



Sunnyvale Community Services

Preventing Homelessness and Hunger in Our Local Community

Help us bridge the food gap this holiday season!

SCS now must buy 100% of the proteins we provide in our food bags.

In the past 18 months, SCS has seen deep reductions in our donations of protein foods and staples like rice and beans. The latest cuts in October eliminated all donations of proteins. SCS has already been purchasing half of the eggs and half of the milk we distribute to make up for the shortfalls in donations.



Each weekly grocery bag from SCS is filled with fresh produce, healthy grains, and multiple proteins. But we are struggling to keep up.

We now distribute groceries to up to 1,400 low-income families each week – an increase of 20% in just one year. As seasonal workers lose income due to shutdowns, we expect a record number of 7,500 people to rely on SCS for basic food needs during the winter months. Their holiday meals may be missing the main course unless we are able to bridge the protein gaps in our food bags.

At our core, our mission is to prevent hunger and homelessness in our local community. We are working with new food vendors and will be expanding donation drives to address the ongoing food supply shortfalls.

This holiday season we need your support more than ever. You can contribute to SCS by donating financially, volunteering, and sharing our mission with your community.

Access to healthy food is a fundamental right for everyone.

Please help us bridge the food gap and keep food on the table for everyone coming this holiday season and throughout the year.

Marie Bernard

Marie Bernard, Executive Director



Please scan to learn how you can help

Share the Joy

THIS SEASON WITH SCS



This holiday season, your support will help SCS to provide extra food and new gifts to a record number of our neighbors.

Your donations can bring cheer to low-income families and seniors. The SCS Holiday Center will give our clients the joy and dignity of selecting new toys and gifts for their children. With your help, we will fill our shelves this November and December with healthy holiday foods.

Together we can fulfill our Mission of "Preventing Homelessness and Hunger in our Local Community." Please join us in Sharing the Joy this holiday season!

GIVING TUESDAY

Join us on December 3rd from 4pm to 8pm in our Community Room for a silent auction, facility tours, and the chance to make a donation. Enjoy light refreshments and connect with the SCS staff.



For more details, visit our website:

www.svcommunityservices.org

President's Corner

As the autumn season unfolds, we find ourselves in a time of reflection and gratitude—a season of harvest where we gather the fruits of our efforts and cherish the blessings in our lives. Yet, as we prepare for the joy of the holidays, let us not forget that many of our neighbors are struggling to make ends meet.



This past year, Sunnyvale Community Services served 11,300 residents—6% more than last year and a staggering 64% increase since 2014. These rising numbers reflect a heartbreaking reality: the soaring costs of living are pushing more of our community's most vulnerable—children, seniors, and families—into poverty.

Your generosity will go even further thanks to a generous \$75,000 matching gift from an anonymous donor.

While the need has grown, our resources have not kept pace. Like many, we've had to make difficult decisions, reducing staff through attrition and restructuring some of our services. For our Ready-to-Learn and Holiday programs, we shifted to backpack and toy drives instead of gift cards.

In the face of these challenges, we are also finding new ways to improve our services. We've expanded our daily self-select pantry to give our 800 unhoused clients the dignity and flexibility of choosing the food they want, when they need it. Our Community Navigator program is empowering clients to advocate for themselves, including requesting entrepreneurship training. This summer, through a partnership with the Prosperity Lab, we helped 30 clients navigate the complexities of licensing and permits to grow their small businesses. It's truly inspiring to witness their determination and journey towards self-sufficiency.

None of this is possible without your unwavering support. If you are blessed with financial stability, we ask you to consider giving as a way to express gratitude this holiday season. Your generosity will go even further thanks to a generous \$75,000 matching gift from an anonymous donor. Together, we can ensure our neighbors receive the support they desperately need.

With gratitude,
Jacqueline Guzman
SCS Board President

The Power of Second Chances

Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS) believes in the power of second chances and community support. Our Homelessness Prevention Program (HPS) exemplifies this belief, as seen in the inspiring journey of one of our clients.



In February 2024, a mother relocated to Santa Clara County, determined to start anew after the tragic loss of her older child to gang violence. This trauma led to substance abuse, separation from her spouse, and the loss of custody of her youngest child.

Despite these challenges, she dedicated herself to rebuilding her life. After saving for a deposit, she moved into her new home in November 2023. Shortly after that, however, her vehicle broke down, leading to job loss. Seeking help, she turned to SCS and was enrolled in our Homelessness Prevention Program.

With unwavering determination, she sought new employment, juggling four jobs simultaneously. Guided by our Case Manager, she secured a full-time position as a security guard. This stable job enabled her to consistently pay rent, preventing homelessness. With ongoing support from SCS, she manages her household expenses, budgeting for essentials like utilities and groceries.

This newfound financial stability has empowered her to pursue long-term goals, including saving for the future and rebuilding family relationships. She is also taking significant steps to reconnect with her child, having gained bi-weekly visitation rights in family court, with hopes for overnight stays.

Through the support of our Homelessness Prevention Program, this client has made remarkable strides toward recovery and self-sufficiency, stabilizing her housing situation and paving the way for family reunification.

Become a Monthly Hero
Join our Sustainers Club by donating \$40 a month or more, visit our website for more information.



Ready to Learn 2024

We had an incredible turnout at our **Ready to Learn** event, where 2,322 students received school supplies and selected their new backpacks! A huge thank you to our generous donors, volunteers, and sponsors for making this possible and helping us support our community.



Benefits Referrals Program

Our Benefits Referrals program serves as a vital lifeline, ensuring that people can access public benefits that have the potential to transform their lives.



Through our comprehensive network of services, we provide tailored referrals to a range of crucial public benefits. This includes food assistance, which ensures families have access to nutritious meals; housing support that helps individuals and families secure stable and safe living conditions; healthcare services that connect clients to affordable medical care; and financial aid resources designed to enhance financial stability and alleviate economic stress.

Our trained staff take the time to work closely with each client, understanding their unique circumstances and guiding them through application processes. This personalized approach simplifies access to vital services and empowers individuals to take control of their situations.

The impact of our Benefits Referrals program extends well beyond the individuals we serve. Improved access to essential benefits leads to a better quality of life, as families experience enhanced health, nutrition, and stability. When community members have the resources they need, they can fully engage in their neighborhoods and contribute positively to society. This empowerment fosters increased opportunities for education and employment, driving personal and economic growth.

Ultimately, our Benefits Referrals program is more than just a service; it is a crucial support system that helps individuals and families navigate their paths toward stability and success. By facilitating these important connections, we are building a stronger, more resilient community where everyone has the opportunity to flourish.



North County Resource Fair

SCS's annual North County Resource Fair, held on August 24th, brought together a record-breaking 539 diverse community members for a day filled with fun, resources, and community support.

This year's fair featured 40 organizations, an outdoor activity area, face painting, a live DJ, Fire and SWAT trucks, and complimentary food and ice cream. In addition to the fun, the fair provided a unique opportunity for attendees to connect with vital resources, promoting well-being and strengthening the bonds within our community.

SCS Auxiliary Fall Sale

Our Annual Fall Craft Fair and Bake Sale is coming up! You'll find beautifully handcrafted pieces, jewelry, delicious baked goods, jams and honey.

Saturday, November 9th
9:30 am to 3:30 pm
SCS Community Room
1160 Kern Avenue, Sunnyvale





Sunnyvale Community Services

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If you are not receiving our
email updates, please email us at
development@svcommunityservices.org

TOY DRIVE

HELP BRING JOY TO CHILDREN IN NEED



How You Can Make a Difference:

- Donate new, unwrapped toys
- Gift Cards for teens
- Organize a toy drive in your office, school, or community group

Accepting
toys now until
December
6th

Drop-off Location:

1160 Kern Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Drop-off Times:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
9 AM - 12 PM and 12:30 PM - 4 PM

All donations can also be dropped off at Sunnyvale Fire Stations!



Thank you to these funders for supporting our Programs and Services!

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