



Sunnyvale Community Services

Preventing Homelessness and Hunger in Our Local Community



**THE CAMPAIGN FOR
OUR NEW HOME**

**A PLACE FOR HELP
AND HOPE**

A collage of fresh vegetables and fruits. The background features large green leafy vegetables, celery stalks, and several red tomatoes. In the foreground, there are a red apple, an orange, and a head of broccoli. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid in the center, containing the text.

Our vision is a
community where
everyone has a
home with food
on the table.



Dear Friend,

In our work every day, we talk a lot about numbers: 50% client growth in the past five years, 10,318 people served in fiscal year 2019-20, and more than two million pounds of food distributed last year.

But the most important number is one: the one person or family who comes to us in need of help. At Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS), we focus on the specific needs of each individual, ensuring that everyone who comes to our door gets the help they need to be sheltered and fed. Volunteers and donors have made this work possible, supporting us in countless ways as we have evolved to meet the changing needs of our community over the past five decades.



As we celebrate our 50th year, we have embarked on our most exciting and challenging journey to date: the acquisition and improvement of a new building that will enable us to continue serving our growing client population.

The local community need for safety-net services was growing rapidly even before the COVID-19 pandemic. The regulations that have been implemented during the COVID-19 crisis, including social distancing and county health and safety protocols, have reinforced how much we have outgrown the building we've occupied for 18 years. Thankfully, we have found a much larger facility elsewhere in Sunnyvale; once it is renovated, it will offer enough space to meet our clients' needs for decades to come.

You can help make this exciting transformation a reality. We have launched *The Campaign for Our New Home*, an effort to raise \$15 million to support the purchase and renovation of our new Sunnyvale home. **The wonderful news is that, thanks to early supporters, we are more than halfway to our goal!** But we still have work to do, and we are asking for your help.

Please read about *The Campaign for Our New Home* in the pages that follow. This is more than a fundraising effort. This is a **call to action** to our donors, volunteers, and neighbors to provide help and hope for every individual who comes to us in need. Thank you for considering a gift to help build a stronger community.

With warmest gratitude,

Marie Bernard
Executive Director
Sunnyvale Community Services

Everyone matters.

At Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS), we believe that every member of our community deserves a stable home and healthy food. We also believe our community is richer because of the variety of the people who comprise it.

With those beliefs at our core, and spurred by the rapidly growing community need, we know we have to increase our capacity to serve. We want to become a place where clients can access critical resources from our SCS team and partner agencies all under one roof. Our goal is to fully serve everyone who comes to us in need of help.

Sunnyvale Community Services prevents homelessness and hunger for our neighbors in need by providing nutritious food, emergency financial assistance, case management, and referrals to other resources. SCS also provides housing assistance and work experience for those who are homeless.

“

They have so much to offer to people who are down and out — SCS is somewhere we can come and ask for help and not be looked down upon.

”

— Sean, SCS Client



We are one community.

Our clients are our neighbors, co-workers, friends, and families who live and work here. They are schoolchildren, seniors, adults, and young people who reflect the rich diversity of our region.

Some of our clients have already slipped into homelessness. Many are managing to pay their rent but must cut back on food, medications, or other basic necessities to afford housing. Most of the adults are working — sometimes juggling multiple jobs — and never dreamed they would need to ask for help to provide for themselves or their families. The step they take to connect with Sunnyvale Community Services is a brave one.

But once they cross our threshold, they find help and hope.

We treat each person with compassion and respect. We meet them where they are, without judgment, delivering immediate help for their most urgent needs and carving out the best path toward greater stability.

“

To know that you're not alone is everything.

”

— Keyana, SCS Client



Our services prevent homelessness and hunger.

Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS) was formed in 1970 with the mission to help neighbors in their hour of need. We have secured housing for families that are victims of fires or other tragedies. And we have provided financial aid to families impacted by global recessions and COVID-19. Helping with personal and community emergencies is a critical part of our work.

Our region's housing crisis and growing income divide have led to more people becoming homeless. In recent years we have increased our focus on intensive case management for those who are most at risk of homelessness. **Early and comprehensive intervention gives our clients the greatest opportunity to remain in their homes.**

We have several core service programs, and we work in partnership with more than 30 community agencies so that our clients can benefit from a wealth of specialized expertise and resources.

Together with our supporters, we have been changing lives for 50 years.

After receiving emergency financial assistance from SCS, 90% of families surveyed were still housed 60 days later.



We help kids succeed.

More than a third of SCS clients are children. These youngest members of our community need nutritious food and other support to help them succeed in school — and in life.

Over the summer, when low-income kids aren't getting free or reduced-price meals at school, our Children's Summer Nutrition Program makes sure they stay well fed. We give households with children special kid-friendly foods like peanut butter, mac 'n' cheese, and applesauce, along with essential basics such as milk, rice, beans, tortillas, and canned vegetables.

Before the start of every new school year, SCS's Backpack Day gets young learners ready to work and play. We give each school-age client a brand-new backpack plus age-appropriate school supplies and a gift card for new shoes. We also provide backpack necessities to K-12 schools in Sunnyvale throughout the school year for other students who need them.

Children are our future. SCS's safety-net services help strengthen and prepare them to do their best!



125

Our healthy food distributions for a typical family of four provide **125 meals per month**, saving money for rent and other necessities.

ROCK 'N' ROLL
WINTER AT FIVE

The need is growing.

For five decades, we have been a vital safety net for the community. But our client numbers were skyrocketing even before the COVID-19 crisis — up 50% over five years — and there's no end in sight. Last fiscal year, we served 10,318 clients with one or more services; 88% of them participated in our food programs, which distributed over two million pounds of food. Of the clients receiving food, 802 were homeless when they came to us for help.

The need for food and services has exceeded our building's capacity, and we anticipate continued rapid growth — to 13,000+ clients in five years' time.

Due to space limitations today:

- We were unable to continue our volunteer operations during the COVID-19 crisis; we continue to turn away all but a handful of volunteers today.
- Clients, volunteers, and staff must park offsite and cross busy streets to reach our building.
- We are unable to host additional programs and training classes on site.
- We juggle offices and staff to host confidential client discussions.
- When other agencies offer to bring their free services to our site, we have to turn them away.

Client Growth



With 50% client growth, we are stretched beyond capacity. We need a bigger facility to meet community need.

We have found our new home.

Our new facility is located in Sunnyvale and is three times larger than our current building. With your help, it will be a home for help and hope.

The new building will give us:

- Spacious volunteer work areas
- Ample, safe parking
- Twice as much warehouse space
- More than double the room for private client consultations
- Flexible multi-purpose rooms for staff and community gatherings
- More room for partner agencies to offer services on site

With our new home, we can better meet the needs of every person who comes to our door for years to come.

“

The new facility will allow SCS to efficiently manage the two million pounds of food Second Harvest provides annually and allow expanded food capacity for weekly distributions to SCS's clients.

”

— Tracy Weatherby
VP Strategy & Advocacy
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley



We need your help.

Our goal is to raise \$15 million to support the purchase and renovation of the new facility. That's why we have launched *The Campaign for Our New Home*.

Every dollar donated will increase our ability to serve more people more efficiently and effectively. **A special gift to this campaign will ensure that our new facility becomes a place for help and hope for those in need for years to come.**

Please consider making a one-time, special gift at www.svcommunityservices.org/newhome.

Our goal is to raise \$15 million. We are more than halfway there!



Your gift will have an impact for generations.

The Campaign for Our New Home is about more than brick and mortar; it's about building hope, security, stability, wellness, and resilience for local families and individuals. And it's about building a community that is stronger for us all.

We invite you to learn more about Sunnyvale Community Services' programs, services, and vision for a stronger future by visiting www.svcommunityservices.org/newhome.

“

When you get help from SCS, you can walk down any street, hold your head high, and know that you really, truly are somebody and that you have value.

”

— Patrick, SCS Client

Together we are building a stronger community.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR OUR NEW HOME

A PLACE FOR HELP AND HOPE

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Sunnyvale Community Services

www.svcommunityservices.org/our-new-home
campaign@svcommunityservices.org | 408-470-3156



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