



Sunnyvale Community Services

Preventing Homelessness and Hunger in Our Local Community

President's Corner

Summer is often seen as a season of rest—a time to gather with family and friends, slow down, and enjoy good weather and longer days. But for thousands of our neighbors, there is no reprieve from the daily struggle to make ends meet.



Demand for essential services in our community continues to rise as resources face increasing pressure from federal funding cuts. Over the past five years, the number of unduplicated clients served by **Sunnyvale Community Services has grown by nearly 10%, with 2025–26 numbers projected to surpass last year's total.**

About 70–75% of our clients return each year, while one in four are new and often arrive with more urgent needs. **Children make up 33% of those we serve**, far exceeding their share of Sunnyvale's population. Families are visiting our food program more frequently and requests for financial assistance continue to climb.

A new and immediate challenge emerged this month when approximately 55,000 Santa Clara County residents lost CalFresh benefits. We estimate that roughly 7,150 Sunnyvale residents may be affected, leaving many households with even fewer resources to cover food, rent and other basic necessities.

Despite these growing needs and the uncertainty around traditional funding sources, there is reason for hope. Support from individual donors and faith communities, most from right here in Sunnyvale, continues to grow. Your generosity makes it possible for SCS to respond when our neighbors need us most. Thank you for standing with our community during this trying time.

Rachel Zlotzner
Board President

EAN Press Conference

On May 20th, Sunnyvale Community Services joined fellow Santa Clara County Emergency Assistance Network (EAN) Executive Directors for a press conference to discuss the serious impact pending federal funding cuts could have on vulnerable individuals and families throughout our region. Together, community leaders spoke about the growing need for essential services—including food assistance, rental support, case management, and emergency financial aid—at a time when many families are already struggling with the rising cost of living.



These proposed cuts could significantly affect local nonprofit organizations working on the front lines to support seniors, children, and working families facing food insecurity and housing instability. By coming together, EAN organizations aimed to raise awareness about the importance of continued investment in safety-net programs that thousands of community members rely on every day.

Ready to Learn

In Silicon Valley, one in four children is at risk of hunger, many depending on school meals for daily nutrition. When school lets out for the summer, so does access to those critical meals.



SCS's Ready to Learn program bridges this critical gap. Each summer, we provide families with the resources they need when school-based services are out of reach. The cost of living continues to rise, affordable housing is scarce, and safety net services are stretched thinner than ever. These pressures are pushing more families into instability and more children into deeper vulnerability. Through Ready to Learn, families receive critical food support throughout the summer months. In August, each child will receive a new backpack and essential school supplies, ensuring they return to class equipped and ready. To meet the need, we must collect 2,500 new backpacks by August 1st. Your support helps ensure that children in our community can start the school year with the tools and the stability they deserve.



Navigating Change, Sustaining Our Mission

One of the greatest privileges of my role is seeing firsthand how quickly our community responds when challenges emerge. Every day, I witness staff, volunteers, community partners, and supporters working together to ensure that individuals and families have access to the resources they need to remain stable and healthy.

This year, our programs are preparing for significant changes in the public benefits landscape. New restrictions affecting food assistance programs, changes in eligibility for certain immigrant populations, and anticipated reductions in healthcare coverage will likely make it more difficult for many households to access critical supports.

As these changes take effect, our role extends beyond providing direct services. Increasingly, we are helping residents to navigate complex systems, understand changing eligibility requirements, and identify alternative resources when traditional supports are no longer available. This work requires strong partnerships, accurate information, and a coordinated community response.

To meet these challenges, Sunnyvale Community Services continues to strengthen internal systems, improve data and outcome tracking, and deepen collaboration with local agencies and service providers. These efforts help ensure that we can respond quickly to emerging needs and connect residents with the right support at the right time.

While the environment around us continues to change, our mission remains the same: preventing homelessness and hunger in our local community. We are grateful for the trust our clients place in us and for the support of the volunteers, donors, and partners who make this work possible.



Scan the QR code to
make a donation today

David Hernandez
Chief Program Officer

From Setback to Stability: One Father's Journey Home

Where does a person go when they've expended all of their financial resources to stay afloat? A 36-year-old single father of two daughters found himself facing significant financial setbacks after becoming a victim of gun violence, leaving him unable to work for eight months. Six months into his recovery and



Stock photo

preparing to return to work, complications from surgery led to the need for a secondary surgery, further delaying his ability to regain financial stability. Recognizing his need for support, he reached out to Sunnyvale Community Services and enrolled in the Homelessness Prevention Services (HPS) program. Through their partnership, the HPS Case Manager worked closely with the father to develop a comprehensive plan of action for achieving long-term self-sufficiency, rebuilding the stability he had worked hard to maintain before the incident.

Recognizing the need for change, the first step in their plan was identifying and pursuing opportunities. The Case Manager connected him with essential employment resources to support his goal of returning to the workforce. During monthly budgeting meetings, they carefully mapped out each step toward financial stability, creating a foundation for long-term economic security. The client was also introduced to the rental relief programs and payment planning options, providing him with the flexibility needed to address other accumulating expenses.

Over time, the client began making meaningful progress towards his financial goals. He established a payment plan for his PG&E bills, a challenge he had previously struggled to manage, and was approved for CalFresh benefits (Food Stamps) to help support his household needs. Most significantly, he secured long-term employment in construction, allowing him to increase and stabilize his income as he continued rebuilding his life for himself and his daughters.

After facing a life-altering injury, months away from work, and the uncertainty of how he would continue providing for his daughters, this father showed incredible determination to rebuild his life. With the support of his HPS Case Manager, he took each step forward with purpose. In creating a financial plan, seeking out resources and returning to the workforce, he found new ways to provide stability for his family. What began as a season of hardship became a journey of resilience, perseverance, and hope. Today, he is not only moving closer to self-sufficiency, but also rebuilding the sense of security and confidence needed to continue being present for his daughters. His story is a reminder that with the right support and his own unwavering commitment, a difficult chapter can become the foundation for a stronger future.

Community Wellness Fair



On May 16th, SCS proudly hosted our Community Wellness Resource Fair, welcoming more than 300 community members and 20 partner organizations committed to strengthening overall well-being.

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 connect with the tools they need to thrive. Families and seniors not only accessed vital resources but also experienced a warm, inclusive environment with opportunities to connect, participate in engaging activities, and feel supported as valued members of the community.

We're deeply grateful to our sponsors, including El Camino Healthcare District and Valley Water, with 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.

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! Join our Monthly family club and make a significant difference in our community. To join or for more information, please email us at development@svcommunityservices.org.



Unhoused Resource Fair

On May 3rd, SCS welcomed more than 120 of our unhoused neighbors to our Unhoused Resource Fair, 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.



America250 Truck at SCS

SCS had the honor of receiving an extraordinary donation as part of the nationwide America250 service initiative commemorating America's 250th anniversary. A semi-truck carrying 40,000 pounds of shelf-stable food arrived to help strengthen food support efforts across our community.

This generous contribution from JustServe and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provided meals and essential support to families throughout Sunnyvale and Santa Clara County. Beyond SCS, this donation helped stabilize food supplies for several local frontline organizations, including Martha's Kitchen, Hope's Corner, Salvation Army Santa Clara, and West Valley Community Services.

We are deeply grateful to JustServe, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the America250 bipartisan Congressional Committee, community partners including Applied Materials Foundation and Intuitive Surgical, and the many dedicated volunteers who came together to unload and support this effort.





Sunnyvale Community Services

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Our Kids Our Community

On May 14, 2026, 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. Guests enjoyed a performance by Sunnyvale Middle School Eighth Notes student band, food from DishDash, impact video, testimonial by a client, wine pull, live auction, fund-a-need and awards.

Thank you again for your support for Our Kids Our Community. We were able to raise over \$420,000 so that we can continue to be a hub for safety net services for over 3,500 children and their families here in our local community. Sunnyvale Community Services awarded the following that evening:

Champion Award:
Laura Escobar

Partner Award:
Star One Credit Union

Hero Award:
Philip Freidin

Organization Award:
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Sunnyvale

