

Rescued From Homelessness

Wen is 71 years, and for the first time in her life, she is homeless. When she reached out to us for help, she was recovering from domestic abuse and did not know where else to turn. Working with her case manager, Wen was able to move into a motel and is receiving support to find permanent housing so she does not have to spend any more nights on the streets. Wen had this to say,

"As soon as I was let in, I got down on my knees and THANKED THE LORD! You have been a blessing! Have gone far beyond your duty! I love you for your dedication to having me be safe! I'm overwhelmed by the support you have given me!"

Your support makes these services possible to Wen, and the more than 4,500 people who come to West Valley Community Services each year for assistance. **Thank you for bringing hope to our community's most vulnerable residents.**



Heading to the Finish Line: WVCS' Lift Us Up Capital Campaign



Over the last five years, West Valley Community Services has experienced a steady increase in demand as a result of a housing crisis. Our small food pantry and office and aging mobile food pantry were struggling to keep up with the need in our community - a situation made even more challenging in light of a huge increase in demand due to COVID-19.

In response, we launched a campaign last summer to raise \$2,125,000 to expand the food pantry, add additional case management and program space, and build a new, custom mobile food pantry.

We are pleased to announce that thanks to the generosity of our community and a partnership with Edenbridge Homes and HomeAid, we are ready to make this project a reality. We will be starting construction later this year, which will require us to relocate our food pantry and program space during the project. We are grateful to the

folks at KT Urban, who will be hosting us at The Oaks during building construction. We will provide additional information as we have it, but do not anticipate any interruption of services to our clients or our community.

For more information about the campaign, please visit www.wvcommunityservices.org/liftusup, or contact Josh Selo at 408.956.6113 or by email at josh@wvcommunityservices.org.

A Very Different Year: Back to School 2020



For more than 20 years, the West Valley Community Services Back to School event has been a hallmark program, providing clothing, shoes, and school supplies to low income and homeless children in our community. But what could this program look like in the wake of COVID-19?

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to provide gift cards for clothing and shoes as well as a backpack of supplies to 284 young people, **a 42% increase year over year**. While we were unable to take the children shopping for clothing in order to maintain physical distancing, an incredible group of volunteers made doorstep drop-offs to our clients.

One of this year's participants, Anaya, had this to say:

"We are all very appreciative of the backpacks filled with back to school goodies. Also, the gift cards are very useful as none of their clothes or shoes fit them from last year".



Thanks to all of the donors, volunteers, and partners who made this program possible:



You can bring hope to families living in poverty and help make their holiday wishes come true.

Participate in the "Gift of Hope" program in 3 ways:



Sponsor a Family



Donate Online



Donate by Check

Contact Anh Nguyen, Event Coordinator at 669.245.4128

Email: Specialprograms@wvcommunityservices.org

Advocacy Corner: Prop 15

In [1978](#), Californians approved [Proposition 13](#), which required that residential, commercial, and industrial properties are taxed based on their purchase price. Proposition 15 is a reform measure that would create a process in the state constitution for distributing revenue from the revised tax on commercial and industrial specific areas directly to the counties to fund public schools, community colleges, and the local government. A recent study conducted by the University of Southern California found that under-assessed commercial and industrial property allows owners to avoid over \$11 billion in local property taxes each year that should be going to support our California schools and local communities. Proposition 15 will exempt residential properties, agricultural land, home-based businesses and owners of commercial and industrial properties with a combined value of under \$3M. It will remove nonresidential commercial property tax loopholes when property is sold or transferred. The pandemic has exacerbated the budget crisis facing our counties, cities, and schools. Proposition 15 will help bridge that deficit and create a more stable source of funding. West Valley Community Services support Proposition 15 which will reclaim billions every year to invest in the future wellbeing of our communities. We hope you will consider supporting Proposition 15 this November. WVCS is a YES on Proposition 15.

Thank You from a WVCS Client

Your support makes so many programs possible, including a new doorstep delivery program for seniors. Here is a letter from one of our clients that shows the impact your gift makes possible!

"WVCS is saving lives, including mine, by providing food and enabling vulnerable clients to continue sheltering in place during the pandemic. It is a simple equation that results in a vastly improved quality of life and a sense of security in these uncertain times. The line of clients visiting your food pantry represents a wide variety of people needing this extra boost. I am grateful every day for your thoughtful services, quality staff, dedicated volunteers, and donors. Still fearful of going to stores or interacting with others I am especially appreciative that you now deliver to the homes of elderly residents like me. Ironically these deliveries also provide much-needed human contact...because not only do the groceries feel like "Christmas in July" but the warm, happy, engaging Joan who delivers mine lifts my spirits. Seeing her is the highlight of my week!"

Thank you for all you do to make programs like this possible for our community!



Chefs of Compassion Virtual Event

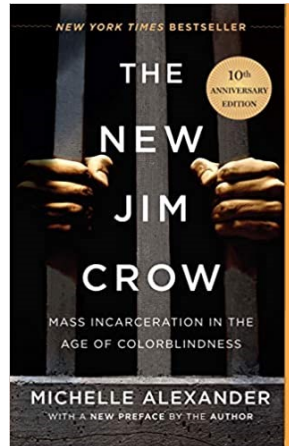


We are excited to announce the **10th Annual Chefs of Compassion** will be held in March 2021!

We will be sharing more details very soon and we hope you will join us in this special 10 year celebration!



Social Justice Book Club



Join us for our next Social Book Club Zoom Edition on Tuesday, October 27th at 7pm.

We will be discussing, "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness", by Michelle Alexander.

For more info, please contact Josh Selo at:

josh@wvcommunityservices.org or 408.956.6113.

WVCS Volunteers and Staff Recognized in the Community

We are excited to share that West Valley Community Services has been selected as Nonprofit of the Year by the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce. This honor recognizes the commitment and compassion of all of the volunteers, donors, staff and community partners that make our work possible. In addition, Executive Director Josh Selo was honored as the Cupertino Citizen of the Year.

We also want you to know that the City of Cupertino has designated August 6 as West Valley Community Services day in honor of the day we were founded 48 years ago. We look forward to celebrating this date with you in years to come, and recognize the collective impact your support makes possible every day of the year!



Volunteer Spotlight: Elaine McGinnis

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

My family, originally from back east, moved often, living in Rhode Island, Arizona, Maryland, and Massachusetts, before arriving in California. Soon out of college, I joined Intel and worked in marketing and sales for over twelve years. I had the opportunity to retire early, raise my two children, and volunteer within the school system and at many nonprofits. I am also passionate about art, spending years as an art docent, and pursuing my own art.

Q: Why did you choose to volunteer here at WVCS?

About four years ago, I was looking for a nearby food pantry to volunteer at and stumbled upon WVCS in our church's newsletter. Having worked at other food pantries and soup kitchens in the area I was impressed with the humane attention given to the clients at WVCS. Enabling the clients to do their own shopping, while providing an abundance of fresh produce, really differentiates WVCS from other pantries. Volunteering at WVCS became a family affair with my husband Ed joining me, and my daughter Meghan, who would volunteer during college breaks.



Q: How has your volunteer experience with WVCS changed since COVID-19?

At first, I think we were all anxious about being in a public environment during the pandemic. I believe WVCS has been quite nimble in its response to implement safety procedures. I miss the interaction with the clients, but I am glad we are able to continue to provide this food service to the community. We are seeing and supporting many new clients as this pandemic has impacted even more people financially.

Q: What have you learned about yourself volunteering here at WVCS, especially during COVID-19?

Someone once said to me, "We do the best we can with what we've got." So often, while I volunteer I think, if I can give the clients a sense of personal continuity and commitment each week, they might feel there is still something "normal" in their lives, amidst the pandemic chaos.

Q: Any special moments you would like to share about your experience here at WVCS?

Each time a client shares a smile, or a story about their life, it is a gift. When a client commented last week that they missed me, I was awed.

Q: Is there anything else you want to share?

I am grateful to volunteer with such compassionate and talented volunteers and employees who care and want to make a difference in our community.



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

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