

From Homeless to Housed

Sofia and her son were homeless when they were referred to WVCS by the County for the Rapid Rehousing Program. They were housed within days of them working with a WVCS case manager. Sofia had this to say about the program:

"My name is Sophia. My family and I are completely blessed with this West Valley Community Services program. We were facing quite a challenge, we were pretty much homeless, and didn't know much of the programs that could help or that were around us. I felt completely helpless, as I was and still am the one supporting my family. I didn't know what to do, but when I needed it the most, I received a call from a case manager at WVCS. She informed me of all the help they can provide, and for a split second I couldn't believe it, I thought she was joking. I have so much gratitude for the program and the case manager. Even though I was at my lowest I never felt judged or disoriented. So, I want to thank you all for your help and support. You guys are amazing."



Your support makes these services possible to Sofia and the many men, women, and children who come to West Valley Community Services each year for assistance.

Thank you for bringing hope to our community's most vulnerable residents.

Park-It Market: The Market on Wheels

Our new Mobile Park-It Market is on the road delivering our Vista Market experience to clients in West San Jose, Campbell, Saratoga, and Los Gatos. The program serves elementary school families, college students, and senior clients not only with staples such as canned goods and bread but also with fresh fruits, vegetables, milk, and eggs. Best of all, visitors to the Park-It Market can pick and choose the food they take. A case manager is on board to assist with other programs and supportive services. Volunteers assist our team with setting up the Market, helping clients shop, and preparing bags of food to be delivered to homebound clients.

If you are interested in volunteering with our Park-It Market, please email volunteer@wvcommunityservices.org or call 408.956.6115.



Meeting the Growing Need: Back to School 2021

For more than 20 years, the WVCS Back to School program has been providing clothing, shoes, and school supplies to West Valley children facing food and housing insecurity in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade.



This year our program was the largest on record, serving **380 children, a 41% increase year over year**. We would not have been able to meet this increased demand without the support of **our generous and compassionate community!**

In order to keep our clients and volunteers safe from COVID-19 exposure, we held drive-through distributions at De Anza College, at the Moreland School District, and at the Rosemary Elementary School. We also had volunteers assisting with doorstep deliveries to families participating in the program.

Because of the generosity of **donors like you**, we were able to help so many children this year, and support our young people's increased confidence and self-esteem to ensure the community's future leaders have a successful school year.



Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, and partners who made this event a success!



Partners



Advocacy Corner: What is Opportunity Housing?

According to recent reports, the U.S. needs 3.8 million homes to meet current demand! While this number is staggering - it isn't surprising. In fact, in our region, only 427 affordable housing units were built since Mayor Liccardo and the San Jose City Council established a goal in 2018 of building 10,000 new affordable units by 2022. With 82% of Bay Area residential land zoned for single-family housing, and an average rent of \$3,104 in San Jose, the need for affordable housing has never been greater!

Opportunity Housing is one vision for affordable housing that can help address the housing supply and demand gap in the Bay Area. Opportunity Housing would allow up to four units per parcel, which includes a variety of housing options: duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, and even a collection of bungalows on one property.



Opportunity Housing is one way to take a bite out of the housing crisis, and make our communities affordable and welcoming for teachers, service workers in restaurants, salons, and grocery stores, nursing home employees, and folks that are homeless or unstably housed. Ending the housing crisis will take a plan with many different solutions - and you can play a role by engaging with your City in housing element meetings, and raising your voice in support of affordable housing at City Council Meetings.



To learn more about how you can play a role in supporting affordable housing, please contact Sujatha Venkatraman at sujathav@wvcommunityservices.org

Wine Tasting Fundraiser at the Sacred Heart Parish



Executive Director Josh Selo with Sacred Heart parishioner Leonard Perrone

Sacred Heart Parish has been a long time partner of West Valley Community Services. To help those on the verge of or currently living in poverty, Father Gary and the Sacred Heart Parish Council arranged a wine tasting fundraiser for the WVCS housing and rental assistance programs. Jerry Lohr, a long-standing Sacred Heart parishioner and *Wine Enthusiast* Magazine's 2016 "American Wine Legend," took participants on virtual wine tasting tours. Participants tasted three delicious Lohr wines as Jerry described the background and characteristics of each wine and answered questions from participants.

Through this event, \$12,320 was raised for West Valley Community Services housing and rental assistance programs. This money will help WVCS clients who are struggling to pay their rent avoid eviction and stay in their homes. West Valley Community Services is grateful to Father Robert, Father Gary, Jerry Lohr, and all the parishioners for their support to our community in need.

Look What You Made Possible Last Year



1,155
new clients served



3,442
total clients served



1,166
unique mobile food
pantry clients served



\$1,319,044
financial assistance distributed



1,248,480 lbs
of food distributed



YOU CAN BRING HOPE TO FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY.
HELP MAKE THEIR HOLIDAY WISHES COME TRUE.

GIVE HOPE TO THOSE WHO LIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY
THREE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "GIFT OF HOPE" PROGRAM



Sponsor a Family



Donate Online



Donate by Check

Anh Nguyen- Event Coordinator
WVCS Office (669)245-4128

For all questions please contact: development@wvcommunityservices.org



Thank you to our sponsors and donors for
making the 10th Annual Chefs of
Compassion a success!



A GIFT IN HONOR OF
MRS. PADMAVATHI &
MR. K.V. RAMAKRISHNA



Jeanne Bradford
Bob & Pat Adams

Youth Ambassador Spotlight: Shridhula and Mridula Srinivasan

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself

We are twin sisters and sophomores at Monta Vista High School. In our free time, we like to play the violin, paint and read books. We are outgoing and passionate people constantly willing to teach people what we know. Last summer when the pandemic struck we felt the need to support and help homeless families. We wanted to give back to the community in ways that could support students at West Valley Community Services so last summer we taught the basics of java to homeless students and this year we raised funds by teaching art.



Q: Why did you choose to volunteer at WVCS?

It's important to give more attention to people around you so when we started to look for places to volunteer, we came across WVCS and we are happy and comfortable working with WVCS team members.

Q: What have you learned about yourself while volunteering at WVCS?

Volunteering at WVCS has helped us understand how we can support the community during hard times like the pandemic.

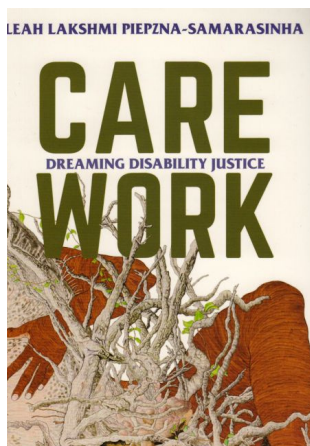
Q: Any special moments you would like to share about your volunteering experience at WVCS?

When we started with our art classes, many students didn't know or have much of an interest in art. Over the course of the classes, the students became more interested in art. It was amazing to see their growth and how they became dedicated to learning art. We were happy to see how the students completed their artwork and asked for feedback after each assignment. This really motivated us to take on more sessions for the students.

Q: Any other thoughts or comments about your volunteer experience at WVCS?

We really enjoyed volunteering by teaching students. Thanks to WVCS for giving us this opportunity to help our community.

Social Justice Book Club



Join us for our next Social Justice Book Club on Tuesday, October 26 at 7pm on Zoom.

We will be discussing, "Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice" by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha.

For more information and the Zoom link, please contact Josh Selo at: 408.956.6113 or josh@wvcommunityservices.org



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