



Sunnyvale Community Services

Preventing Homelessness and Hunger in Our Local Community

President's Corner

It is with deep gratitude and excitement that I step into the role of President of the Board of Directors at Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS) this summer. Since joining the Board in Fall 2022, I've witnessed firsthand the powerful impact this organization has on the lives of our neighbors who are facing hunger, housing insecurity and other hardships.



I'm honored to work alongside our dedicated Board and Executive Director Marie Bernard, whose stewardship over the past 15 years has helped transform SCS into a vital hub of comprehensive services for those in need. Each time I visit SCS, I'm inspired by the passion and compassion of our staff and volunteers—the true heart of this organization, without whom we could not serve more than 11,300 clients each year. I invite those who haven't yet had the chance, to spend a day volunteering at SCS—there is no better way to experience what makes SCS such a special place.

In an era when essential safety-net services are being reduced and the cost of living continues to rise, the work of SCS has never been more critical—or more urgent. With rising food prices and reduced donations from some of our partner agencies, SCS has increasingly needed to supplement the purchase of nutritious staples like milk, protein, and eggs—ensuring that families can continue to put healthy meals on the table. The generosity of our donors allows SCS to bridge these critical gaps and provide essential services with dignity and care.

While the challenges ahead are significant, I'm confident in our community's resilience. We look forward to continuing to find creative, collaborative solutions to maximize our impact and ensure that every member of our community has the opportunity to thrive.

With gratitude,
Rachel Zlotziver
 Incoming Board President



Sunnyvale Community Services

Sunnyvale Community Services has been keeping our neighbors housed and fed since 1970. We are so excited to be celebrating 55 years! Sunnyvale Community Services has grown to over 45 staff and serving over 11,300 clients annually.

SCS Offers Guidance and Support

When John lost his wife, his world changed overnight. Suddenly alone after decades of partnership, he faced not just grief, but the heavy burden of navigating daily life on a limited fixed income. The emotional toll made it difficult to maintain consistent work, and before long, the bills piled up and his savings disappeared. He was at risk of losing everything.

John turned to Sunnyvale Community Services for guidance and support. Matched with a compassionate case manager, John found more than just support, he found an advocate. Together, they identified his most urgent needs and created a plan to rebuild his life. His case manager helped him apply for CalFresh, ensuring he had reliable access to nutritious food, and enrolled him in our food distribution program, stretching his budget and easing daily stress.

With steady encouragement, John regained the confidence to re-enter the workforce. He landed a part-time job that brought back a sense of purpose and routine. But even with his new income, the high cost of living meant he still couldn't cover all his expenses.

When John fell behind on rent, his case manager acted quickly helping him apply for emergency rental assistance. The support came just in time, preventing eviction and keeping John safely housed. Today, John is stable, employed, and hopeful. He continues to receive check-ins and guidance from his case manager as he works toward long-term independence.

55 Years Strong: Fighting Hunger and Homelessness, Fueling Hope

As Sunnyvale Community Services marks 55 years of service to the local community, our mission of preventing hunger and homelessness is more urgent than ever—especially for our children.



Our Children are our Future

Last year, SCS assisted 11,300 low-income individuals with safety-net services. Children make up a third of our client base, even though they are just 22% of Sunnyvale's total population. Over the past year, we've seen 800 unhoused individuals seeking help – and nearly a quarter of the homeless people we serve are children.

While the challenges are immense, we press on. Every week, volunteers deliver snacks to nine local schools and pack thousands of food bags that keep children and families fed. Our self-select food pantry is stocked with kid-friendly options for families without kitchens. Over the summer, our Children's Nutrition Program and Ready to Learn backpack drive ensure kids have the nutritious food they need to thrive and the basic supplies they need to start the school year right. We do this work because every child deserves a safe home, a full stomach, and the chance to thrive.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Ongoing donor support is essential to sustaining these vital SCS programs while critical support programs face deep cuts. The work of SCS is powered by community—neighbors helping neighbors. From local businesses and service groups to individual volunteers and donors, your support ensures that every child has a chance at a stable, hopeful future.

Thank you for being part of our shared effort to support our local community, and especially our children!

With gratitude,
Marie Bernard
Executive Director



Helping Children to be “Ready to Learn”

In Silicon Valley, 1 in 3 children face food insecurity, relying on school meals for daily nourishment. When school is out for summer, many lose access to those vital meals. Families living on the margins struggle to secure the resources their children need to be ready for a new school year.

Through our “Ready to Learn” initiative, SCS bridges that gap by providing food and essential school supplies to help children thrive. Our Children's Summer Nutrition Assistance Program (CSNAP) provides healthy, kid-friendly foods to families when school meals are not available.

In August, our Backpack Program will provide 2,500 K–12 students with brand-new backpacks and school supply boxes, ensuring they have the tools and confidence to succeed.

We're collecting backpacks now through August 1 to meet the growing need.

For over 30 years, SCS has helped low-income students to be nourished and ready to start the school year with backpacks and school supplies. Your support helps ensure that our children can thrive.





Community Wellness Fair

On March 8th, SCS proudly hosted our Community Wellness Resource Fair, welcoming more than 500 community members and 64 partner organizations. This event brought together a wide spectrum of services under one roof ranging from healthcare, education, and employment support to legal aid, housing assistance, and mental health resources. By centralizing access to these vital services, the fair served as a one-stop hub for wraparound support, helping individuals and families to connect with the tools they need to thrive. Families and seniors accessed vital resources in an inclusive environment with opportunities to connect, participate in engaging activities, and feel valued members of the community. We're deeply grateful to our sponsors, including El Camino Healthcare District, and the many community partners who helped make this day possible. Together, we're advancing community health by ensuring that support is accessible, comprehensive, and centered on dignity.

Unhoused Resource Fair

On May 3rd, SCS welcomed more than 120 of our unhoused neighbors to a one-day event designed to deliver critical support with minimal barriers. With over 20 partner organizations on site, attendees accessed food, housing resources, and other essential services, all in one place. Free transportation to and from the North County Shelter ensured that those in need could attend safely and easily. This event reflects our commitment to reducing barriers and connecting people directly to the support they need.



Auxiliary Spring Craft Fair

This special semi-annual event offers a delightful selection of hand-made gifts for friends and family of all ages. SCS Auxiliary members and generous community donors create one-of-a-kind items—from seasonal decorations and unique gifts to homemade jams and baked goods. This spring, we proudly

raised \$9,300! Every purchase made at the fair directly supports SCS programs. All net proceeds go toward helping low-income families, seniors, and individuals in our community.

Intensive Case Management

People living with serious medical conditions or disabilities often face overwhelming barriers to stability. Intensive Case Management (ICM) provides the long-term, personalized support they need to stay housed, access care, and live independently. Over 1,200 individuals are case managed at SCS, which is 1 in 10 clients.

Each client is matched with a case manager who becomes a trusted advocate, helping them navigate complex systems, coordinate medical and mental health care, secure public benefits, arrange in-home support, and respond to urgent needs before they escalate into crises. For many, this also includes emergency financial assistance to cover critical expenses like rent, utilities, transportation, or medical bills.

This holistic approach is often the difference between staying safely housed or slipping into homelessness, between managing a health condition or facing a medical emergency. With consistent, compassionate care and timely financial relief, clients begin to regain stability and improve their quality of life.



Sunnyvale Rotary Epic Day of Service

27 volunteers packed 1,000 snack bags, assembled 700 utensil kits, deep cleaned our volunteer lounge and fridge, organized and tidied the warehouse, and power washed all our yellow bins — all in one day!

Join the SCS Sustainers Club and Make a Lasting Impact!

To join or for more information, please scan the QR code or email us at development@svcommunityservices.org.





Sunnyvale Community Services

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Our Kids Our Community

On May 15, 2025, Sunnyvale Community Services hosted our annual fundraiser *Our Kids Our Community*. Over 160 philanthropists, corporate supporters, volunteers, and community leaders attended the event to help celebrate our mission to prevent hunger and homelessness in our local community for our low-income children and their families. Guests enjoyed a performance by students from San Miguel Elementary School Baile Folklórico, great food from DishDash, a new SCS impact video, wine pull, silent & live auctions, and awards.

Current Board President Jeremy Nishihara and Past Board President Shane Jacksteit were our hosts and auctioneers for the evening.

Thanks to the generous support from attendees, SCS raised \$362,000 towards our safety-net programs serving over 3,000 children and their families each year.

Sunnyvale Community Services awarded the following that evening:

Champion Award: Shane Jacksteit

Partner Award: El Camino Healthcare District

Hero Award: Mary J. Bradley

