Sunnyvale Community Services

- Working to Prevent Homelessness and Hunger —

Everyday Disasters



Recently, the nation held its collective breath as hurricanes and cearthquakes wreaked havoc, destroying lives and neighborhoods, and leaving thousands homeless. Natural disasters around the country and the world serve as a reminder of how one event can drastically change lives.

At Sunnyvale Community Services, we prepare for emergencies so we can help others when a crisis happens. Thanks to support from our community, our building has been retrofitted for stability in case of an earthquake. We partner with Sunnyvale Public Safety and the Red Cross to train our staff for medical emergencies and disaster preparedness.

But disasters can also be more personal—a loss of income, a rent increase, a work injury, a car accident, a death of a loved one. A family's financial stability can be devastated by changes in benefits, such as cuts to food stamps for a working family, or changes to Medi-Cal coverage for households that need routine or emergency healthcare. Every day, the stress of trying to make ends meet makes it harder to deal with the next emergency. Families living on the edge in Silicon Valley worry all the time.

For low-income residents who live paycheck to paycheck, Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS) is their safety net. An increasing number of those affected by personal emergencies fill our front lobby. The most dramatic increase has been in the number of homeless individuals we helped. Last year, we assisted 529 people who were homeless a shocking increase of **49%** in just one year. Sadly, children under 18 were 17% of the homeless persons we served, and adults 50 or older were 40%. The total number of people we served in the past fiscal year, 8,300, was a 20% increase in just two years.

SCS's financial aid and food distributions help to bridge the gap for low income families and seniors struggling in Silicon Valley. In August, a record number of 946 families came on a single "Produce Monday." Every day, SCS provides additional food, toiletries, diapers, and other necessities for our neighbors in need.

We're grateful that the community continues to support the most needy in our neighborhood here in Silicon Valley. Together we can build a better community, where everyone has a safe place to call home, with food on their table, and the lights turned on. Thank you!

-Marie Bernard, Executive Director

SAVE the DATE! **2017 Holiday Auction** Thursday, November 16 | 5:00 - 7:30 PM

EIKS LOAGE | 375 N. Pastoria Avenue

It's time for the SCS Annual Holiday Auction! Join us for an evening of delicious food and good cheer while bidding on one-of-a-kind holiday gifts for everyone in your family. Auction items include wonderful family vacations, restaurant outings, wine tastings, theater tickets, and so much more.

Thank you to all who graciously donate gifts, services, and volunteer time to make this event possible. We again thank the **Sunny**vale **Elks Lodge** for donating their venue, **LinkedIn** for catering the evening with savory appetizers, and **Cake4Kids** for providing tasty bite-sized desserts.

The Auction is a free event, but we ask guests to bring a bag of non-perishable foods or an unwrapped new toy to help stock the shelves of the SCS Community Holiday Center.



#GIWING | Mark Your Calendar TUESDAY[®] | for November 28

F orget Black Friday and Cyber Monday. **#GivingTuesday** is a national event dedicated to online giving to your favorite nonprofit. Come celebrate with us! We will be hosting an Open House on November 28, 2017 from 2:00 – 6:00 pm. Come by and take a tour of the Community Holiday Center and enjoy light refreshments. All donations from #GivingTuesday will go towards helping the families, seniors, and homeless individuals who will be walking through our "North Pole" this December. Let's keep working together to make this a special year for all our families in need. *Thank you for your kind support!*

President's Corner

Any still remember Santa

LVL Clara Valley as the Valley of Heart's Delight, with orchards full of apricots and cherries. Today we are the world-famous "Silicon Valley." Change is inescapable. This great valley of innovation



and resilience breeds an amazing culture of adaptability and community.

As I begin my term as Board President, I am struck by the enduring strength of Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS). I am especially aware of the following:

• SCS is adaptable. As Silicon Valley continues to evolve and grow, the need for our services must keep pace. Rising rents are making it hard to make ends meet, service workers have to work two to three jobs to put food on the table, and many in our community are one paycheck away from homelessness. As a Board, we are seeking what we can do to serve our community more deeply.

2 SCS is in a community that cares. We have over 2,500 volunteers who care enough about what we do to give the gift of their time. Over 3,500 people give the gift of their hard-earned financial resources each year. We have a staff made up of compassionate professionals who help our clients through rough times.

3 SCS maintains a long-term perspective. We have been working hard as a Board to ensure that our agency is solvent during the good times, and during a potential economic downturn. Our Board is made up of good-stewards and community stakeholders, working hard to ensure that we are here to help as long as there is a need.

If you have received this newsletter and you are reading this note, you are one of those stakeholders. Regardless of your role in our agency, whether you are a donor, a volunteer, a member of our community, or if you are a client, I want to thank you. Thank you for your trust, thank you for your gifts, and thank you for your continued support of our agency.

Shane Jacksteit, Board President Financial Advisor, Edward Jones



Sunnyvale Christian School field trip to SCS

Good Things Come in Small Packages!

There's nothing better than children opening their hearts to give to other children who may be less fortunate. That's just what these wonderful kindergartners from Sunnyvale Christian School did when they held a bake sale to benefit SCS. Their hard work and generosity earned \$343.02, all to go toward helping low income children and their families have enough food to eat during the summer when school is closed and meal programs aren't available.

These kids are the faces of kindness and compassion! $\hfill\blacksquare$

El Camino Healthcare District: Celebrating 10 Years of Support

El Camino Healthcare District (ECHD) is all heart. For ten years now, they have been funding Sunnyvale Com-



munity Services, demonstrating their deep commitment to the health and well-being of our community. Funding from ECHD enables us to provide our most basic services, including financial assistance, supplemental healthy, protein-rich food for families and seniors, and intensive case management, focusing on self-sufficiency, health, and wellness. ECHD believes that preventing homelessness and addressing food insecurity is good medicine and we couldn't agree more.



Payday Lending is a Losing Proposition

This year we are wrapping up our L three-year joint project with the Coalition Against Payday Predators (CAPP). This project focused on the dangers of predatory payday lending through workshops, financial education programs, and community outreach informing the public about the risks associated with payday lending. At SCS, our caseworkers screen financial aid recipients to identify victims of predatory payday lending, and help our clients get off the cycle of payday loans as quickly as possible. While the joint project is nearing completion, our work is not done. We continue to advocate for local, state, and federal regulations to limit the negative impact on low-income residents, and promote alternatives to lenders charging high interest rates. The average annual percentage rate for payday loans in California is 459%.* No one can afford that.

*http://www.paydayloaninfo.org/state-information/12



George Clark, volunteer

Did You Know We Deliver?

While most of our clients are able to come to the agency for our many different food programs, there are some who are unable to leave their homes for medical reasons and/or disabilities. With help from our amazing volunteers, we can deliver bags of well-balanced food to 110 clients each month, all of whom are grateful for the food and the visit. This year, we have expanded the deliveries to twice a month in order to accommodate the increased need.



L to R: Jeff Warren, Sunnyvale Grocery Outlet and Carolyn Alexander, SCS

Grocery Outlet Partners

H appy one-year anniversary to the Sunnyvale Grocery Outlet, at the corner of Tasman and North Fair Oaks Avenue! During the month of July, Grocery Outlet ran its "Fight Against Hunger" campaign and collected \$2,000 in cash donations along with \$4,000 of food bags purchased on our behalf. We also appreciate the support from San Jose's Grocery Outlet on Monterey Highway, providing us with wonderful food for our Community Holiday Center at deeply discounted prices. Their support goes back almost 40 years and we couldn't be more grateful!



Breaking bread at the New Seasons Sunnyvale store opening

New Seasons Market is Here!

W^e are thrilled to welcome Sunnyvale's newest supermarket. New Seasons, located at 760 E. El Camino (near Fair Oaks). Their 29,000-squarefoot store is full of local organic produce, a wide variety of packaged foods, and delicious ready-to-go prepared foods. We are especially honored to have been chosen as their "Hunger Partner," which means that New Seasons will donate a portion of their profits to SCS as their way of giving back to the community. They are also our newest gleaning partner, offering us any extra fresh and packaged food that is still fresh and appropriate to serve. Welcome to the neighborhood!



Introducing Pantry Express

The SCS Pantry is a mini-grocery store that allows clients to "shop" for supplemental food and household items once a month. This past summer, we started a new process called "Pantry Express" to accommodate the clients who are in a hurry to get to work, medical appointments, or other time sensitive obligations. Express clients receive a pre-packed bag of quality items including: canned and boxed foods, grains, milk, eggs, meat, toilet paper, detergent, and produce.



Environmentally Conscious

Sunnyvale Community Services uses a lot of water to keep volunteers, staff, and clients well hydrated. In the past, we purchased a lot of bottled water for this purpose. Last fall, we installed a drinking fountain/bottle fill station and hand wash sink in our hallway and are excited to announce we have already saved 3,000 plastic bottles worth of purchased water! It has been a win-win-win for the environment, our volunteers, and our pocketbook.



Backpack to School!



• oing back to school after a long summer is always exciting Ubut in order to start the school year well, children need the right equipment. That is why every year we distribute over 1,500 backpacks to low-income students entering grades K-12 on our annual Backpack Day. On this day, children get the opportunity to pick out their very own backpack filled with ageappropriate school supplies and a \$30 Payless Shoes gift card. An additional 100 backpacks are given to local schools to distribute to low-income transfer students and homeless children throughout the year.

We are grateful for the generous support of major sponsors including Google, Western Digital, Texas Instruments, NetApp, and PG&E. We also want to thank the dozens of hard-



working volunteers who help make this day possible. If you would like to make a donation or sign up to volunteer for next year, visit our website at www.svcommunityservices.org.





Holiday Shopping at the Auxiliary Boutique

Toliday shopping got off to a great start with the SCS Auxiliary Boutique in October. The talented Auxiliary members sold beautiful handmade crafts and scrumptious home-baked goods, with all proceeds benefitting Sunnyvale Community Services. This year's quilt raffle featured a king-sized quilt of warm autumn colors, hand-stitched by members of the SCS Auxiliary and professionally quilted by The Granary. A perfect start to the holiday season!

Did You Know?

AlFresh in California is part of the ✓ Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), often called Food Stamps. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. Five-year funding for SNAP is part of the 2018 Farm Bill.

There is a proposal at the federal level to dramatically cut safety net programs including SNAP, Meals on Wheels, USDA food, and eligibility for school meals. There is no way that Sunnyvale Community Services and other nonprofits throughout the country can make up the difference in these proposed cuts. Help us spread the word that cuts to SNAP and other parts of the safety net hurt every community.

IN CALIFORNIA

of residents in Santa Clara County are at risk of hunger*

of CalFresh recipients are seniors aged 60 or older

of CalFresh recipients have children under 18

of CalFresh recipients have at least one family member working in the past 12 months

*2016-17 Hunger Report for Santa Clara County



Our Website Got a Makeover!

eeping our website updated is an K ongoing task and we are happy to announce the launch of our brand-new website at www.svcommunityservices. org. Our new design is crisp and clean, with navigation that's easy for donors, volunteers, and clients. And, now we're mobile! The website looks great on any screen, big or small. We gladly invite you to stop by for a visit. There's a wealth of information at your fingertips!

R 🖤 🐋 🟘

SCS Serving Alviso Families in Need

In 2016 SCS added the Alviso neighborhood of San Jose to the communities we serve, thanks to funding from **Santa Clara County**. We offer emergency financial aid and connect Alviso clients to food distribution programs nearby.

Recently, we were grateful to be able to help a mother of two young children whose husband, and the household's sole wageearner, was suddenly hospitalized with a serious medical condition. Fearing eviction when she couldn't cover the rent, she turned to us for assistance. We were able to help her pay her rent and connected her with people who could help her apply for her husband's disability benefits. Our client is now stably housed with her husband receiving the medical care he needs. We are proud to serve the community, one family at a time.



SCS Landscaping Upgrade

With more clients than ever before, we are using every inch of our building, from front-to-back and top-to-bottom. These past few months we've been making repairs and improvements inside and out, including removing dangerous eucalyptus trees that threatened to fall in the next big storm. Thanks to a generous donation from **Sunlight Giving**, our long-needed parking lot repairs have been done. The **City of Sunnyvale** has stepped in and built a new sidewalk and curb-cut outside the front of our building, which has been celebrated by both clients and staff who can now safely approach our building without walking in the street.

If you haven't seen us in a while, stop by and say hello! We'd love to show you around—especially during our **Open House** on Giving Tuesday, November 28th from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM!



Neighbors in Need

Through no fault of his own

A homeless single father of two couldn't have been happier when he found housing through a program called "Welcome Home" by Abode Services. The new home meant reuniting with his two young children and finally getting his life back on track. Unfortunately, through no mistake of his own, the program that was helping to subsidize his rent miscalculated his monthly portion. As a result, for a full year he was paying less than what he actually owed and was finally given three days to pay all back-rent and late fees. With the help of an SCS caseworker, documentation of the error was discovered, confirming that the fault was not his. SCS worked with the landlord and the "Welcome Home Program" to help pay the amount still owed, enabling the family to remain together and safely housed.

What any mother would do

A single mother and her son found themselves homeless when she was unable to find a job. She was determined to keep her son safe so she stayed on friends' couches, avoiding living in her car or on the street. She eventually found a job but still needed a place to call home. She came to SCS for help and, after two months of searching, our staff was able to find an apartment that she could afford. Her caseworker also located some free furniture and household supplies. The client can now live safely and securely with her son.

• A little thing can make a big difference

A family of four was walking a financial tightrope, barely making ends meet when they came to SCS. The husband and sole wage-earner had recently lost his job, and the family depends on public transportation to job search, shop, and run other necessary errands each week. SCS was able to sell them reduced-cost VTA bus passes that helped them stretch their budget just enough to handle the temporary gap in income. The husband has since found a new job and his wife is taking the bus, looking for work herself.

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

Check with your employer 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!

We Hear Thank You in Many Languages

"**The case workers are full of love...** thank you all for helping the disadvantaged. You're doing a great job building a better world."

"有幸生活在Sunnyvale社区,受到社会工作 者的关怀,很是快乐!非常感谢!

"Sunnyvale Community Services should be very proud of the job they do for others. I am proud to be a Sunnyvale resident."

"Muchas gracias por su ayuda y amabilidad."

"Muchas gracias por su tiempo y su servicio."

"Les doy las gracias porque es una ayuda muy buena."

"**Our community is blessed** to have such great services. Thank you for helping me in my time of need. I appreciate everything."

> "**Toda la comida que recibo es muy buena** y saludable. Gracias."

"**Thank you for all the help** and the holiday donations were a blessing!!"

cảm ơn xièxie a ang cháng t Спасибо! gracias cháng tyou

SCS Wish List

We need donations of the following supplies for our Holiday Center:

- Instant coffee and teas
- Canned soup low sodium
- Canned meals
- Chicken broth
- 15 oz. canned fruits & veggies
- Mac 'n Cheese in boxes
- Low sugar cereal
- Jelly in plastic containers
- Condiments & spices (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, honey, etc.)

Please check our website for the most needed items.

http://svcommunityservices.org/donatescs-donation-wish-list-seasonal/



Looking for a FREE Fun Family Event?

Head over to Toys "R" Us at 130 E. El Camino Real on Saturday, November 25th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM where the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety will host its annual "Rides for Toys." This is an exciting family event, where children get to learn the importance of giving back while getting a chance to ride on a real fire engine in exchange for donating a new toy. All donations will benefit the Community Holiday Center at SCS.



Major Program Contributors

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MGM Real Estate, Dennis & Linda

Underwriting SCS' \$1,000 a day operating <u>costs not covered by grants or contracts</u>

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Adopt-a-Day Honor Roll

4 Days = 2000 meals-in-a-can

Robin Fisher, Bright Bird Creative Nancy Garrett Lee & Sophia Ott Judith Petroski & William Wiegand Safeway Foundation Dennis & Jean Stein

3 Days = 3,000 quarts of milk

Mary Ellen and Stephen Barasch Dr. and Mrs. I. B. Bernhardt Marie Bernard and Bruce Paton Mike & Diana Brzozowski California Water Service Company Cupertino Host Lions Club Scott Davidson Food Runners Richard and Diane Horn Russell & Susan Hull Jockers Family Foundation Matthew & Donna Leacock Stephen McHenry Robert & Kathleen Menifee Benjamin Newsom Pine Cone Lumber Greg & Julie Y. Poist Mr. and Mrs. Wolfgang Polak Eric & Julia Roberts William R. Roberts, Architect St. Cyprian Church St. John's Lutheran Church Sunnyvale Singers Rimas Svarcas Synopsys, Inc. Trinity United Methodist Church -Church Society Committee U.S. Post Office

2 Days = 1260 cans of tuna

Edwin & Jean Aiken Anonymous (5) Alpha Delta Kappa, Alpha Lambda Chapter Valerie Armento Bobbie Lemberg Armstrong Charles L. Barndt, Jr. Camille Barnes-Mosley Bob & Chervl Bartholomew Michael & Theresa Benkert Neeria Bhatt and Aniruddha Vaidya Bright Funds Foundation Jim and Lynn Briody Cadence Design Systems Inc. California Water Service Company Stephen & Susan Campello Carol I. Arnett Charitable Foundation Thomas and Judith Cerny Gary Chern Cherry Chase Elementary School & PTA Anita Clemetson John and Maya Clifton Lisa Ann Corlev

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Allen & Cecilia Watson Westly Foundation Katharina and Alistair Woodman Huizhen Zhu

1 Day = 300 jars of peanut butter

Mary Alexander Anonymous (2) John & Linda Adams Dr Aftandilian Sandy and Holly Agbayani Elizabeth & Paul Archambeault Kranti Atluri - to my Family Ajit Balakrishna Deepak Balasubramaniam Howard Baldwin and Monica Delzeit Elizabeth & Jim Batson Bay Area Christian Church Marilvn B. Bearden Syeda Rasheda Begum Jeffrey & Julie Bennett Carl and Diane Benson Roberta Bernstein Herman W. Bilenko Lynda and Richard Borrison Bose Family Charitable Fund Edward Bouwhuis Mary E. Boyle Duane & Louise Bailey Bretzke Phillip and Laurel Brock John M. Brown Jerry Burger & Marlene M. Somsak Cape Cod Village Residents Association Carolyn's Kids Robert Chiang Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Wren Clark Ron Coens Debbie Colden & Gary Marker Timothy & Margaret Coté CPP Community & Work/Life Committee Michael & Michele Cudzinovic Anne & Dave Cunningham Richard Deep Charlene Dietz John Thomas Dowdling & Denise Kato Pamela J. Dunn Eat Club James & Suemi Enloe Robert & Julie Estko Barbara Evatt Richard & Christine Ferry Janet Fire First Morning Light Chinese Church Phyllis Freeman Philip & Junko Freidin Michael A. Gallagher Elaheh Gattozzi Roger & Tammy Gaw Virginia Gelczis Michael & Kelly Giannini

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\$\$ Double Your Dollars

You may be able to make your donation to SCS go farther! 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 aift 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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*Part-time

Save the Date

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

5:00 - 7:30 PM

2:00 - 6:00 PM

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

(in

Annual SCS Holiday Auction Elks Lodge, 375 N. Pastoria, Sunnyvale

Giving Tuesday - SCS Open House Sunnyvale Community Services 725 Kifer Road, Sunnyvale

130 E. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

Rides for Toys

Toys "R" Us

Saturday, November 25, 2017 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Programs and Services

Financial assistance for rent, utilities, medical care, prescriptions, other critical bills, and rental deposits for homeless families moving into housing for Sunnyvale and Alviso residents.

Case management for families, seniors, and homeless individuals.

Emergency food, weekly "Produce Mondays," Pantry, Weekend School Food Program, Monthly Food for families and seniors, Kids' Summer Food.

Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to help Veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Work First Sunnyvale, partnership with Downtown Streets Team addressing homelessness through the dignity of work.

Community Holiday 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 senior legal problems.

Clothes, backpacks/school supplies, household items, bus passes and gas vouchers.

SCS Wish List

needed items.

donate-wish-list.html



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