It doesn’t seem possible, it doesn’t seem fair that any child is without a safe place to live, but it’s happening here in Sunnyvale. Children and their families are living in cars and teens are “couch surfing” by crashing with friends or relatives. Two or three families crowd into unheated garages.

This summer, we are gearing up for our “Head to Toe” program for Sunnyvale school children. We plan to distribute over 1,300 filled backpacks and $25 gift cards for new shoes, and more than 2,500 bags of extra food to help fill the growing summer food gap when schools are closed.

Our goal is that every child in Sunnyvale will get supplies and shoes so they are ready to learn.

When children and their families come for backpack day, we ask the kids what they like to study at school. We love to hear them tell us about what they want to be when they “grow up.” We have budding dancers, fire fighters, doctors, professional soccer players, chefs, and computer programmers. Many of them want to take care of their parents and sisters and brothers. They are the future of Sunnyvale.

None of them dreams about being homeless. No child wants to worry about where they will sleep every night.

We wish we could report that our numbers are shrinking, that there is less need here in the Valley of Heart’s Delight. Sadly, many families have left because of the high cost of housing. For the families still trying to make it here, the need is deeper and constant. Families working in the service industry and in jobs without benefits face an everyday battle to stay housed, with utilities turned on and food on the table.

Thankfully, our community has always shown a commitment to help the most needy in Sunnyvale. We are truly grateful for your continued support. Together we can work to prevent homelessness and hunger.

—Marie Bernard, Executive Director
Message from the Board President

This past holiday season, over 1,500 low-income Sunnyvale families had a happy holiday season with the support of SCS and the Community Christmas Center. The ability of SCS to provide the quality of services required is largely due to the successful implementation of the part of our long-term strategic plan that focuses on “operational excellence.” The goal of operational excellence is to ensure that the agency meets the needs of our clients effectively and efficiently. Over the past year we focused on the available resources for our clients as well as our own organization. We looked at innovative ways to improve services to our clients, performed analyses of the effectiveness of our programs, and examined the organization’s needs relative to upgrading the facility.

The SCS staff is full of talented individuals who care about the well-being of our clients. New health-conscious programs have been developed for our clients, along with the expansion of healthy food distribution. The facility has seen improvements as well, with the addition of a new walk-in refrigerator and walk-in freezer, allowing for more nutritious food for our clients.

Nowhere was our operational excellence put more to the test than during our Community Christmas Center, where 4,391 people came through our doors for holiday gifts and food. Despite experiencing bad weather and a full day’s power outage, we were able to continue to serve all of our clients, helping to ensure a happy holiday.

Thanks to generous supporters, volunteers, and a high-performing staff, we are well-positioned to meet the challenges our clients face today. And, I am confident that with your continued support, the agency will be able to continue to provide the critical services to our neighbors in need for years to come.

—Camille Barnes-Mosley

High-Tech with Big Hearts

A lot is said about all the technology in Silicon Valley, but the giving that happens here in our community frequently goes unnoticed. We are proud to count among our major donors several high-tech companies here in Sunnyvale. **Applied Materials, Google, Intuitive Surgical, LinkedIn, SanDisk, and Yahoo!** are major donors and we are grateful not only for their financial support but for their commitment as volunteers at SCS. And thank you to all of the companies who match employee donations.

Trekking to Prevent Homelessness

In March, Julia Nelson, SCS Board member, Synopsis executive, and rugged athlete, embarked on an adventure to Tanzania in eastern Africa where she ran a half marathon and then, incredibly, hiked with a team of 6 women to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. In Julia’s words, “Reaching the ‘Roof of Africa’ is made even more meaningful when used as a vehicle to raise funds which will directly help families keep a roof over their heads.” Julia launched a Crowdrise campaign to honor her trip and to support SCS. She raised over $8,000, all for the clients of SCS. Well done, Julia!

Welcome New Staff!

We are pleased to welcome **Stephano Joseph** to our growing team of case managers. Stephano comes to us with a strong background in case management and social work, with years of experience working with clients ranging in age from youth to seniors. Stephano has a Masters in Social Work (MSW) and is working toward his Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) license. We are delighted to have him join the team!

**Time for Our Favorite Trashy Affair!**

You are cordially invited to join us at Specialty Solid Waste and Recycling’s “**Dinner at the Dump**” on Saturday, June 27th. Hosts **Julie and Jerry Nabhan** and **Rebecca Buldo** are planning a very special event, with all proceeds benefitting local nonprofits, including Sunnyvale Community Services. There will be a silent auction, raffle prizes and mouth-watering barbequed steak, chicken and fish expertly grilled to perfection by Sunnyvale Public Safety Officers.

Tickets are $50 for adults and $20 for children 8-12 (children under 8 – free). There will be a kids’ play area, fabulous raffle and silent auction items, and music by “DJ Nabs.” For tickets or more information, please contact Rebecca Buldo at 408.566.1802.
Injury Almost Derails Son’s College Ambitions

A father came to us for help with his rent, which was a hardship due to an injury he suffered when he burned his hand on his stove and was unable to work as a gardener while his hand healed. His son, who works at a restaurant, was helping, but, he had to use the money he was saving for community college in order to help his father. With our help, the father was able to pay his rent for the month alleviating the burden on his son so that he could continue to save for college. The father was able to return to work the following month.

The Stresses of Living on a Fixed Income

Seniors living on a fixed income are especially at risk when circumstances happen that are beyond their control. A Sunnyvale senior came to us when her rent unexpectedly increased by $370/month, more than she could handle. Already on a waiting list for senior housing outside of Sunnyvale, she needed help during the interim. We were able to assist her with one month’s rent—enough time for her to get into the new, less expensive housing. Although she had to move out of Sunnyvale, she is now able to remain self-sufficient due to the lower rent.

Loss of a Loved One

None of us is immune to sudden illness, but when it strikes someone with limited resources, the impact can be devastating. Our client came to us when he lost his longtime girlfriend to colon cancer. This sad milestone meant funeral expenses and time off work to handle the arrangements. The client came to SCS for help with one month’s rent so that he could recover from the unexpected loss without losing his home. With our help, the client was able to remain housed, hold onto his job, and is now taking care of his partner’s school-age children.

Childhood Poverty By the Numbers*

- **$44,628** maximum income for a family of 4 to qualify for the food program at SCS
- **$22,314** federal poverty level (FPL) for a family of 4
- **400,000** children under the age of 18 in Santa Clara County
- **60,000** children fell below the poverty line in Santa Clara County
- **19%** child poverty rate in Sunnyvale
- **13%** child poverty rate in Santa Clara County in 2010, up from 11% in 2000
- **1** childhood experience of inadequate food, housing, healthcare can leave a lasting scar into adulthood

* All data from the report “Child Poverty in Santa Clara County, 2013”

SCS Wish List

We need donations of the following supplies for homeless clients and seniors:

- Hand sanitizer
- Lip balm
- Ensure® drinks and snacks
- Individual servings of nuts / dried fruits
- Single-serving fruit cups
- New school supplies

Please check our website for the most needed items.

http://www.svcommunityservices.org/donate-wish-list.html
Summer is in Sight

For many kids, the thought of summer adds a bounce to their step and a smile to their face. But for the children we see, summer is a time of anxiety and uncertainty. Summertime is when school breakfast and lunch programs are closed, leaving many children unsure of when they will eat next. With the help of so many generous donors like you, we will fill over 2,500 bags of food this summer with special, kid-friendly food from May - August.

Once again in August, as our young clients are thinking about back-to-school, we will hold one of our favorite events, “Backpack Day.” We expect to distribute 1,300 brand new backpacks filled with age-appropriate school supplies plus a $25 shoe gift card so our kids can be ready for school from head to toe.

This year our numbers swelled when our local schools asked for backpacks and shoe gift cards for homeless and transfer students starting school without the basic needed supplies. Please consider making a donation of food, backpacks, or school supplies to help our summer programs be a success, or make a financial donation so we can “shop” for the most needed items.

Weekend Food for Children

Whenever school is out, many kids miss meals, and parents take turns skipping dinner so their children can eat. The Sunnyvale Unified School District, Second Harvest Food Bank, and SCS are addressing this issue head-on in a pilot program beginning this spring. SCS is collecting extra food for children, and dropping it off on Fridays at Vargas Elementary and San Miguel Elementary. These are Title 1 schools with a majority of students identified as low-income. Children will each receive a bag of groceries to take home over the weekend, helping their families stretch their budget just a little further, while keeping food on the table for everyone. After learning from this pilot program, we hope to expand to other sites in the future.

Our Volunteers are Thriving!

Kaiser Permanente has awarded SCS with the Kaiser Permanente South Bay Thriving Volunteers Award. We were chosen for this honor because of our “thriving volunteer program that truly helps the community.” We received this award at the Junior League of San Jose’s annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, where attendees were shown a video filmed by Kaiser Permanente featuring our volunteers on a busy Produce Monday.

Health in the Spotlight

Part of our mission to prevent homelessness and hunger includes promoting good health so that our clients miss less work due to illness. We have begun to hold a series of workshops on health-related topics, including nutrition and diabetes. We have held two classes so far, one in English and one in Spanish, and will plan to offer more classes in 2015. Instructors from the American Diabetes Association and UC Davis emphasized portion control, the importance of exercise, and the many negative consequences of eating sugar.

No One was Late for This Important Date!

The SCS Auxiliary’s Annual Spring Tea, “Mad Hatter,” was a well-attended, delightful afternoon for all who came. The Sunnyvale Elks Lodge generously donated their space, giving guests room to shop, dine, and socialize. Long-time SCS volunteer Steve Harms serenaded the crowd and the wonderful Interact Club from Homestead High set up and served refreshments. As an added treat, guests had the chance to make their very own Mad Hatter hat and then step into a photo booth to have their picture taken! If you would like to join the mailing list to learn about future events, please contact Ruth Perkins at ruthiperkins@yahoo.com.

SCS Holiday Auction Sets New Record!

Over $80,000 was raised, all of which was used to help our clients in need during the holidays. Thank you!
2014 Christmas Center

The Lights Went Out but the Holidays Were Bright!

December marked our annual Community Christmas Center where over 4,391 people were escorted through our wonderfully decorated holiday shopping center. Our tireless volunteers worked day and night, and even in the dark when we lost electricity during the rainstorm, to ensure that every client had the opportunity to select a new toy for each child along with a gift for the family and two weeks of nutritious food.

We would like to thank **Jim Reynolds** for quickly going home and grabbing his generator. With that we were able to light the holiday decorations and keep the festive mood going throughout the storm. (We have decided to put a new gas generator on our Christmas list!)

Thank you to everyone for your generous support and for bringing joy to our clients during the holiday season.

Holiday Surprise for Our Seniors

We wanted to give our seniors a special treat this year so we put out a request to church groups, corporate organizations, and other local groups for home-baked breads. The community came through, big! **Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, St. Mark’s Church, St. Cyprian Church**, and many other organizations took part, with 550 loaves of bread delivered, all beautifully wrapped and many with holiday cards and recipes attached. Our seniors were so grateful for the surprise addition to their Senior Food Distribution Day!
In Loving Memory…
We fondly remember our friends:
George Olson, Jr.
Dave Warburton

Getting and Giving

SCS client Gerardo Monroy was chosen for the San Francisco Chronicle “Season of Sharing Fund” stories because of his recent close call with homelessness due to slow-paying clients at his forklift repair business. SCS was able to help him stay in his home while he got the business back on track. Soon after, SCS was given a used forklift by the Sunnyvale School District—a welcome addition to our warehouse! However, it needed some repairs and it occurred to us that we knew just the man for the job! We called Gerardo and he came right over and made our forklift like new. We paid him on the spot, showing him that we can be a great client, too!

Looking Good!

Long-time supporters Wren and Martin Clark made sure our young clients were ready for the holidays in style this year! In early December this crafty couple stopped by our agency to deliver 50 hand-made vests in kid-friendly colors and patterns. Our young clients were very excited to start a new fashion trend here in Sunnyvale!

▲ Just some of our many wonderful volunteers at our holiday Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.
▲ Sunnyvale Rotary helped us reach our goal of 1,500 bags of food for low-income Sunnyvale families.
▲ Wren and Martin Clark made sure our young clients were ready for the holidays in style this year with 50 hand-made vests in kid-friendly colors and patterns.
▲ Synopsys volunteers packed bags for our Senior Monthly Food Program.
▲ Infinera volunteers not only did a great job packing bags for families in our Monthly Food Program, but they also generously donated $1,000.
▲ Swiss MBA students from across the globe visited us to learn about SCS and help sort canned foods donated by Second Harvest Food Bank.

Infinera volunteers not only did a great job packing bags for families in our Monthly Food Program, but they also generously donated $1,000.

▲ Swiss MBA students from across the globe visited us to learn about SCS and help sort canned foods donated by Second Harvest Food Bank.

Synopsys volunteers packed bags for our Senior Monthly Food Program.

▲ Sunnyvale Rotary helped us reach our goal of 1,500 bags of food for low-income Sunnyvale families.

▲ Just some of our many wonderful volunteers at our holiday Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.
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Major Program Contributors

Adopt-a-Day Honor Roll

Underwriting SCS’ $1,000 a day operating costs not covered by grants or contracts

1 Week = a year of monthly gifts by retirees and/or spouses!

FYI, some gifts by retirees and/or spouses!

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. If your company participates, just ask them for a matching gift form and send it to us with your contribution. We will take care of the rest! If your company does match gifts by retirees and/or spouses!

Business is Booming, and That’s Not Good
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,” monthly food for families and seniors, and Kids’ Summer Food distributions
- 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

Upcoming Events

**Dinner at the Dump**
Location: Specialty Solid Waste and Recycling
3355 Thomas Road, Santa Clara
Tickets available. Call 408.566.1802 for details.

**SCS Auxiliary Holiday “Affaire” & Quilt Raffle**
Location: Sunnyvale Community Services
725 Kifer Road, Sunnyvale, CA
This a free event.

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

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

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