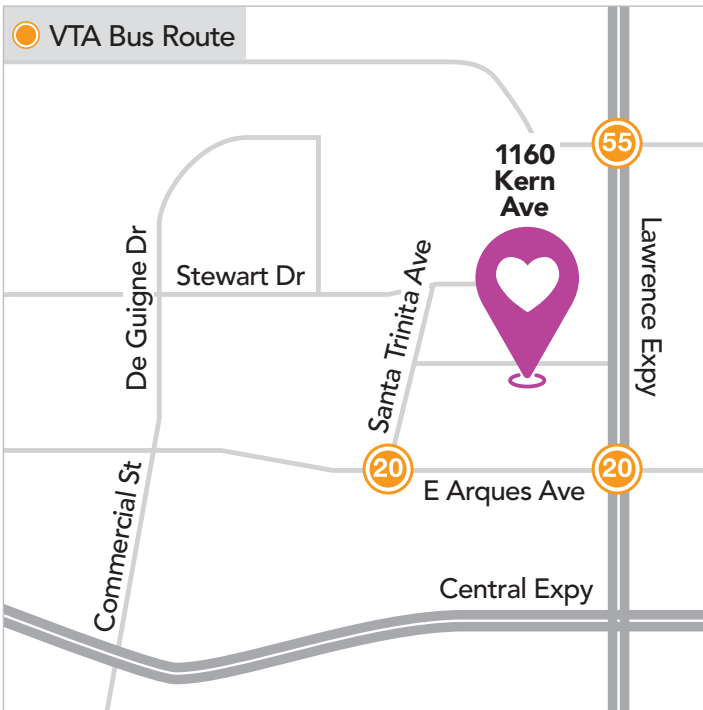




Sunnyvale Community Services

Preventing Homelessness and Hunger in Our Local Community

Fall 2021



WHERE THE HEART IS Our New Home!

Effective November 1st, SCS has a new home and a new address. The 36,000 square foot facility means that more of our neighbors will get early intervention, private case management, and transformational services than at any time in our history.

Please note our new address: 1160 Kern Avenue in Sunnyvale. Turn to page five to learn how our new home will help our community. ■

COMING SOON Holiday Cheer

Much like the Grinch, COVID-19 has again put a damper on our plans for in-person events, but not on our holiday spirit! With your help, SCS will provide gift cards for presents and extra holiday groceries to 4,500 of our neighbors at our drive-through events. Thanks to our matching gift sponsors: **Facebook, Google, Intuitive Surgical, LinkedIn, and Star One Credit Union**, your contributions are doubled!

Stay tuned for an online virtual tour of our new home on GivingTuesday (November 30). Don't miss it! Subscribe to our enews to learn more: svcommunityservices.org/mailling-list. ■





Serving with Heart and Soul

We are working on multiple fronts — providing emergency financial aid, connecting

clients with partner resources, reaching out to landlords, providing children with school essentials, distributing food, and advocating for eviction moratoriums. Diverse on the surface, these efforts have a common objective, and one of increasing concern: preventing homelessness for our neighbors.

Even before COVID-19's Delta variant put us all back on high alert, we knew that the economic hardships would persist, keeping low-income families in a state of uncertainty and instability. With eviction protections and unemployment enhancements having ended as

of this writing, the only thing we know for sure is that the pandemic and the extent of its lasting turmoil are unpredictable. Meanwhile, Sunnyvale Community Services will continue to help keep our neighbors in need housed, with food on their tables.

Faced with increasing challenges, we are fortified by the generosity shown by our supporters. Our donors have come forward to help us meet the rising need and continue to show that their bright compassion is a beacon — a symbol of hope — in our community.

Thank you for showing us every day why Sunnyvale is the heart of Silicon Valley.

In gratitude,

Marie Bernard, Executive Director

Thank you to our sponsors!



We are grateful to our sponsors who support our seasonal fundraising campaigns.



A Memphis Miracle

Rotarians, Donors, and FedEx Deliver



Just days before our Back-to-School event, where children were to receive school supplies and gift cards for shoes and backpacks, we learned our 1,600 boxes of school supplies were stranded in Memphis, TN. We needed a miracle to bring them the 2,000+ miles to Sunnyvale so they could get into children's hands on time.

Our Executive Director Marie Bernard called fellow Rotarians in Sunnyvale, who immediately called their Memphis counterparts. They, in turn, contacted FedEx, who arranged for a partner company to deliver the items and covered associated costs. The truck driver, Walter, drove night and day before delivering the goods with a smile with just hours to spare.

"The value of students having their very own, brand new school supplies on the first day of school can't be overstated," says Sunnyvale School District Superintendent Michael Gallagher. "The Memphis Miracle communicates to our students that our community truly values them. It shows in the eyes of our kids... they are more ready to start the school year than ever! That's surely a testament to our kids' and our community's resilience. It's no coincidence that SCS and Rotary came through again, as they always do."

Thanks to our donors, Rotarians, FedEx, Walter, and matching gift sponsors — **County of Santa Clara, El Camino Healthcare District, Facebook, Google, Intuitive, LinkedIn, and NetApp** — who made it all possible. Miracle workers one and all. ■

Global Pandemic Meets Caring Community



Even before the pandemic, SCS had seen a record growth in the number of people coming for assistance. When COVID-19 struck, financial hardships

deepened for local residents who were already struggling, putting many families and seniors at risk for hunger and homelessness for the very first time.

The Campaign FOR Our New Home

We've raised more than 80% of the funds needed to pay off the mortgage and renovate our new facility.



Join us with your gift today!

svcommunityservices.org/newhome

408.470.3156

Few people thought the pandemic would last this long. Fortunately, our supporters have been with us every day, allowing

SCS has been a key partner in the county-wide efforts to prevent evictions.

SCS to meet the unprecedented need for financial assistance, food, and other essential services.

As part of the local Emergency Assistance Network (EAN), and the County's Homelessness Prevention System (HPS), SCS distributed over \$6M in rental assistance and other financial aid to eligible households between April 2020 and September 2021. Using an array of government and community funding sources, SCS has helped prevent homelessness for over 3,000 local residents of all ages since the start of the pandemic. Throughout COVID-19, SCS staff has continued our grocery distributions, giving nearly 9,000 individuals healthy food. SCS has always focused first and foremost on preventing homelessness and hunger – and our work has never been more needed. We are grateful to every supporter who makes that work possible. ■

Our new home at 1160 Kern Avenue

Space Designed with Clients in Mind

Friendly reception area for clients, including families with children

Training and meeting rooms

More partner-provided services on-site

Ten private client meeting rooms

More early intervention and case management services to bolster client outcomes

Volunteer workspace

Up to 2500 volunteers annually

**10x cooler/freezer storage
2x warehouse space**

Capacity to store and distribute 2.5 million pounds of food annually

A Hub for Safety-Net Service Delivery

With three times the space of our old building, our new facility will be a service hub for North Santa Clara County with capacity to serve our neighbors for decades to come. Clients will be able to access food, benefits, financial help, and other services delivered by SCS and our service partners, all under one roof.

Making Sunnyvale Twice as Bright

Sunnyvale is more than our hometown. The city is an essential SCS partner.

For decades, the City of Sunnyvale has funded several of our core programs through human service grants, helping us deliver food and financial assistance to SCS clients. Its funds have supported work opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness, and its Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRR) contract has enabled us to employ a housing case manager.

The City has also contributed \$2.8 million toward the purchase

and renovation of our expanded facility at 1160 Kern Avenue. It agreed to purchase our Kifer site in 2019, and rent it back to us for a fee of \$1 during the months we had planned to renovate the new facility. Then COVID hit. SCS pivoted to serve the unprecedented number of people who needed help, and our few months at Kifer stretched out to two years.

“We are so grateful,” says SCS Executive Director, Marie Bernard. “If not for the City’s foresight and generosity, SCS would have been unable to remain at our Kifer site to



focus on providing those critical services throughout the pandemic.”

“SCS is such an important partner for us,” says City of Sunnyvale Communications Officer Jennifer Garnett. “The funding we provide essentially extends and complements City services. Through the work of SCS’s human services professionals, we can make sure our neighbors are getting the help they need.” ■

Resource Fair Serves Local Youth

SCS recently joined forces with the Sunnyvale School District and the City of Sunnyvale to bring the Santa Clara County Office of Education’s North County Student Resource Fair to our community. The event was open to all families in Santa Clara County, and designed primarily to help foster youth, and children and teens experiencing homelessness access resources that can help prepare them for learning success.

At the event, families had the opportunity to connect with agencies from throughout Santa Clara County who provided backpacks and school supplies, free eye exams, dental screenings, food and rental assistance, case management opportunities, and more. ■

◀ A young student has her height and weight measured by Sunnyvale Host Lions Club President George Clark. The Club also provided vision screening for children at the event.



Partnership Bears Fruit for Home Delivery Clients

In addition to being SCS's Home Delivery Program specialist, Cody Sampson is a former professional chef and social worker. So it's important to him that the 200+ vulnerable people in his program get the freshest, most nutritious foods possible.

In its new partnership with SCS, ÆssenseGrows is delivering just that.

ÆssenseGrows produces equipment for indoor farming using air instead of soil or water — an “aeroponic hydroponic system.” They offered to donate the fresh produce grown at their demonstration room in Sunnyvale to SCS weekly, and Cody agreed.

The first harvest included red oak lettuce, baby romaine, baby arugula, two kinds of kale, and

Gerber daisies. The produce is delicious, packed with nutrients, pesticide-free, and grown so close to SCS that it reaches clients within 24 hours of harvesting.

“We are working hard to develop precision indoor farming technology to help take care of our planet and the people in it,” says ÆssenseGrows Executive Vice President Jennifer Ong. “We’re so pleased to partner with SCS and help feed our vulnerable neighbors with delicious, high-quality food, farmed in a sustainable way.”

“They cared enough to reach out to us so their product would go to someone who can really use it,” says Cody. “They really want to help! If everybody thought this way, the world would be a better place.” ■

“I feel like the guardian of these clients,” Cody said.

“I want to give them the very best I can.”

SCS Home Delivery Program Specialist Cody Sampson samples the fresh harvest at ÆssenseGrows. ►



“ I’ve been cooking for myself for all these years. I won’t stop now! ”

— SCS Home Delivery client, 98 years old

“ Our services make people stronger by giving them that freedom to not have to choose whether to pay rent or get food, not choose whether to pay the electric bill or have a bus pass. **It's great to ensure that everybody gets what they need.** ”

— Jose Villanueva
SCS Facilities Staff Member



About SCS

Since 1970, Sunnyvale Community Services has been serving local low-income families and individuals, including seniors. Today our comprehensive safety-net services include year-round food assistance, financial aid, wraparound case management, delivery for homebound individuals, and referrals to services.

If you or someone you know needs food or help, please contact us today!



www.svcommunityservices.org

408.738.4321

1160 Kern Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085



Where's the donor list?

We have so much good news to share that we have moved our major donor list from our newsletter to our annual report! **Look for it in early 2022 or view our current list at svcommunityservices.org/about-major-donors.**



Are You 70.5 or Over?

You can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to SCS. You'll help your neighbors in need and possibly save on your taxes!

Visit svcommunityservices.org/QCD