



Sunnyvale Community Services

725 Kifer Road, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (408) 738-4321

Working to Prevent Homelessness and Hunger

BEYOND SKYROCKETING

Twice a year, we ask for your support, and we have never needed it more than we do now. We used to say that need was increasing, then dramatically increasing, then skyrocketing. The needs we see every day have moved well beyond skyrocketing, and we are looking for a new word to describe this phenomenal increase.

Rents in this area are still high. Gas prices are high. Food prices are high. Medical care, prescriptions, and co-payments are high. Utility bills are high. College tuition is high. Even those of us still in the shrinking middle class with decent salaries and paid benefits are complaining. But everyday at SCS, we see the impact of these “highs” on low-income families and seniors, doing everything possible to scrape by and who have to prove that to our caseworkers before any financial aid is given.

- We helped an 80+ year-old senior who saved her PG&E bills to show us that despite using less gas and electricity than last year, she had a higher bill she couldn’t afford after paying over \$600 in uncovered medical expenses.
- We helped a family of four with two working parents that had weekly gas expenses \$48 higher than last year—far exceeding their usual meager end-of-the-month surplus of \$52. (After looking for over two months, the mother found a car pool that drops her two-thirds of a mile from her job.)
- We helped a couple who faced eviction because the husband was laid off from the job he held for 17 years. Though he actively looked for a new job, it took him four months to find one. Unemployment benefits weren’t enough to pay their basic bills, so during that period, the couple depleted their savings.
- We helped a young widow whose husband died of a heart attack. Besides the expenses for a very frugal funeral, she faced moving expenses and deposits as she could no longer afford their apartment on her salary alone.

Because of skyrocketing prices, we are also helping more families every month in our food programs. However, the stock in our warehouse is alarmingly low.

When you consider how to spend your charitable dollars, we hope you will consider the nature and quality of the services we provide and the cost-effectiveness of our programs. The help we provide is much more cost effective than our clients facing homelessness, untreated medical problems, unhealthy living conditions, and malnutrition. Over 800 dedicated volunteers help keep our spirits up and our overhead expenses down to only 11%. (Their hours equal 9 full-time employees; we have 7 FTE.)

Your support will help us reach new highs and enable us to help the growing number of low-income Sunnyvale families and seniors who are doing everything possible to help themselves. We sincerely appreciate your consideration and support.

Nancy S. Tivol
Executive Director

P. S. On our website (www.svcommunityservices.org) you can see our seven-minute video, learn more about all the programs and services we offer, and various ways you can help us help those in need in Sunnyvale.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 (Adopt-A-Day) other

Visa Mastercard **Expiration date:** _____

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