Pivoting during the Pandemic

Over the past several weeks, the COVID-19 crisis has impacted the everyday lives of the people we serve, our volunteers, and our community. With mandated actions like “shelter in place” and “social distancing,” we’ve cancelled plans for our 50th Anniversary event and totally redesigned all of our services.

For the health and safety of our clients and employees, we closed our doors to walk-in traffic and installed an outdoor intercom system so we could speak with clients while they remained outside the building. Before long, a line began to form. We were flooded with 607 requests for financial aid between March 16 and April 16, six times our usual rate. We have dropped off food to over 200 Sunnyvale seniors sheltered in their homes and continue to deliver biweekly food to our 137 homebound clients. And since we’ve had to curtail physical donations for safety reasons, we are purchasing baby formula, diapers, and other critically essential items for families.

The need is great. But we’ve had help throughout this crisis. Individuals, businesses, community organizations, and foundations have all sent contributions and words of encouragement. The City of Sunnyvale made an early commitment of $250,000 to financially assist Sunnyvale residents in need. The city has also provided their staff as volunteers, including bilingual employees to help us follow up with client requests and drivers to deliver homebound food. Many other significant donors are noted on this page—and we thank one and all for your continued support and assistance.

The future is unclear, but we know how important it is to continue SCS programs and traditions that have always brought our community closer together. We may need to have a drive-through Backpack Day, a virtual Holiday Auction, and a Holiday Gift Card Center. It’s been our joy to share stories of our 50 years of service via our e-newsletter, and we look forward to celebrating with our community in creative ways in the months ahead.

As we’ve done successfully for half a century, we will continue to serve those in need and work to prevent homelessness and hunger here in our local community.

New Building and Capital Campaign Status

As we reported to you in our Fall 2019 newsletter, SCS has completed the purchase of its new home and is now designing the space to accommodate our case management and food distribution services. We are obtaining our use and building permits from the City of Sunnyvale, and we are selecting a general contractor through a competitive bidding process. We hope to begin remodeling in August and prepare to move in early 2021. In order to finance these improvements and pay down our building loan in the near term, we continue to solicit funding from generous donors, large corporations, and institutions. Once we have a better outlook on the current coronavirus pandemic, we look forward to sharing how you can help us in our move to our new home.

Thank You to All Donors

“Because I love my city and I’m lucky to still have my job.” — SCS donor

The coronavirus pandemic has created an unprecedented flood of low-income families needing financial and food assistance. We are grateful to all who have responded so generously, providing us the funding necessary to help every eligible person who comes to our door. As of May 15, the following donors have contributed at least $50,000: Anonymous, Othar Hansson & Ellen Drascher, LinkedIn, Morgan Family Foundation, and Second Harvest of Silicon Valley.
The New Normal: Adapting to a Pandemic

▲ SCS staff are protecting each other by wearing masks

▼ Over 1,000 bags of food ready for distribution

▲ Food distribution lines grow in crisis

▲ Using the intercom to communicate with clients

▲ Donations keep SCS employees nourished and safe

50 Years of Overcoming Challenges Together

Sunnyvale Community Services was founded on the principle of helping our neighbors in emergencies, and we have seen our community through challenging times for 50 years. Through local catastrophes like the Twin Pines Manor Apartment Fire of 2016 and the North Sunnyvale Fire in 2019, and the impact of global economic disasters such as the Energy Crisis of 1973, Black Monday of 1987, the Dot Com Bubble Burst of 2002, and the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, SCS has been here to help our community through the storms. Since 1970, we’ve been keeping families and seniors safely housed and providing them food when they cannot afford it. In all our history, we have never turned away an eligible resident needing assistance. Our work has only been made possible by the generous support of our city and county governments, corporations and foundations, and most importantly, individual donors like you. Thank you for keeping us going. We wouldn’t have made it to 50 without you, and in light of the current crisis, it helps us tremendously in our daily work to know we have your support — no matter what the challenge!

Remembering Leslie Lawton

Sunnyvale lost one of our true heroes on April 15 with the passing of Leslie Lawton. Leslie was a tireless supporter of Sunnyvale Community Services and even served as past board president. She also held leadership positions on the boards for the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce and the Sunnyvale Historical Museum. Her famous bottles of limoncello raised thousands of dollars at SCS auctions. We toast her legacy and miss her smile.
Adopt-a-Year Honor Roll

4 Days = 2000 meals-in-a-can

Asha Dektor
Marc Davidson
Ronald B. David
Michael & Michele Cudzinovic
Richard & Anne Crowley
Crosswalk Community Church
Roger Bonilla & Gigi Chu
Jenny K. Chiu
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Chew
Michele Carlson
California Water Service Company
Steve Breiner & Katherine Li
Lawrence & Nancy Lunetta
Julie Luckcuck
Steve Breiner & Katherine Li
Lawrence & Nancy Lunetta
Julie Luckcuck

2 days = 1200 of tuna

John & Linda Adams
The Shiu Family
Kathleen & Mark Peters
Tiang Lye Khoo
Hunter Properties
Virginia Gelczis
Elaheh Gattozzi
Dean & Wilma Chu
Central Park Elementary
Erin Buteau
Roshan Baliga & Nenuca Concepcion
Rimas Svarcas
St. Mark Lutheran Church
Level 10 Construction
Glenn & Cynthia Hendricks
John Finney
City of Sunnyvale
Citrix - Corporate Citizenship Committee
Robert & Christine Cloke
Mary Ellen & Stephen Barasch
The Babulak Fund
Amazon
Lynn & Bill Crane
3 Days = 3,000 quarts of milk

Amazon
Lynn & Bill Crane
3 Days = 300 jars of peanut

Amazon
Lynn & Bill Crane
3 Days = 300 jars of peanut

Amazon
Lynn & Bill Crane
Thanks from SCS Clients

Family impacted by COVID-19

A special thank-you note from my 4-year-old son on behalf of our family...

Single mother, laid off during shelter-in-place

This money is a blessing to me and my daughter!! My gratitude & appreciation is 100%!! Wow! The time I was at the lowest was today until you called me.

Family unemployment crisis

I really appreciate Sunnyvale Community Services for helping me at this time of need. This really means a lot. Thank you so much. You have no idea how relieved I am for the month of May. My EDD [unemployment payment] has not kicked in yet. I hope that too comes soon so that I can run my family household...

How You Can Help

GIVE TO THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND

Thank you for joining with us as one community. Together we will face this pandemic crisis. Your financial contribution to our relief fund will help us with the following:

- Provide emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, medical bills, and other expenses
- Pay for food and grocery gift cards
- Support staffing costs so we can quickly and compassionately help clients
- Supply protective equipment for staff and increase the sanitization of our facilities

Ultimately, your generous contribution will enable SCS to cover a family’s greatest need.

DONATE Today!

svcommunityservices.org/donate-online

2020 Calendar

- **Backpack Day**  
  August 2020
- **Holiday Auction**  
  November 2020
- **Holiday Center**  
  December 2020
- **Giving Tuesday Open House**  
  December 2020

All events are tentative. Be sure to join our email list for the latest updates.

Subscribe for News

Stay up to date with the latest news and information from SCS. Subscribe to our email list.

svcommunityservices.org/mailing-list