



Sunnyvale Community Services

Preventing Homelessness and Hunger in Our Local Community

President's Corner

Summer is just around the corner, and as many of us look forward to a break, Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS) remains dedicated to supporting our community's most vulnerable members. Specifically, our recent Employment Fair, Client Family Night, and Unhoused Resource Fair were all resounding successes! As you can see, SCS isn't just about offering individual programs - it's about fostering a true community hub of services. I've personally seen our passionate staff members and volunteers provide the vital services for our clients each and every day. Please take a moment and read this newsletter for more information on these programs and a glimpse at the impact we're making in the community! Despite these successes, the need for SCS' services continues to increase. We can all see that costs for basics like food, lodging, and other services are on the rise, putting more and more of our neighbors at risk of falling into homelessness and experiencing hunger. Facing this ongoing challenge, I ask for your continued support of SCS and our mission. Here's how you can make a difference:



SCS isn't just about offering individual programs - it's about fostering a true community hub of services.

- **Donate: Every dollar helps! Your contribution allows us to continue providing vital programs and resources.**
- **Volunteer: Share your skills and time. We have opportunities for everyone!**
- **Spread the Word: Tell your friends and family about Sunnyvale Community Services.**

Thank you for your continued support! Together, we can build a stronger Sunnyvale for all.

With gratitude,
Jeremy Nishihara
 SCS Board President

SCS Helps Client Access Benefits

In December 2023, a 65-year-old single man experienced Bell's palsy, causing sudden weakness in the muscles on one side of his face. While still employed at Northrop Grumman, he received temporary state disability but soon exhausted his savings. Unexpectedly needing to stop work, he decided to apply for Social Security and his pension, tasks he was unfamiliar with and needed help navigating.



Separated from his employer in February, he lost his employee medical benefits. With SCS' assistance, he collected the necessary documents, created an online account, and scheduled an interview to determine his eligibility for Social Security retirement benefits. The process of applying for his pension proved challenging, requiring careful attention to both the written and electronic applications, which would impact his long-term security.

After completing interviews and submitting applications with SCS' help, he was scheduled to begin receiving Social Security retirement benefits and his pension. He was also helped in selecting a Medicare B-D plan and enrolled in our weekly food program to reduce additional costs.

Now receiving Social Security benefits and anticipating his pension soon, he expressed gratitude for the assistance he received. As he continues to recover from Bell's palsy, he looks forward to achieving independent living and future financial security.

Ready To Learn



Here in Silicon Valley, one in four children face the risk of hunger, relying on school meal programs for their essential nutrition. During the summer months, when schools are closed, these children miss out on crucial meals. For over 25 years, SCS has stepped in to fill this gap, providing additional kid-friendly food each summer to families in our food program. This summer is set to be our biggest yet, with more families than ever struggling due to the dramatically rising costs of staples like milk, eggs, and cereal.

In August, we are thrilled to provide each family with much-needed groceries and a special box for each child filled with age-appropriate school supplies and a brand-new backpack. To achieve this, SCS needs to secure 2,500 new backpacks by July 19th. We are calling on the community for help to ensure our youngest clients receive these essential items.



Please scan to learn how you can help

Volunteer With Us

Over 2,600 volunteers each year assist with food packing, sorting, distributing and delivering groceries, operating our walk-in food pantry, helping at our front office, crafting, baking, advocacy, and countless other tasks. These past 6 months, we welcomed individual volunteers, community organizations, and volunteer groups from corporations such as Juniper Networks, Amazon, Google, Mercedes-Benz, HP Retirees, Bank of America, City of Sunnyvale, Myers-Briggs, Apple, 23andMe, Sunnyvale Executive Leadership, CrowdStrike, Glynn Capital, JE Dunn Construction, Hogarth, iHealth, Intuitive Surgical, Walmart, and Sunnyvale Rotary.

To sign-up: volunteers@svcommunityservices.org

Join the SCS Sustainers Club and Make a Lasting Impact!

Help us continue to keep our neighbors housed and fed by joining our SCS Sustainers Club. With a monthly donation of \$40 or more, you can enroll in the program today!



Scan to sign up

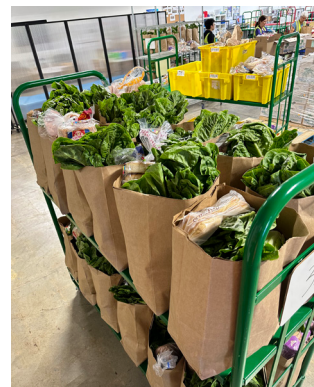
2024 California Nonprofit of the Year

We are thrilled to hear that Assemblymember Evan Low has selected **Sunnyvale Community Services as a 2024 California Nonprofit of the Year!** We're so honored to be included among some 100 other nonprofits in CA recognized for making a difference in their communities.



Food Shortage

SCS aims to provide low-income Sunnyvale residents in need with a continuous supply of healthy nutritious food to offset their expenses and direct limited income toward rents and other essential household bills. SCS has developed a robust food program including weekly grocery drive-through, self-select pantry with easy to prepare and ready to eat foods for our unhoused neighbors, and a home delivery program that provides healthy groceries, twice a month to clients who are unable to access on-site services. We are thankful for the large pool of dedicated community and corporate volunteers who are ready to help at a moment's notice, some of which have been volunteering at SCS for decades.



In April 2023, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, our largest supplier of food, made major cuts to the amount of food they would distribute to partner agencies, most notably reducing our milk and egg allocation by half. In January 2024, another partner agency announced that they could no longer provide ready-to-heat meals to our home delivery clients due to funding issues. Just recently, Second Harvest announced another round of allocation cuts, starting July 1st, that will again reduce the amount of food we receive. With these challenges, it is becoming harder to fill the bags that the clients rely on for food.

SCS food programs now serve upwards of 1700 households per week. With a consistent increase in client enrollment and participation, it has become more challenging to secure the food supply necessary to operate an equitable food program that ensures all program participants receive healthy food to sustain their households.

Over 200 Attendees at Our Employment Fair!



On March 30th, more than 200 attendees accessed resources, worked on interview skills, and submitted job applications at the SCS Employment Fair. Participating employers included Sunnyvale School District, City of Sunnyvale, Starbucks, Macy's, NovaWorks, Downtown Streets Team, USPS, San Jose Conservation Core, Prosperity Lab, Good Eating Company, and iHealth. More than 20 attendees secured employment on the spot.



"Thank you for doing this, this is great. I have never seen so many companies hiring in one place before."
- SCS client

Unhoused Resource Fair

142 unhoused individuals received vision and dental checkups, warm clothing, food, and housing resources at SCS' first annual Unhoused Resource Fair.

Unhoused individuals and their families were provided with free transportation to and from the North County homeless shelter, sponsored by Destination Home.

"When you have all these resources in one place, it's like a miracle because it's so hard to get everywhere."

-Jenna (former unhoused resident)



Family Nights

Join us on the second Tuesday of every month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for an enriching evening designed for families with children aged 4-13. This event focuses on volunteering, empathy, and compassion. Hear firsthand experiences from a community member who has faced homelessness and hunger in a QA discussion. Afterwards, participate in family volunteering activities to give back to the community. Finally, you will learn about SCS programs and services, empowering your family with information on how you can continue supporting those in need. We kindly ask attendees to bring at least 5 canned food items, such as vegetables, beans, or fruit.

To register, please email us at volunteers@svcommunityservices.org.



Our Kids Our Community Annual Fundraiser

On May 16, 2024 SCS hosted our annual fundraiser *Our Kids Our Community*. Over 120 philanthropists, corporate supporters, volunteers, and community leaders attended the event to help support our mission to prevent hunger and homelessness in our local community for our children and their families. Guests enjoyed performance by students from Sunnyvale School District, food from Dishdash, impact video, awards, wine pull, silent auction, live auction, and fund-a-need.

Thank you again for your support for *Our Kids Our Community*. We were able to raise over \$380,000 so that we can continue to be a hub for safety net services for over 3,000 children and their families here in our local community.



Closing Out the Capital Campaign

On December 7th, over 60 donors and supporters came together for our Capital Campaign Gratitude Celebration. We were delighted to have so many contributors join us to see the installation of the new Donor Wall in the SCS lobby.

We were fortunate to have many elected officials and City of Sunnyvale staff attend, along with SCS Board members and staff. It was a lively evening with food and drinks, and we hope everyone enjoyed mingling with other SCS supporters.

Thank you again to all those who supported the "Campaign for Our New Home." Your generosity has enabled SCS to grow into a hub for safety net services in our local community. If you have not yet seen our Donor Wall, we invite you to visit our building and view it in person.

