A Message from our Executive Director

From Homeless to Hopeful

Two years ago, Patrick and Sandra had to move out of their Sunnyvale apartment when the rent went up more than 25 percent. For a while they tried staying in motels, but that was also too expensive, so eventually they set up camp in a local park in Sunnyvale. They officially became homeless on their wedding anniversary. “I served two tours of duty in the Air Force. I never thought my wife and I would be homeless,” said Patrick.

Patrick and Sandra had been living in the park for a month when Sunnyvale Community Services’ Case Manager David Hernandez approached them. Gradually, Patrick and Sandra trusted the staff. SCS provided food and sleeping bags and secured a motel voucher funded by Santa Clara County during the cold weather. With secure shelter, SCS helped the couple work on their goals to find stable housing. SCS linked them with Downtown Streets Team (DST). With DST helping the couple manage their appointments, SCS helped the couple find an affordable home. At every step, Patrick and Sandra consistently followed up with their case managers, filled out applications, went to meetings, and did everything they needed to do to secure an income and find a permanent home.

Thanks to Patrick’s veteran status, SCS enrolled the couple in the new Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program funded by the Veterans Administration. SCS staff was with them when they signed their lease and walked over the threshold of their new home.

Patrick and Sandra are still active with SCS. The couple signed up for the senior food program and “Challenge Diabetes,” a wrap-around program through a partnership with El Camino Hospital District and Second Harvest Food Bank that helps people like Patrick prevent or manage diabetes.

Now that Patrick and Sandra have a home, they are doing what they can to give back. “Now it’s time for me to help others—it’s their turn now—people who are just like me who need a little help,” he said.

We are grateful to the community for your continued support and generosity.

“...I served two tours of duty in the Air Force. I never thought my wife and I would be homeless.”

—Marie Bernard

2015 Holiday Auction

SAVE the DATE!
Thursday, November 19
5:00 – 7:30 PM
Elks Lodge, 375 N. Pastoria Avenue

The SCS Holiday Auction is just around the corner! Be sure to bring your holiday list and shop for one-of-a-kind items including sports tickets, spa packages, vacation getaways, and selections of fine wine.

Many thanks to all who donate food and gifts. We are also grateful for our dedicated volunteers who give hundreds of hours to make this event a great success. A special thank you to the Sunnyvale Elks Lodge for donating their lovely venue and to LinkedIn for catering the evening! All proceeds benefit the SCS Community Christmas Center.

Please bring what we need most:
- An unwrapped gift for a child ages 7 - 12
- $10 - $15 gift card for a teen
- Cans of tuna or jars of peanut butter
- Meals-in-a-Can with pop-top lids for the homeless

MAJOR SPONSORS

NetApp
Intuitive Surgical
LinkedIn
Elks
LANDBANK
PG&E
Sunnyvale International Church
Edward Jones

Smile! We’re on Instagram!

Instagram is a free and simple social media platform that allows individuals and agencies like ours to post photos about what is happening at SCS and promote our mission of preventing hunger and homelessness to a wider audience. Check us out online or download the Instagram app: @sunnyvalecommunityservices.

Questions? Feel free to ask Bia Clarke at eclarke@svcommunityservices.org.
Goodbye Summer, Hello School!

Over 1,400 low-income children started the school year right thanks to all who donated time, money, and school supplies to make our annual Backpack Day a big success. This year children entering grades K-12 were able to “shop” for just the right backpack, stuffed with age-appropriate school supplies and a $27 Payless shoe gift card. Sharkie from the Sharks Foundation was on hand to say hello to the kids and County Supervisor Joe Simitian and Sunnyvale City Council Member Jim Davis helped distribute backpacks. An additional 100 backpacks were given to local schools to distribute to low-income transfer students and homeless children.

We are grateful for the generous support of major sponsors including Google, LinkedIn, SanDisk, The Sharks Foundation, Texas Instruments, Yahoo! Employee Foundation, Sunnyvale Rotary, Sunnyvale Lions Club, The Giving Tree, Nandala Mission, as well as many, many more who gave so generously.

Finally, we could not have this event if it weren’t for our dozens of hard-working volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure every child leaves with a new backpack on their back and a smile on their face.

Presbyterian Early Learning Center (PELC) Supports Backpack Day

Long-time SCS supporter, Debbie Klein, is a teacher at PELC Preschool in Sunnyvale. She wanted her young students to help other children in the community so she organized a backpack drive in all of the classrooms. “During circle time with the children, we talked about how important education is for every child,” she said. “I went into the classrooms throughout the month and I would cheer the students on as they brought in the pencils, pens, markers, and backpacks. I feel it is good to start children at a young age to give to those in need.”

Thank you to PELC and all the other groups that partnered with us this year to make sure 1,400 children were ready to go when school started.

S-T-R-E-T-C-H Your Donation

We encourage you to check with your company to see if they offer a matching program for charitable donations. Many companies do this, and it can mean as much as doubling your donation to SCS. Some companies also match an employee’s volunteer hours with a cash amount. Learn your company’s policies about charitable donations, and be sure to take advantage of their generosity.

If your company doesn’t have a policy in place, maybe you can help them set one up!
Dinner at the Dump Raises $58,000!

This annual “trashy affair” was another big success, with $58,000.00 raised to help local nonprofits, including Sunnyvale Community Services. Hosts Julie and Jerry Nabhan, along with Rebecca Buldo presented SCS with a very generous check for $20,000 to help our clients keep a roof over their heads and food on their table. And, because of their many years of service in putting on this wonderful event, Dave Cortese, President of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, was on hand to present our hosts with special recognition for all they do for the community.

Kicking off the Holidays with the SCS Auxiliary Annual Holiday Boutique!

The SCS Auxiliary has held their annual holiday boutique, raising money for Sunnyvale Community Services by selling beautiful one-of-a-kind ornaments, jewelry, gifts, and more. The quilt raffle is always a highlight, with two beautiful quilts raffled this year to lucky winners. Shoppers from near and far came to get a jump on their holiday shopping, while supporting SCS at the same time.

Bursting at the Seams

With dramatic need comes dramatic growth. As we endeavor to help more families, seniors, and veterans who are struggling in our community, we continue to grow in every way: fundraising, staffing, and office space! In order to accommodate added staff, a robust army of volunteers, and visiting community agencies, we are making improvements to our facility. Additional offices, a new kitchen, and a seismic retrofit are among the many needed improvements happening at SCS, all of which have been paid for by a very generous bequest from Paul Walkowiak and a gift from Greg Krodel in memory of his mother Vivian Krodel. We are so grateful for their lasting gifts to our agency.

Thank You!

“When our rent went up again last week, we did not have enough money for school supplies and shoes, and not enough food for our family.” — SCS Client and mom

Happy Friday!

After last spring’s successful pilot program, we are pleased to report that we are resuming our Weekend Food program for low-income Sunnyvale children. Beginning with Vargas and San Miguel Elementary schools, SCS, in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, will deliver food to qualifying families at these schools every other Friday during the school year. More schools will be added as we develop and streamline the program. We hope that alleviating the stress related to food insecurity will help these young students focus on school and think less about where their next meal is coming from.

Sign up for our monthly eNewsletter

Visit www.svcommunityservices.org to join our email list.
Taking Aim at Diabetes

For many of our clients, long workdays and cheaper processed foods cause healthy lifestyles to fall by the wayside. At SCS, part of our mission is to prevent hunger and the health problems associated with unhealthy eating. In partnership with El Camino Hospital, West Valley Community Services, and Mountain View Community Services, SCS completed the first four-month session of El Camino’s Challenge Diabetes Program (CDP). During the four months, clients were provided with a free diabetes test, a monthly distribution of nutritious, diabetes-friendly food, and a class in English or Spanish that emphasized healthy living on a low budget. At the end of the program, we provided 132 clients with a second blood test to show them how their HbA1C numbers had changed over the course of the four months. We saw a significant decrease in their HbA1C scores, which means many of our clients are now out of the “high risk” range.

We are now in our second round of the CDP program, extended to 10 months, and with 227 participants. We will continue with monthly diabetes food distribution as well as a nutrition class in English and Spanish for all interested clients.

Planned Giving: Make a Difference Today and Tomorrow

With the help of thousands of donors and volunteers, SCS provides hope and support to families struggling to build a better future. The donations that we receive each day make sure we can assist the next family coming to our door. Some of our donors want to keep that door open for years to come by including SCS in their estate plans and becoming part of our Legacy Society.

Shane Jackstieit—a member of our Board and our Legacy Society—describes the importance of estate planning: “Having an estate plan is crucial. We all work hard for the money we earn, and we want our assets to go to good use for the people and community we love.”

As you create or update your will, trust, and estate plans, we ask that you remember SCS. In January 2016, we are hosting an estate planning seminar at our agency that will provide you with ideas about structuring documents for yourself, your family, and your assets. If you have already added SCS to your estate plans, let us know so we can include you in upcoming Legacy Society events.

Questions? Contact Jay Pecot at (408) 636-7053 or jpecot@svcommunityservices.org.

Proudly Serving Those Who Serve Our Country

Sunnyvale Community Services launched their newest program, Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), on June 1, 2015, to assist Santa Clara County in the mission to end homelessness. The SSVF program serves veterans who are homeless, or at risk of losing their housing, and provides a wide array of financial assistance including deposit and rental assistance for veterans entering into permanent housing.

SCS is working collaboratively with Downtown Streets Team, Project Sentinel, and other organizations to ensure essential services are reaching veterans in need. During the grant period of two years, the SSVF program is expected to serve 75 veteran families in order to assist in the efforts to end homelessness throughout Santa Clara County.

Prevent Hunger and Homelessness at Any Age

There is a 16-year old age requirement to volunteer in our warehouse without a parent, but we get a lot requests for volunteer opportunities for younger kids, both individually and as a group. Even if your kids are not yet 16 there are many ways to help without actually working on site!

A shining example is Eric, a local 8th grader who took it upon himself to organize a toilet paper and paper towel drive for SCS during a recent neighborhood block party. Way to show initiative, Eric! Organizing a community-based drive is a great way for younger kids to earn community service hours and help their neighbors in need.

If you’d like information about items we need and how to run a drive, please email Carolyn Alexander at calexander@svcommunityservices.org.

Donate to SCS without spending an extra dime!

AmazonSmile lets you shop on Amazon as you normally do, and gives 0.5% of every qualifying purchase to SCS. No extra expense to you, but a welcome contribution to us! The only requirements are that you have an Amazon account, that you do your shopping at smile.amazon.com, and that you nominate us as your chosen charity.

Just 3 easy steps!

1. Go to smile.amazon.com and sign in using your normal Amazon account.
2. Type Sunnyvale Community Services in the charitable organization search box; select us.
3. Do your shopping and Amazon will automatically donate to SCS. To make it easier, bookmark smile.amazon.com for quick and easy access!
José Hernandez

José Hernandez, a Sunnyvale Community Services caseworker, passed away on June 4th after a brief illness. José was known for his compassion and life-long commitment to making Silicon Valley and the world a better place. Prior to working for 15 years at SCS, José had a long career in the Bay Area, including positions at Catholic Charities and United Way Silicon Valley. He served on the Boards of Silicon Valley Habitat for Humanity and the Hispanic Charity Ball, and in 1997 he received the Silver Pen Award from the San Jose Mercury News. He is dearly missed by all who knew him.

Did You Know?

It takes an average of $1,450 in financial aid for Sunnyvale Community Services to help a family pay its bills and stay in its home.

Thanks to our community, we have never turned away an eligible family to help them stay housed or to move into housing.

Neighbors in Need

- Unbearable Loss

Our 67-year old client came to us after losing her adult son, with whom she was very close. Through the years he provided her with both emotional and financial support. While still grieving her loss, she was forced to move out of her apartment when the rent was raised to an insurmountable level. At that point, she moved into her son’s car and suffered mental and physical problems as a result. With the help of our case management efforts, we were able to help this client get the medications, hotel stays, and eventually permanent housing that was so desperately needed. The client said, “I would have never thought in a million years I’d get all this support and love…”

- Senior Struggle

Recently, a senior client came to us after being homeless for three years. He had finally been offered a HUD apartment, but had two outstanding payday loans at $300 each and couldn’t afford the move-in costs. We required this client to provide us with a detailed 3-month budget before giving assistance, which he did. With our help, the client was able to pay off the payday loans along with his first month’s rent. He is now permanently housed and grateful to finally be in a place he can call home.

- Partnering to Make a Difference

One of our closest partner agencies is Downtown Streets Team, which helps homeless people gain housing through the dignity of work. A recent graduate of their outstanding program is continuing to give back, acting as a peer mentor to other “Team” members, in addition to holding a full-time job. This client came to us recently asking for assistance with her deposit for her new studio. SCS was happy to give her the deposit and first month’s rent, and congratulated her on a job well done!

Need a Tree Trimming?

We know the perfect guy! Early on Sunday morning September 20th, a huge tree limb from a eucalyptus tree on the adjacent property cracked and landed on one of the SCS vans. Thankfully no one was hurt, but our parking lot was a mess. Carolyn Alexander, our Director of Operations, worked fast to notify staff, insurance companies, and the property owner next door—but how were we going to get the tree removed on a Sunday? Thankfully, our longtime supporter Jerry Payne of Payne Tree Service in Sunnyvale immediately drove over with his chainsaw and truck—he missed the Sunday morning football game to help SCS. What a guy!
1. Sunnyvale FISH L to R: Marie Bernard, Marie Bartholom, Jack and Renata Thorne
2. L to R: Suzanne and Terry Nakashima, Terry Chavez
3. L to R: Camille Barnes-Mosley, Lynn Rogers, Billie McNeill, Terry Chavez
4. Sobrato Foundation L to R: Camille Barnes-Mosley, Kavitha Sreeharsha, Jessica Nill

5. 10-Year Volunteers
6. 5-Year Volunteers
7. Christmas Center Lead Volunteers

We are also grateful to LinkedIn, NetApp, Sunnyvale Presbyterian, and Carmela and Gaylord Mossing for your generous support!
Major Program Contributors

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El Camino Healthcare District
Emergency Aid and Shelter Program
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Pills Donated in Spay in Sunnyvale
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Safeway Store #2887
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San Jose Creamery Outlet
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Sunnyvale Community Foundation
Sunnyvale Rotary Club
Sunset School District
Sunset Employees
Target
Taylor Foundation
Toyota Republic of Silicon Valley
Titan Valley Harvest
Estate of Paul Willows
Yaden’s Employee Foundation

1 Week = a year of monthly food for 17 families (or 200 filled bags of groceries)

Anonymous
Christopher & Lucy Cesar
In memory of Mary K. Ciardillo
India Cash & Carry Inc.
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Gods Grace Church
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Jim and Janet Reynolds
San Francisco Regional Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc.
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Don & Michelle Mullin
Mark, Donna, Erin and Michele Muller
Jeff & Candy O’Callaghan
Charles M. & Julia Rogers
Jeff and Sandra Ruggles
Sildenafil Foundation
Donor Credit
Society Cervantes España

3 Days – 3,000 quarts of milk
Anonymous (2)
Mary Ellen and Stephen Barnach
Charles L. Bartlett, Jr.
Camille Barnes-Mosley
Michele Bernardin and Bruce Fetus
California Women’s Water Competency Corporation
D. Delange & G. Carver
Andrew & Kathleen Pugh
Stephen & Laura Hasen
Robert S. Hoop
Society Family Foundation
Gene & Gretchen Lenczowski
Berry & Virginia Lengel-Leisegang
Matthew & Donna Leesock
Dominic & Joelle Martin
Nevada Mission of California
Berkey Newman
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Eric & Julie Roberts
St. John’s Lutheran Church
St. Luke Lutheran Church
Steven & Berrina Sheehan
Sunnyvale Fire Station
Toshiba Instruments
Trinity United Methodist Church – Church Society Committee
Joe and Connie Verolino

2 Days = 1260 cans of tuna
Anonymous
Anonymous Fund of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation
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Eather Lee Wang, Shayne Shubert
Katharina and Alister Woodman
Tad & Naomi Yasohama

1 Day = 300 jars of peanut butter
Anonymous (6)
Sandy and Holly Algyewy
Boon S. Ang & Wei Lee
Karen and Paul Amundson
Bobbi Lemburg Arand
Carol Annents Charitable Foundation
Agnieszka Anderson
Howard Baldwin and Monica Delait
Ronald Beeke & Dennis Wilson
Dr. and Mrs. L. D. Bernhard
Neera Bhattacharjee and Anuradhas Gandhi
Sandia littell
Koumbary and Gaye Bowers
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Mary J. Bradley
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California Apartment Association
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Carolyn’s Kids
Lois M. Carroll
Kim, Demi & Gil Chua
Ron Cazabon
Debbie Cullen & Gary Marler
Timothy & Margaret Coté
Eric & Paula Coosan
Crosswinds Community Church
Michael & Michelle Cuthbertson
Stevie & hassle
Maria D’Agostino, D.D.S.
Dental Health
Krispy Kreme
Tara & Kelli Stover
Pamela A. Dunn
Enterprise Holding Foundation
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Russell & Susan Kiss in memory of Walter L. Hunt
HMF
Synd Jerome
BMO Blondine Malhot & Richard Marsh
Dana and Dore Annas
Innovations for Our Human Resources Team

1 Day (cont.)
Intel Volunteer Grant Program
Russell & Kimble Jackstadt
June & Bernard Jankowski, in memory of Robert and Gwendolyn Polk
Joyce & Robert, in memory of Phyllis Jockell and Barbara J. Morley
Hoffman, Jenson
Eric, John
Yun-Feng Juan
Kalpathy Foundation
George and Sarah Keen
Thomas Kladkos & Beverly Sanford
Keith and Erin Kitchen
Carla J. Klass
Jeffrey & Vicky Krack
Marissa & Josh Krybienyas
Sharon Lee Krudlin
Walter & Louise Kruez
Sick and Larry Krutz
Tim Lombard
Lundburg Investments
Eric Lanzendorf
Dr. Daisy H. Lee in Memory of Dr. Kuo-ling Lee
Theo J. Lee
Ellen and Amy Maddox
Patricia Magana
Mary McFarland
Myriam McAdams
Kevin McCuewe
Brian Alexander McCusker
M. C. & Real Estate - Dennis & Linda Moreno
Steff & Galen Michal
Debra Mindmann
Mauro & Miyake Golf Tournament
Arnette Moore
David and Bethany Moore
Carol L. Morrow
Douglas Mow
Chris and Julie Moylan
Anita Mulekey
Russell and Mara Nasar
Sreevignesh Narsimhan
Jeff and Jill Nair
Scott Parnes & Diane O’Levere
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Andrea & Rich Paci
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Pete’s Coffee & Tea
Karen Pelletier
Robert and Anna Pochowski
Gregory & Julie Pottorff
Yvonne Pottorff
Gary & Patty Pratt
Farr Price
Stephen and Karen Quick
Swordfish Group
Joseph Ribera and Mary-Ann Wallace
George & Charlotte Rogers

S$ Double Your Dollars
You may be able to make your donation to SCS go further! Be sure to check with your company to see if they will match your contribution. Just ask them for a matching gift form and send it to us with your contribution. We will take care of the rest! FYI, some companies even match gifts by retirees and/or spouses!
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**Save the Date**

**Annual SCS Holiday Auction**  
Location: Elks Lodge, 375 N. Pastoria Ave.  
Note the November Date!

**Thursday, November 19th**  
5:00 - 7:30 PM

**Rides for Toys**  
Location: Toys R Us, 130 E. El Camino Real  
Saturday, November 28th  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**SCS Christmas Center Open House**  
Location: Sunnyvale Community Services  
Sunday, November 29th  
1:00 - 4:00 PM

**Sunnyvale Singers Holiday Benefit Concert**  
Info to follow  
Tuesday, December 1st

**Giving Tuesday**  
Watch our Facebook page for more info

**Programs and Services**

- Financial assistance for rent, utilities, medical care, prescriptions, other critical bills, and rental deposits for homeless families moving into housing
- Case management for families, seniors, and homeless individuals
- Daily emergency food, weekly “Produce Mondays,” twice-weekly Pantry, monthly food for families and seniors, and Kids’ Summer Food distributions
- Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to help veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Community Christmas Center, affording clients the dignity of selecting a two-week supply of food, new gifts for infants through teens, and a practical household gift
- Budgeting assistance, support counseling, and advocacy
- Workshops and referrals to medical, mental health, employment, shelter, education, and legal programs
- Clothes, backpacks/school supplies, household items, bus passes and gas vouchers

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**SCS Wish List**

Check out our website for the most needed items.  
[www.svcommunityservices.org/donate-wish-list.html](http://www.svcommunityservices.org/donate-wish-list.html)

Many thanks to Alpha Graphics and California Mailing for their discounts.

Newsletter designed and produced by Take Flight Graphics