



Sunnyvale Community Services

Preventing Homelessness and Hunger in Our Local Community

Setting New Records Feeding Local Children



We help over 10,000 people each year, and that number is growing. More than a third of the people we serve are children. We know that a hungry child cannot learn, and the stress of housing instability and eviction impacts the youngest of our neighbors. At SCS, we do all that we can to alleviate hunger so that Sunnyvale children can focus on school rather than on an empty stomach.

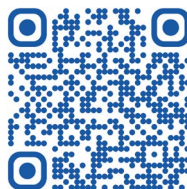
The COVID-19 government assistance programs for food and rent have now expired. With 23% cuts to CalFresh (Food Stamps) and inflation hitting grocery bills, low-income families are struggling in record numbers in Silicon Valley.

Each month, a family of four enrolled in the SCS food program can receive nutritious food valued at \$300, in bags filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, proteins, and healthy grains, all packed by our dedicated volunteers. *We hit a new record in weekly food distributions in November, with 1,288 families (3,595 people) coming in a single day for groceries.*

We provide year-round food assistance and financial aid, along with intensive case management and resources to more families than ever before. We've seen a 20% increase in the number of families coming for food since last year. We're struggling to keep grocery bags filled with proteins and to keep up with the expanding need for rental assistance.

We need your help!

Please think of our young people as you consider making a financial gift this holiday season. Your "Share the Joy" donation will help support SCS's year-round mission to prevent homelessness and hunger in our local community.



With gratitude,
Marie Bernard
Executive Director



Join us
in brightening the holiday for our neighbors!

Community members including seniors, children and families will be receiving holiday food, gift cards and groceries. Your support will ensure that we bring JOY to local families who are struggling to make ends meet during this holiday season.

Open House
GIVING TUESDAY
2pm - 6pm

Drop by our Community Room for a tour, make a donation, or enjoy light refreshments with SCS staff.



See our website for more details:
www.svcommunityservices.org

President's Corner



Fall signals the start of many holiday festivities which comes with a sense of giving and appreciation of what we all have. I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the fact that many in our community struggle each day to afford basic needs in an era of rising costs.

As a hub for safety-net services, the staff and volunteers are working each day to bring resources to those in need. I am encouraged that we have expanded our programs to include more intensive case-management services, to increase services for unhoused individuals and home-bound clients, and to expand the choices and nutritional value of our food programs. We provide all these services under one roof so that our clients don't have to miss crucial work hours driving or taking public transit to multiple locations around the county.

The need has never been greater. Living in Sunnyvale is the dream of families who want their children to have good schools and a chance to thrive. But every day, we see children, families, and seniors who face difficult choices to pay rent or get medicine, buy food or keep utilities turned on. Parents working two or three part-time jobs struggle to spend time with their kids, and the lack of adequate healthcare and sick time for low-wage workers impacts everyone in our Community.

SCS is determined to always be able to meet the growing need for services. We have already seen a 20% increase this year in the number of families with children who come for weekly groceries.

We hope that you will consider increasing your support so that SCS can continue to be the local safety net for hundreds of families in need.

In closing, as a special thank you to our community, we are opening our offices for tours on "Giving Tuesday" after Thanksgiving. Please join us at 1160 Kern Avenue on Tuesday, November 28 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. We hope to see many of you there!

With Gratitude,
Jeremy Nishihara
SCS Board President

Triumph over Trials



Jocelyn* is a dedicated mother to her seven-year-old triplets. As a single parent, she worked hard to provide for her family on a single income in the healthcare profession. But when she needed emergency surgery, she lost her job and her financial security. As she recovered, she took whatever hourly work she could, but with mounting medical bills and expenses, she rapidly fell behind with rent and couldn't afford food for her three children.

Facing imminent eviction, Jocelyn came to SCS as her last hope to keep her family housed and fed.

SCS's team quickly enrolled Jocelyn in our Intensive Case Management (ICM) program, which offers wrap-around support for families. Jocelyn's family was enrolled in SCS's weekly food program, so that her children had adequate healthy food. Her SCS Case Manager secured funding for emergency rental assistance to prevent eviction.

Once the family was stabilized in their housing, the case manager worked with Jocelyn to create her plan for long-term goals. Jocelyn was connected to SCS's Benefits Specialist, who helped her secure assistance for utility bills through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIWAP) for families. Jocelyn's Case Manager encouraged her in her employment goals. Jocelyn's perseverance paid off. She was able to increase her hours and her monthly income to \$3,000 per month, giving her family security for the future.

We are inspired by Jocelyn's tenacity and courage to achieve her goals and support her family.

Unexpected medical costs are a leading cause of evictions for low-income families coming to SCS. Low-wage workers without adequate medical insurance or sick time are one bill and one illness away from homelessness. In Jocelyn's case, the emergency assistance she received from SCS helped her recover physically and financially. Thanks to the support of our local community, SCS is here to help families like Jocelyn's thrive.

**Name changed for privacy*





Ready to Learn

We distributed school supplies and gift cards to **over 2,200 students this year** during our Ready to Learn event. Families use gift cards for items like new shoes or clothing, and school supplies ensure kids have the right tools to focus on assignments. Thanks again to our donors and sponsors for helping us serve our community.



SCS Food Program Innovations



Our Food and Nutrition Department conducts frequent reviews of our food programming to ensure we remain

responsive to the current food and nutritional needs of our community.

We partner with SJSU's Nutrition, Food Science, & Packaging Department to conduct a comprehensive nutritional analysis of the food we provide our clients. The results of the analysis prompted an adjustment of the food offered and a restructure of our distribution model to now provide more frequent access to our food program.

Consolidating produce and grocery distribution guarantees our clients the ability to receive proteins, fresh milk, eggs, and produce every week for more balanced meals. Additionally, packing and distributing on the same day ensures the freshness and the highest nutritional value of food.

New and returning clients report their food needs are consistently met by the change to our weekly food program and we are seeing increased engagement and satisfaction. We are committed to continuing improving, expanding, and innovating our food programming to meet the changing needs of our community.

Resource Fair

SCS' annual North County Resource Fair, held October 28, brought together a record-breaking 381 members of our diverse community through interactive activities designed to engage multigenerational households.

Over 40 organizations participated in the fair. For example, the Lion's Club conducted free vision screenings and Bay Area Community Health provided essential dental care. By promoting trust and enabling a space for safe interactions, the North County Resource Fair connected community members with one other as well as with essential community organizations.

This year's fair featured an outdoor interactive activity area, face painting, pumpkin decorating, live DJ, food and ice cream. Children also had the opportunity to "shop" through 7,800 articles of clothing, generously donated by Goodwill of Silicon Valley.

SCS partnered with the Santa Clara County Office of Education and seven surrounding school districts to extend a heartfelt invitation to local families, with special emphasis to the unhoused and foster youth community.





Sunnyvale Community Services

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SCS Auxiliary Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary



The Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS) Auxiliary embodies the community spirit at SCS. For over 50 years, its members have supported SCS by tirelessly raising funds to support our programs and services.

The Auxiliary members are the heart and hands of Sunnyvale Community Services. Without their early support, SCS would not have had the funds and in-kind resources to distribute food and financial assistance for rent and utilities. — Marie Bernard, Executive Director

Over the last 50 years, the Auxiliary has hosted different fund-raising events ranging from an annual "Holiday Affaire" to "Tea at Two." "People in our Auxiliary feel good about using their creative talents

to help our neighbors," says Sandra DeLateur, president of the SCS Auxiliary.

They now host two events each year: Spring and Fall Crafts Fairs. Members spend months sewing, crafting, woodworking, fusing glass and more to create unique items to sell at these fairs.

SCS appreciates the dedication of all the Auxiliary members and is thankful for their 50 years of invaluable support!



Volunteer Appreciation Luau



Volunteers are at the heart of what we do and our Volunteer Appreciation Luau was our way of saying **"Thank You"**. We could not do what we do without the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the 600+ individual volunteers this year. From food packing and sorting, distributing and delivering groceries, operating our Ops Desk, crafting, baking, advocacy, and countless other work – our volunteers' work impacts the lives of thousands of community members experiencing food and financial insecurity.

For volunteering opportunities – individual and corporate, please scan the QR code for more information.

