

*Uniting the community to fight hunger and homelessness since 1973*

### Financial education program assists clients living in poverty



- Participants learn how to budget, save money, and reduce debt
- Volunteer coaches work one-on-one with clients in a customized program
- Program is made possible through a partnership with Bank of America

Sarah is a juggler - not of balls, but of bills. After separating from her husband when she turned 68, Sarah struggled to cover her monthly expenses - even though she was working three jobs! And juggling bills meant that not everything got paid on time. Even so, Sarah managed this stressful juggling act.

But when her ex-husband stole her credit cards and maxed them out, Sarah's credit took a nosedive. And then Sarah was injured and unable to work for more than six months - and found herself facing eviction. Sarah had never been

homeless before; but now, at a time when many people are preparing for retirement, **homelessness seemed inevitable**. That's when Sarah came to West Valley Community Services for help.

After receiving emergency rental assistance to prevent Sarah's eviction, Sarah's case manager suggested that she look into the Financial Empowerment Program (FEP). FEP is a 6-month financial literacy program that pairs clients with volunteer coaches that help them **learn basic money management skills**, such as making a budget, opening a bank account, reducing or eliminating debt, and improving credit scores.

FEP is made possible through a generous grant from Bank of America. With a grantmaking portfolio that includes

*Continued on pg. 4*

### Community support helps victim of domestic abuse and her two children: Hanna's story

Hanna is a victim of domestic violence living in a transitional housing unit with her 11 year old daughter and 8 year old son. Unable to find permanent housing, Hanna and her children had no choice but to return to the home she had shared with the man who abused her. She wanted **a place to live where she did not have to worry about her family's safety**. Originally, Hanna came to WVCS to use the food pantry, but with the help of the housing specialist, she moved into shared housing in Cupertino. She worked 2 jobs to cover her rent of \$1600 per month. Hanna worked with her case manager to find affordable housing, and applied to the Cupertino below market rate housing program. After 6 months, she received a call that she was approved for a 3 bedroom unit with a rent of \$627 per month - a savings of almost \$1,000 per month! Now Hanna and her children have safe, affordable housing, and are looking at a much brighter future.

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## Chefs of Compassion 2018: An Evening of Celebration & Support

With over 400 people in attendance, the 8th annual Chefs of Compassion gala was a big success. Thanks to the generosity of the attendees, **the event raised over \$250,000** to support WVCS' programs and services. A special thanks to everyone who made a donation in support of the fight against hunger and homelessness!

Highlights of the evening included a ceremony to honor former WVCS board member and former Cupertino mayor Dolly Sandoval, her husband Ed Hoffman (*in memoriam*) and the Saratoga Foothill Club. The evening's emcee, KQED's Rachael Myrow, helped make the evening even more memorable. And two WVCS clients shared their stories of adversity and how the support they received from WVCS helped them—support made possible by donors like you.

To see a gallery of photos from the event, please visit [www.chefsofcompassion.org](http://www.chefsofcompassion.org).



## A big thanks to our 2018 Partners in Compassion



**El Camino Hospital**  
THE HOSPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY



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Nancy & Chuck Harper  
Jim Jackson

Seema & Rishi Kumar  
Barbara McArthur

Gift in memory of

Padmavathi Ramakrishna and K.V. Ramakrishna

## Meet Volunteer Bradley Hyden



Brad has been a proud WVCS volunteer since March 2017. When not helping out in the food pantry, Brad serves as an Adult Literacy Tutor for the Partners in Reading program, based out of the Martin Luther King Library in San Jose. Brad is a former SJSU

student, and he majored in political science with a focus on international relations. Brad also enjoys reading science fiction novels and short stories. If Brad were able to bestow official titles and honors, he would crown himself Supreme Grand Admiral of Cardboard Boxes.



## Volunteers Needed: Gift of Hope 2018



Give hope to a low income or homeless family in our community this holiday season by volunteering to distribute gifts or adopting a family living in poverty. **For more information**, contact Trishya at 408.255.8033 x 307 or [trishyam@wvcommunityservices.org](mailto:trishyam@wvcommunityservices.org).

Gift of Hope 2018 is sponsored by:



To find out more about volunteering, contact Elysse Turney, Volunteer Coordinator, 408.956.6115



## When a backpack is more than a backpack: Back to School 2018

As the long, homework-free days of summer come to an end, going shopping for a new pair of shoes, well-fitting pair of pants, and a crisp new notebook can be one of the most exciting parts of heading back to school.



Unfortunately, kindergartners through 12<sup>th</sup> graders living in poverty in the west valley are unable to start the year off as well-equipped as their classmates. When a family is already unable to cover basic needs such as food, rent, and gas, paying for school supplies becomes a nearly impossible task.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, donors and sponsors like you

helped to provide a back-to-school shopping experience for 180 low income kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> graders at Kohl's in Campbell. The heartwarming event hosted the biggest crowd that the program has seen in more than 20 years. At a time when parents struggle to pay rent and cannot afford to buy new clothes, shoes, or school supplies, our community is united by a singular vision: **to make sure our future leaders are prepared to go back to school.**

Thank you to our Back to School 2018 sponsors:

**Nicholson Family Foundation** **HERITAGE**  
BANK OF COMMERCE®

**Rotary**  **Nordson**  **Rotary Club Of Los Gatos Morning**



**Rotary**   
Club of Los Gatos  
**CUPERTINO AUTO CARE, INC.**



**Kiwanis**



And a big thanks to the individual donors and volunteers for supporting this year's event!

## Leave a world less hungry: Join the WVCS Legacy Society



**"We have chosen West Valley Community Services as a charity for our legacy gifts because of the important work it does in our community in meeting needs like hunger and homelessness. WVCS needs this type of community support for its long-term viability."**

- Dorothy and Darryl Stow

### You can live forever through your generosity

Including WVCS in your will is an easy way to make the most of your personal philanthropic objectives by supporting something you care about long after you are gone. By naming WVCS in your will, you can:

- Allow your personal values to make a lasting impact on the community
- Inspire others to join in your commitment
- Participate in special programs for Legacy Society members
- Gain valuable tax benefits
- Help West Valley Community Services continue to fight hunger and homelessness

For more information about including WVCS in your will or estate plan, contact Kohinoor Chakravarty at [kohinoorc@wvcommunityservices.org](mailto:kohinoorc@wvcommunityservices.org) or 408.255.8033.



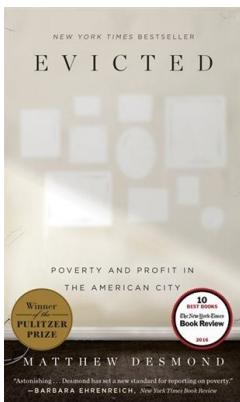
Like us...follow us...engage with us...WVCS is online!

## Financial education program (continued from pg. 1)

human services and financial education for people living in poverty, Bank of America's partnership has been critical to the success of the program. "Our purpose is to help make financial lives better. A powerful way we do this is by working with high impact nonprofits like West Valley Community Services that help remove barriers that keep people from personal and economic stability such as hunger, a place to sleep or lack of education. By working together, we can help WVCS have an even greater impact for more people across the region," says Raquel González, Silicon Valley Market President for Bank of America.

Sarah is still working her way through FEP, but she has made great strides towards paying down her debt and improving her credit score. And instead of the stress of juggling all her bills, Sarah is more confident than ever of her ability to weather future financial storms. Thanks to partners like Bank of America, **and donors like you, for helping Sarah achieve a brighter and more stable future!**

## NEW: Social Justice Book Club



Join WVCS staff and board leaders at the new WVCS Book Club. The group will meet several times per year to discuss books with topics that relate to issues of hunger and homelessness. **This is open to all!**

For more information about the Book Club, please contact Josh Selo at [joshs@wvcommunityservices.org](mailto:joshs@wvcommunityservices.org) or 408.956.6113.

## The story of WVCS



- Founded 45 years ago by the community
- Received seed funding from the City of Cupertino

WVCS first began because of the spirit and energy of three public health nurses who had a vision for a central location where people could get information on transportation, child care, help in the home, medical care and more. The City of Cupertino donated the seed money needed to launch the Cupertino Roundup. In August 1973, the first month of operation, 14 families received referrals for assistance, and more than 100 phone calls were received.

The Cupertino Roundup officially became Cupertino Community Services (CCS) in 1976. Over time, CCS continued to expand in size and reach, joining the emergency assistance network (EAN) convened by United Way Silicon Valley. Outgrowing its space needs at the Quinlan Center, the organization embarked on a capital campaign that successfully resulted in the Vista Village office and housing complex, which opened in 2003.

In 2007, CCS changed its name to WVCS to better reflect our service area. Today, in addition to food, housing and rental assistance, WVCS operates an outreach program with mobile food pantry and case management services, and senior adult transportation service. Now 45 years later, **we are grateful for all of the volunteers and donors who have made this work possible.** Here's to the future - and to the next 45 years!

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