



Sunnyvale Community Services
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Working to Prevent Homelessness and Hunger



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Sunnyvale Community Services named as California Nonprofit of the Year

SUNNYVALE, Calif. — Sunnyvale Community Services will be honored as Nonprofit of the Year for Assembly District 24 at the inaugural California Nonprofits Day ceremony in Sacramento on June 22.

“Our region’s growth has brought with it a number of challenges, one being home rental prices that are among the highest in the nation, resulting in many local residents slipping into poverty,” said Assemblymember Rich Gordon (District 24). “That’s why I am so pleased to recognize Sunnyvale Community Services as Nonprofit of the Year for Assembly District 24; Sunnyvale Community Services has a longtime track record of efficiently and effectively helping struggling families and individuals to stay housed and fed, all the while serving each client with kindness and respect.”

Founded in 1970, Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS) is an independent, nonprofit emergency assistance agency helping nearly 7,000 low-income individuals each year. As the safety net agency for all of Sunnyvale (population 145,000), SCS provides comprehensive assistance that is most needed, including financial aid for rent, rental deposits, utility payments, and other financial emergencies. Their year-round food programs for families and seniors give needed nutrition to the most vulnerable in the community. The annual backpack program gives school supplies and shoes for 1,400 Sunnyvale students. In the past several years, SCS has expanded their intensive case management for veterans, homeless persons, and families at risk of homelessness. The agency’s small staff leverages over 2,000 volunteers and works collaboratively with over 100 organizations at the local, regional, and national levels.

SCS’s role as the core safety net agency in Sunnyvale has never been more needed. As rental costs continue to skyrocket in Silicon Valley, working poor families and seniors living on fixed

incomes struggle to pay housing costs, choosing between food medical bills, utilities, and car repairs with whatever they have left after paying rent.

On April, 2016, when 169 people lost their homes in the Twin Pines Manor Apartment fire in, SCS became the lead agency to offer case management and housing assistance for the displaced families. SCS has worked closely with government, business, and community organizations to ensure that all of the families were safely sheltered and supported to find new housing.

“We are so grateful for this honor,” said Marie Bernard, executive director of Sunnyvale Community Services. “Assemblymember Gordon has proactively supported a number of causes related to the issue of poverty, fighting for affordable housing, education, and a number of other issues aimed at improving the lives and futures of all people in our community. We are clearly aligned in our efforts to serve.”

“Nonprofit organizations are vitally important to the economy and well-being of California. But too often nonprofits are ‘hidden in plain sight.’ We are thrilled that the State Assembly has passed a resolution putting the spotlight on nonprofits as an economic power that uses that power for the common good. We congratulate all of the award recipients on being honored for the great work they do every day to make California a better place,” said Jan Masaoka, CEO of California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits).

CalNonprofits is a statewide alliance of over 10,000 organizations representing and promoting California’s growing nonprofit sector and working to bring the full power of nonprofits to strengthening communities.

Seventy of California’s more than 72,000 nonprofits will be recognized on the first-ever California Nonprofits Day on June 22. California Nonprofits Day was initiated by CalNonprofits; Assemblymember Rich Gordon, a former nonprofit founder and executive director, brought the California Nonprofits Day resolution to the California Assembly.

For more information on Sunnyvale Community Services, visit www.svcommunityservices.org.

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