



## Sunnyvale Community Services

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Working to Prevent Homelessness and Hunger

### News Release

## ***Second Harvest Food Bank Honors Sunnyvale Community Services Executive Director***

### ***Marie Bernard Receives McCown-Takalo Hunger Hero Award***

Sunnyvale, Calif. May 12, 2017 – Sunnyvale Community Services ([www.svcommunityservices.org](http://www.svcommunityservices.org)), is proud to announce its Executive Director, Marie Bernard, has received the 2017 McCown-Takalo Hunger Hero Award from Second Harvest Food Bank. The award is presented each year to individuals who embody the attributes of honesty, compassion and integrity; long-term commitment; tenacity; a spokesperson for the underserved; and putting the needs of clients first.

In her presentation at the annual Harvest of Knowledge Partner Conference on May 5, 2017, Cindy McCown, praised Bernard for her “unwavering commitment to being a voice for clients and the needs of vulnerable populations.” She explained that Sunnyvale Community Services fills a critical community need, focusing services to help low-income Sunnyvale residents with financial assistance for rent, rental deposits, and utilities, along with food distributions that combine to help families, seniors, and veterans stay housed.

Some of the many programs Sunnyvale Community Services provides are:

- Produce Monday, giving fresh produce to over 900 families each week
- Weekend School Food program at four Title 1 Sunnyvale schools
- Kids’ Head-to-Toe summer program, providing 1,500 children with extra food, backpacks filled with age-appropriate school supplies, and shoe gift cards
- Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF), assisting homeless veterans
- Community Holiday Center, where over 1,400 families “shop” for toys and food for the holidays
- Financial assistance for rent and utilities
- Intensive case management for families and seniors

“It is my pleasure to honor Marie Bernard for her work to improve the lives of others,” McCown announced. “During her leadership over the past seven years, Marie has helped the organization – continuously improve and adapt to meet the ever-changing needs of the community.”

### About the McCown-Takalo Award

Second Harvest Food Bank created the McCown-Takalo Hunger Hero Award in recognition of Cindy McCown and Susan Takalo and their commitment to the issue of hunger during each woman’s 25 years with the agency. Every year, the two colleagues select an

individual who embodies the qualities of honesty, compassion and integrity; long-term commitment; tenacity; spokesperson for the underserved; and needs of clients first.  
[www.shfb.org](http://www.shfb.org)

#### About Sunnyvale Community Services

Sunnyvale Community Services is an independent, nonprofit emergency assistance agency that works to prevent homelessness and hunger for low-income families and seniors facing temporary crises. The agency provides financial aid, food, and other support that prevents larger problems with more expensive solutions. This past year SCS assisted 7,991 unduplicated individuals, which was an increase of 16% over the prior year. For more information, visit [www.svcommunityservices.org](http://www.svcommunityservices.org), or call 408-738-4321.

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