is that community members who show up at our weekly garden harvest or Peace Pantry almost always leave with a smile and a full heart knowing that the greatest gift we can give to someone else in our Hillsdale community. . .is our time.

Here are ways to get involved.

Peace Pantry

If you would like to volunteer at our [Peace Pantry](#) in September please [sign up here](#). Our volunteer team meets in the Alameda Parking Lot every Friday morning at 6:45am-7:15am (shift #1) and/or 7:15am-8:00am (shift #2) to provide weekly groceries and essential items to families. Volunteers can sign up to help set up and/or work a station at our Farmer's Market and/or break down. No experience required. *Please follow us on Instagram, [@etatogether](#), for updates.

Community Garden

****Now is the time we really need help in the garden with our weekly harvest in full swing.**

If you are interested in joining our [Community Garden](#) Team please email bstevenson@smuhsd.org to learn more OR **stop by and meet our volunteer team who work in the garden every Thursday from 3:30pm-5:00pm and complete various gardening tasks.** No experience required. *Please follow us on Instagram, [@etatogether](#), for updates.

Community Closet

Our Community closet resumed service August 20th. **For the month of September, the Community Closet is in need of the following essential items:** shampoo, conditioner, lotion, shaving cream, toothpaste and laundry soap.*Please follow us on Instagram [@etatogether](#)

Hillsdale Stands Together,

Brett Stevenson

Hillsdale ETA Co-Executive Director

[ETA Website](#), [ETA Overview Slides](#), [ETA Donation Page](#)















August 21 Harvest
323.75 pounds
YTD Total: 1,355.7
pounds



