

The Mercury News

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INTERNATIONAL AID: An unexpected partnership spanning all the way to Nepal and Kenya will help protect Santa Clara County's homeless population during the COVID-19 pandemic. [The Global Uplift Project](#) provided an initial shipment Tuesday of 1,000 masks to [HomeFirst](#), which will distribute them to the homeless individuals it shelters and feeds.

Former Los Altos High teacher **Robert Freeman** is the founder and executive director of the Global Uplift Project, formerly known as One Dollar For Life, to use shared investments to fund projects in developing countries. That included sewing centers in Nepal and Kenya, which switched to mask production when COVID-19 hit and have produced 44,400 masks for those countries, as well as Tanzania and now, Santa Clara County.

Freeman said Tuesday at a news conference in San Jose that the masks cost about \$1 each. "If we can get donations, we'll bring in many many more. I'm told we need 7,000 in San Jose alone," he said. "It's very ironic, if you think about it, that the developing world is now bringing PPE — personal protective equipment — here to the developed world, to California, in order to help our homeless people."