



Fiscal Year
2008-2009
Annual Report
& Community
Benefits
Benchmarks
Center Spread



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5 ways to
improve your
neighborhood
and "make a
difference"
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A Publication of West Valley Community Services

west valley CAN

Community Action Newsletter

Fall 2009

Recession Means More Homelessness

Based on estimates of the depth likely to be reached by the current recession, 1.5 million additional Americans are likely to experience homelessness over the next two years,

over and above the number who usually become homeless. This means more trauma for children and adults, more dislocation from schools and communities, and more expenses for local shelter systems. It means more people disconnected from the mainstream of America.



For most Americans who become homeless, the reasons relate to short-term economics. Sudden and/or sustained unemployment leaves them unable to afford rent, and those who lack adequate support systems lose their housing. This may belie the stereotype of a homeless person as one who struggles with severe disabilities, sleeps outdoors, is completely disconnected from the job market, and remains homeless for long periods of time. While there are certainly homeless people who fit this description,

repeated studies of who becomes homeless indicates that the former scenario is more typical.

By making jobs harder to come by and reducing household incomes dramatically, a severe recession increases the number of people with dire economic emergencies, including homelessness. This was powerfully illustrated in the early 1980s -- the long, deep recession of that period, the first and only time since the Great Depression of the 1930s when unemployment exceeded 10 percent, brought about open, widespread homelessness for the first time in the memory of most Americans, and marked the beginning of the modern epidemic of homelessness in the United States.

NOW OPEN!!

*Family Resource Center
and Food Pantry in Los Gatos*



Pastor Bob Thomas of Calvary Church addresses the crowd

On September 17th, civic and community leaders joined with board members and staff of West Valley Community Services to formally herald the opening of the *House of Hope - Family Resource Center* on Los Gatos Blvd. in Los Gatos. Working in partnership with Calvary Church of Los Gatos and other community-based organizations, this

Besides its effect on earnings for families who fall into homelessness, recessions also make it harder for familial and social support systems to step up and help a family in danger of becoming homeless.

A family member who still has a job may have seen earnings cut, and may have already allowed other family members into her home so that she can not take in another. Charitable agencies like WVCS may have difficulty securing donations. Federal, state and local governments see declining tax revenues, and since most are required to balance their budgets each year, relief programs may be cut.

In order to avoid a rapid and massive increase in homeless families and individuals around the country, communities will need assistance to take to scale the best approaches to preventing and rapidly ameliorating homelessness. For most homeless people, especially homeless families with children, this involves short-term, one-time help with financial assistance and case management from safety net providers like WVCS.

Major factors that could lead to fewer people becoming homeless over the two year period include changes in the supply and affordability of rental housing, changes to safety net programs (unemployment insurance, TANF), improvement in the unemployment picture, and direct efforts to prevent homelessness, including homelessness prevention funding and funding for affordable housing production and assistance with rent.



Members of Midori Kai community group rally together to support families affected by the May 2009 closure of the Bay Area Diaper Bank.

Diaper Drive 2009: *Diaper Bank Closure Prompts Generous Community Action*

The Bay Area Diaper Bank had been providing diapers to local children since its inception in early 2008. In their first year, nearly 300,000 diapers were distributed to local families in need. The diaper bank was able to support families with this need because diapers are not considered a “basic need” and therefore not covered by food stamps. Costing an average of \$100 per child each month, diapers are an expense that many of our families simply cannot afford. As a result, some children are left in the same diaper all day, or parents limit

the amount of fluids they provide for their children. Unfortunately, the diaper bank closed its doors in May 2009 due to a lack of funding. In response to the growing need for diapers, West Valley Community Services coordinated a diaper drive in hopes of collecting a sufficient amount of diapers to help our families. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, over 8,400 diapers, 1500 wipes, and \$500 were collected. Members of Midori Kai, a non-profit community organization

comprised of Japanese American professional women leaders, was responsible for collecting over 7,000 diapers! One member who owns a store in Japantown turned her store into a drop off location. Another member became the collector, picking up diapers from donors and dropping them off at WVCS. Our families are now able to receive the right size diapers for their children. “Thank you. This helps a lot!” – a mother shared with staff after she received diapers.

Corporate Philanthropy: Cadence Design Systems *Mobile Food Pantry - Help For Our Remote Neighbors*

With food pantries in Cupertino and now in Los Gatos, WVCS is committed to battling hunger across the West Valley region. But, without a refrigerated van to transport perishables, the pantries go without the availability of nutritious groceries crucial to healthy families.

Cadence Design Systems and its employees have generously donated a new 2009 Dodge Sprinter van - the region’s first fully-insulated, refrigerated mobile food pantry. From March-May 2009, Cadence employees organized 13 fundraising events including a poker tourney, comedy night and a family festival where several Cadence execs volunteered for the dunk-tank. Cadence also

had 48 past corporate sponsors chip-in, helping to raise nearly 3-times their initial goal of \$50K. Many families with young children find it difficult, if not impossible, to come to the food pantry. Without the luxury of a car, or other reliable means of transportation, acquiring a



week’s worth of nutritious food becomes a time-consuming, exhausting, and prohibitively expensive ordeal. With the mobile food pantry, WVCS can now take the food directly to them, as well as safely transport perishables. All thanks to Cadence employees!

West Valley Community Services (WVCS) is a private non-profit, community-based agency that has been providing direct assistance and referral services to the west valley communities of Santa Clara County for over 36 years. The generosity and strong support of the community-at-large enables WVCS to continue providing *basic needs, family support and housing services* including: information and referrals, food pantry, clothing, rotating shelter, transitional housing, affordable housing, emergency financial assistance, family resource and support programs, and case management services to the west valley communities of: Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, West San Jose and the unincorporated mountain regions.

"The mission of west valley community services is to encourage the sharing of community resources; to provide basic human needs in a caring and dignified environment; and to provide opportunities for volunteers to participate in west valley community services' activities."

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West Valley Community Services

A Proud Partner With



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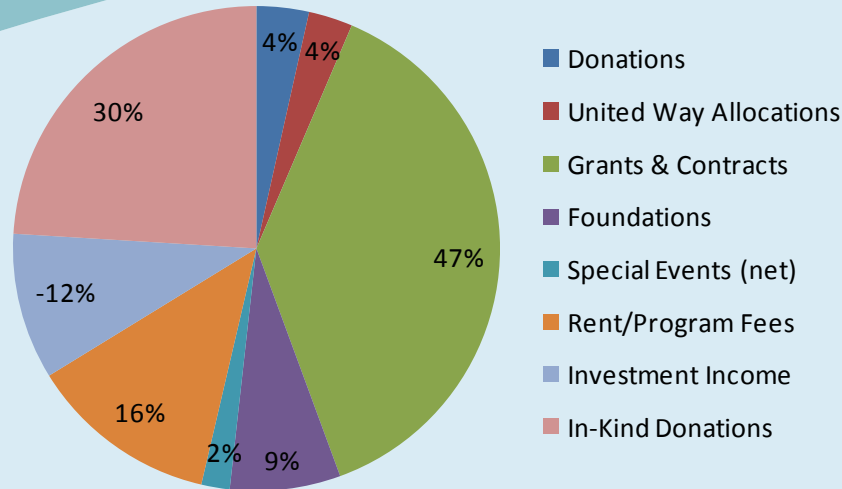


www.wvcommunityservices.org

Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Annual Report

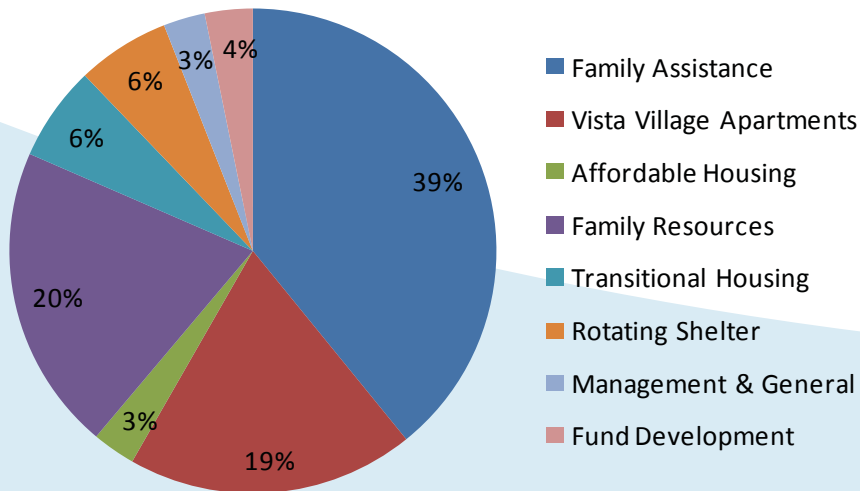
REVENUES

Donations	\$85,741
United Way Allocations	\$72,050
Grants and Contracts	\$931,047
Foundations	\$180,914
Special Events	\$46,355
Rent/Program Fees	\$308,961
Investment Income	(\$238,393)
In-Kind Donations	\$589,512
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$1,976,187



EXPENSES

Family Assistance	\$907,048
Vista Village Apartments	\$444,285
Family Resources	\$471,984
Transitional Housing	\$146,477
Rotating Shelter	\$143,323
Affordable Housing	\$66,655
Management & General	\$64,335
Fund Development	\$74,201
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$2,318,308



NET ASSETS

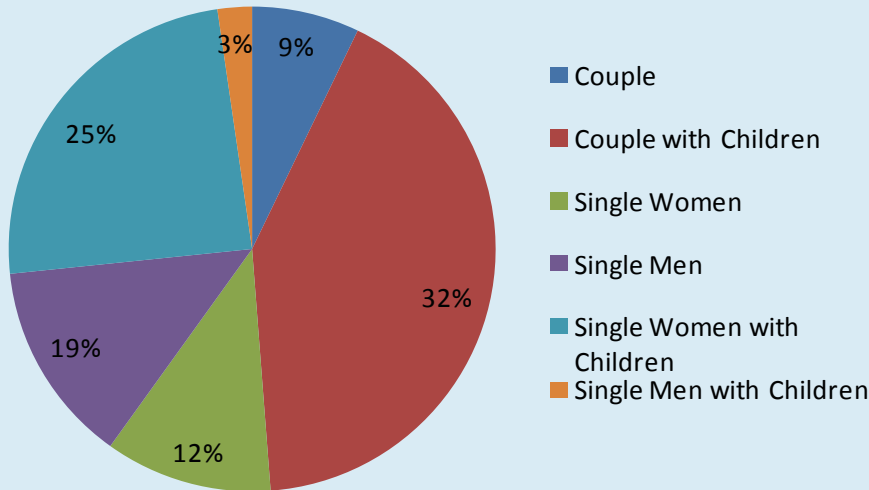
Increase/Decrease	(\$342,120)
At Start of Fiscal Year	\$2,110,802
At End of Fiscal Year	\$1,768,682
Endowment Fund Balance	\$985,652

community benefits

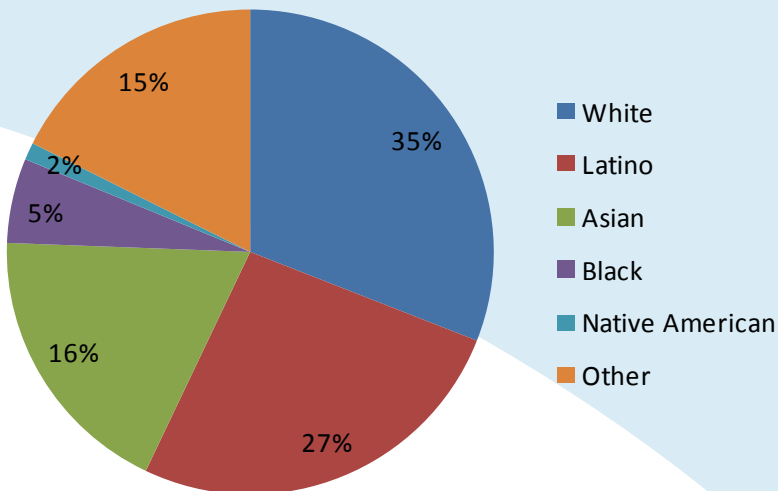
6,043 clients served

294,540 lbs. of food distributed

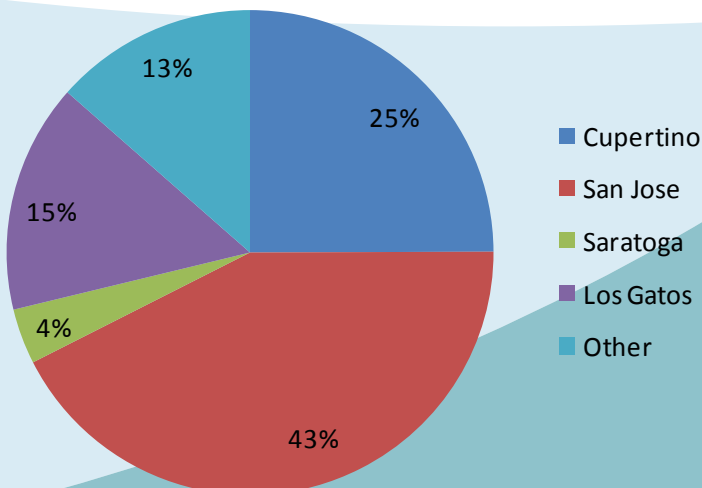
\$ 85,332 financial aid provided



Clients Served by Family Type



Clients Served by Ethnicity



Clients Served by City

- 16,089 volunteer hours
- 567 families received financial aid
- 230 families received holiday food baskets
- 130 families participated in the Holiday Adopt-A-Family
- 386 families received family resource & support services
- 150 children received back-to-school backpacks, clothes & supplies
- 100 homeless men provided daily meals and nightly shelter
- 5,400 nightly shelter beds provided
- 16,200 meals served to the homeless
- 120 monthly bus passes provided
- 72% of clients gained employment and/or housing
- 148 homes placed in BMR rentals
- 5 homes placed in BMR Sales
- \$589,512 value of in-kind donations

THANK YOU to our Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Funders!

*Thank you so very much to all of our generous donors, funders and volunteers.
We apologize if we have mistakenly overlooked an appropriate recognition of your generosity.*

Government

City of Cupertino

City of San Jose

City of Saratoga

City of Sunnyvale

Town of Los Gatos

County of Santa Clara / SSA

CA Dept. of Housing & Community Development/EHAP

Federal Emergency Management Agency

U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

Corporate Partners

Agilent Technologies

Applied Materials

Armstrong Retirement Planning

BIGGS Cardosa Associates

CA Apartment Association

Cadence Design Systems

Cisco Systems

Elrepc, Inc.

Fabri-Corp

Financial Planner's Association

Hanson Permanente Cement

Hewlett-Packard Company

Hogan & Associates

JC Penney

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Kepler Corporation

Lehigh Southwest Cement Company

LMT Properties

Morgan Stanley

National Semiconductor

New World Learning Center

Pacific Gas & Electric

Reesults Consulting

Star One Credit Union

Stevens Creek Quarry

The Franciscan Apartments

Foundations

FIRST 5 of Santa Clara County

Healthy Families EE/CAA

Housing Trust of Santa Clara County

Poncetta Living Trust

Robert and Florence Slinger Foundation

Salvation Army

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Sobrato Family Foundation

United Way of Silicon Valley

William H. Cilker Family Foundation

THANK YOU to our Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Community Partners!

4 Ever Fit	Girl Scout Troop 60475	Presbyterian Church of Sunnyvale
Ascension Church	Girl Scout Troop 60475	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Assistance League of Santa Clara County	Girl Scout Troop 60544	PW Market
Azuma Japanese Restaurant	Girl Scout Troop 60720	Quota International of Cupertino
Beard Papa's Cream Puffs	Girl Scout Troop 60832	Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley
Bethel Lutheran Church & School	Girl Scout Troop 60878	Roasted Coffee Bean
BJ's Brewery & Restaurant	Girl Scout Troop 60921	Rotary Club of Campbell & San Jose West
Blue Hills Elementary	Girl Scout Troop 60965	Rotary Club of Cupertino
Blue Pheasant Restaurant	Girl Scout Troop 60988	Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Calvary Church of Los Gatos	Girl Scout Troop 61206	Safeway
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Girl Scout Troop 61206	Saratoga Federated Church
Church of the Ascension	Girl Scout Troop 61403	Saratoga Rotary Club
Congregation Beth David	Girl Scout Troop 61404	Second Harvest Food Bank
Congregation Community Church	Girl Scout Troop 61405	Silicon Valley Kiwanis
Crawford, Pimentel & Co., Inc.	Girl Scout Troop 61439	St. Cyprian Catholic Church
Cupertino Bakery	Girl Scout Troop 61440	St. Vincent de Paul Society
Cupertino DeAnza Lions Charities	Girl Scout Troop 61441	St. John Lutheran Church
Cupertino Farmers' Market	Girl Scout Troop 61615	St. Joseph of Cupertino Catholic Church
Cupertino Grange	Girl Scout Troop 64137	St. Jude Episcopal Church
Cupertino Host Lions Club	Good Samaritan United Methodist Church	St. Luke Lutheran Church
Cupertino De Anza Kiwanis Club	Hidden Villa	St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge 70	Hindu Community & Cultural Center	Stanford Law School
Cupertino West Valley Welcome Club	Hobee's Restaurant	Starbucks Cupertino
De Oro Club	Inner Wheel Club of Cupertino	Strike Cupertino
DeAnza Kiwanis of Cupertino-Saratoga	Jewish Community Center of Silicon Valley	Sunny View Lutheran
DeAnza Optimist Club	Karate Club - Okaigan Dojo	Sunnyvale Cupertino Adult Education
Dilworth Brownies Troop	Korean Baptist Church of World Mission	Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
D'Oros Club	La Patisserie	Sunnyvale Sunrise Rotary
Dry Clean Pro	Los Altos Garbage Company	Sutton Swimming
Elephant Bar & Restaurant	Los Gatos Afternoon Rotary	Target Cupertino
First Church of Christ Scientist	Los Gatos Morning Rotary	Team EDGE
First United Methodist Church	Los Gatos Presbyterian Church	Teen Commission
Foothills Congregational Church	Los Gatos United Methodist Church	The Mynt Restaurant
Girl Scout Troop 1440	Lucas Trust Ventures	Trader Joe's San Jose Bollinger
Girl Scout Troop 60024	Marina Foods	Trinity United Methodist Church
Girl Scout Troop 60100	McHart's Pizza	Union Church of Cupertino
Girl Scout Troop 60253	New Life Church	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Sunnyvale
Girl Scout Troop 60267	Northwest YMCA	United Way California
Girl Scout Troop 60382	Outback Restaurant	West Valley Library
Girl Scout Troop 60400		West Valley Presbyterian Church
		Whole Foods Cupertino

THANK YOU to our Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Donors!

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former blight to the community has since been transformed into a food pantry and family resource center – a new source of hope for those in need in the Town of Los Gatos and its surrounding communities.

With one all volunteer-operated food pantry in Cupertino, this second pantry location in Los Gatos helps WVCS further its mission to battle hunger in Silicon Valley. In addition to the food pantry and nutrition education classes, case management services and family support resources are also provided. For children and families whose futures are being jeopardized by their poverty, the *House of Hope – Family Resource Center* provides immediate improved access to wholesome foods, especially nutritious, but perishable foods like fresh produce, meat and dairy

products. Nutritious groceries, fresh produce in particular, play an important role in keeping families healthy. All too frequently however, families with young children in Los Gatos and the surrounding unincorporated mountain regions find it difficult, if not impossible, to come to the Cupertino pantry.

Food insecurity is a serious problem in Santa Clara County. According to the 2008 Hunger Index Project, a Santa Clara University sponsored research study, over 150,000 people in Santa Clara County are living with this insecurity. During the past year, the need for food in Santa Clara County increased by over

20%, due in part to the rising cost of food. Food price increases combined with rising fuel, utility and rental costs push many families to the breaking point. In addition to the food pantry itself, the *House of Hope – Family Resource Center* also includes an all volunteer maintained sustainable organic garden, with harvested vegetables and fruits going directly to the food pantry. Community members can also rent organic garden plots, with 20% of their harvest going back to the food pantry. Another key program is the Raising A Healthy



Executive Director, Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto and civic & community leaders at the grand opening

Eater community health initiative, which is designed to combat the health risks most often associated with poverty - namely obesity. Clients in the program are provided nutrition information tailored to their needs as well as

practical, hands-on demonstrations of healthy cooking and healthy eating, with resources provided by the pantry. Clients also learn how to make the most of the food pantry resources, learn healthy shopping and cooking techniques, and also build support networks with one another by participating in healthy eating support groups and by sharing recipes. The *House of Hope - Family Resource Center* is now open with limited service hours - contact WVCS directly to make an appointment or to speak with a case manager.



5 ways to improve your neighborhood

1 DONATE

Whether fruits & vegetables from your own garden, monetary or in-kind, your donations truly make a difference in your neighborhood.

2 VOLUNTEER

Assist in the food pantry, pick-up food, or help us with special events, just get hands-on and help your neighbors.

3 ADVOCATE

Stay informed, become active and share your voice on national, state and local initiatives that can improve your neighborhood.

4 EDUCATE

Talk to your family, neighbors, friends and co-workers about poverty, food insecurity, homelessness and what we can all do to help make a difference.

5 GET INVOLVED

Volunteer, donate, advocate - when you reach out a hand to one neighbor, you influence the condition of all your neighbors.

To find out more ways on how you can help improve your community

*please contact David Ujita at **408.255.8033 x305***

*or visit our website at **www.wvcommunityservices.com***

...did you know???

Both the overall number of people living in poverty and the poverty rate rose from 2000 to 2008; today, working-age Americans account for a larger share of the poor than ever in the last 30 years. After diverging in the 1970s and 1980s, the gap between inner-city and suburban poverty rates has narrowed. More notably, the suburban poor surpassed the inner-city poor in numbers during this decade, and now outnumber them by more than 1.5 million. The suburban poor have spread well beyond older, inner-ring suburbs, which in 2005-2008 housed less than 40 percent of all poor suburban dwellers. Yet even as poverty spreads throughout the metropolis, the concentration of poverty in highly distressed communities—after dropping in the 1990s—appears to be rising once again in the 2000s.

The Brookings Institution

**inside
next issue:**

Support for Children

Special Programs

Organic Gardens Flourish

Raising A Healthy Eater

Holiday Food Drives: GET INVOLVED!

During the holiday season, look for West Valley Community Services food donation barrels at your local grocery store.

Non-perishable foods are needed, such as: meals-in-a-can (soup, stew, chili), tuna/canned meats, peanut butter, canned

foods with pop-top lids, low sugar

cereals, 100% fruit juices in single serving boxes, canned fruit packaged in juice, and canned vegetables. Food and monetary donations are also accepted at the WVCS office, 10104 Vista Dr. in Cupertino. For more info call us at: 408.255.8033 Ext.305.



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