WVCS Named Assembly District 28 Nonprofit of the Year

We are excited to announce that Assemblymember Evan Low has named West Valley Community Services as the 2019 Assembly District 28 Nonprofit of the Year!

According to Assemblymember Low, “Over the past 45 years, WVCS has provided a continuum of basic needs, including information and referrals, food pantry, transitional housing, affordable housing, financial assistance, family support, and case management services. I’m honored to name them as the Assembly District 28 Nonprofit of the Year.”

We are honored and proud to share this incredible recognition with our compassionate community of donors, volunteers, and partners. Every program and service we provide is possible because of you. Thank you for being such an incredible and caring community.

Thank you for being our partner in the fight against hunger and homelessness.

Girl Scout Troop 60402 Fights Hunger in the West Valley

While cookie lovers across the United States are enjoying their Thin Mints and Caramel DeLites, the young leaders of Girl Scout Troop 60402 are using some of the money they earned to help feed our community’s most vulnerable residents. This April, the troop gathered together and spent $1,000, filling 5 carts chock full of groceries, including cereal, granola bars, peanut butter, canned goods, oil and spices.

“The girls learned a lot on our shopping trip,” said group co-leader Eunice Paik Kim. In addition to hearing firsthand what the experience of growing up food insecure is like, the 10 girls selected, purchased, carried, and sorted more than 388 pounds of food for the WVCS food pantry. “They now know that a jar of peanut butter can make several inexpensive and nutritious meals. Your organization provides us with an effective way to help people in our community. We’re proud to support the great work you all do!”

And we’re so grateful for the work you make possible. Thanks so much to Girl Scout Troop 60402!
An <Almost> Eviction Story

In March – with no warning – Jeannette’s roommates left, leaving Jeannette and her young son Eli with the responsibility of covering the entire month’s rent. It was either that - or face the grim prospect of eviction.

Jeannette’s family’s very low fixed income was already stretched. Each month, the family scraped to cover rent, food, as well as medicine and care for Jeannette’s chronic illness. Finding the money to cover the entire rent was an impossible task.

So Jeannette reached out for help by immediately calling West Valley Community Services. After meeting with a Case Manager, Jeannette received rental assistance, giving her more time to find roommates, and ensuring her and Eli could avoid eviction.

Your support helped give Jeannette hope - and ensured her family could remain in their home.

Volunteers Needed

Back to School Program—August 3, 2019

Each year, more than 170 low income and homeless children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade receive new clothing, school supplies, and backpacks to help prepare them for the school year. Each child will be accompanied by an adult volunteer as they select the clothing they need at the Old Navy at Westgate Mall in San Jose.

To learn about this program, to volunteer, or to sponsor a child, email volunteer@wvcommunityservices.org.

Founder Spotlight
A Conversation with Joe Tembrock

Joe Tembrock has been our strong supporter for a long time - and without him, WVCS would not be where it is today. In honor of our 45th anniversary, we sat down to have a conversation with Joe about our past and future.

Q: WVCS is celebrating 45 years of service, Joe, please tell us about how you initially got involved with WVCS?
Joe: I was very active with St. Joseph’s Church of Cupertino. I was head of the Outreach Ministry and that is when I got involved with WVCS. At that time, WVCS was known as Cupertino Community Roundup. I was on the original board of the organization when it began. We started out very small with no staff and then one part-time staff and then eventually one full-time staff. I was head of several committees and heavily involved. There was no permanent housing for this organization. I was on the fundraising committee and contributed to making the Vista Village Project successful. This is where WVCS stands today. I was involved from 1972 until 2001. Barbara Rogers & I just updated the founding history of WVCS. The dedication and perseverance of many people is awesome.

Q: You recently visited WVCS after many years. What was your impression to see the organization that you initially started?
Joe: When I visit or go to an event at WVCS, I feel so proud and leave impressed to see what is happening at WVCS today. I sense a true spirit of caring and dynamic energy that fills me with excitement.

Q: How did the value of compassion become such a big part of your life?
Joe: My grandmother and dad were instrumental in teaching me those values. My dad owned a business and I watched dad help other people very quietly. A combination of spirituality and lessons learned from my grandmother and dad taught me the value of compassion in life.

Q: What message would you like to give the community?
Joe: Volunteer – It is an opportunity for anyone to make a difference. Life is much more meaningful if you are able to help others. There are many things that a government does not cover or shouldn’t cover and it gives opportunities for people to make a difference in our society.

Thanks to Joe - and to all of our founders - for making WVCS what it is today!
Program Updates

RYDE: Reach Your Destination Easily

RYDE is a curb-to-curb transportation program for adults over 55 living in the west valley. Since launching in 2017, RYDE has provided over 4000 trips to more than 200 senior adults.

Kiley, a rider, has been out of work for the past year trying to improve her health. We were able to take her to the dentist and doctor’s appointments, which helped her improve her health enough so that she could start going to the gym again. Last month she returned to work. Now that she has a steady income, she can afford her rent and living expenses, as well as support her mother who lives in a care home.

Gift of Hope: Holiday Gift Program

Last December, with the help of our generous sponsors and volunteers, you were able to provide 865 individuals with a spark of holiday cheer and the hope for a brighter future!

On the morning of Saturday, December 15th, volunteers joined WVCS staff to transform West Valley Presbyterian Church into a holiday wonderland. Upon arrival, clients had the opportunity to pick up their gifts, which had been hand-selected by donors like you. Clients could then proceed to the gift-wrapping room, spend time creating decorative arts and crafts, or (for the youngest guests) have a slice of pizza alongside Santa. WVCS is grateful for every person, organization, and team that helped make Gift of Hope an unforgettable event!

Letter from a WVCS Client

From time to time we receive thank you letters from our clients. We wanted to share this special one with you, so you can see the incredible impact you had on this family’s life.

“I am writing this email to say thank you for your amazing organization.

I am a 64 year old woman and my case manager treated me like his own mother, helping me step by step with all my issues.

I got asylum in the US when I escaped from the war in Ukraine. I have worked since I got authorization, but my salary barely covers my rent. For the last year my rent increased $70 per month, and I owed debt for my car insurance of $1600. Even worse, my daughter’s husband lost his job and was unemployed for five months, so my daughter could not help me. I felt hopeless.

Then I visited the mobile food pantry and I got the help I needed. I have worked my whole life, raising my daughter alone, and this is the first time I got financial help.

Thank you so much to West Valley Community Services and all the people who work here. Without you I probably would be homeless.”

9th Annual Chefs of Compassion

Announcing our Champions of Compassion

Judy & Bill Wilson
El Camino Hospital

Friday September 20, 2019
Computer History Museum, Mountain View
For more information, visit www.chefsofcompassion.org

West Valley Community Services is grateful for the support of the following partners:

El Camino Hospital®
THE HOSPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Gift in honor of
Mrs. Padmavathi & Mr. K.V. Ramakrishna

We hope you will join us at the
Volunteer Spotlight:
The Friday Afternoon Shift

Friday afternoons are very busy at WVCS because it’s when we distribute produce donated to us by the Cupertino Farmers Market. Each of us has a very important role: Ann offers our clients food provided by the USDA, and on the last Friday of each month, Trishya distributes Challenge Diabetes food. Victoria and I cover the front desk (we think it’s the best shift of the week because we’ve gotten to know our regulars). Janice, Allan, Li and Ranjana work the pantry. Allan has been a WVCS volunteer since 2001, and Li is our invaluable Mandarin translator! - by Carole, Friday Volunteer

Thanks to our awesome Friday afternoon volunteers!

Social Justice Book Club

The next meeting of the Social Justice Book Club will be on Tuesday, August 13th at 6:30 pm at WVCS. We will be reading The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein.

Join us for a lively and engaging conversation, light snacks, and fellowship! The Social Justice Book Club is free and open to all!

For more information about the Book Club, or to RSVP please contact Josh at josh@wvcommunityservices.org.

Like us...follow us...engage with us...WVCS is online!

Legacy Giving with West Valley Community Services

Making a legacy gift to West Valley Community Services enables you to make the most of your personal philanthropic objectives by supporting the cause you care about. As a member of our Legacy Society, you can:
- Allow your personal values to make a lasting impact on the community
- Help West Valley Community Services continue to fight hunger and homelessness in your community
- Inspire others to join in your commitment

For more information, contact Kohinoor Chakravarty at kohinoor@wvcommunityservices.org or 408.366.6096.

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