

YOUR IMPACT AT WORK

Jane came to us as a senior unhoused client. After her son went to college, she moved into an RV. Since she could not find a space to park her RV, she had to move around to avoid getting tickets. Being a single senior woman, she faced risks and multiple challenges, including deteriorating physical and mental health. She came to WVCS for support, where she was connected to services she needed including food, laundry quarters and other supportive services.



The WVCS team members worked with her for 4 months assisting her housing search and applying for affordable senior housing while also supporting her in her other needs. The client was finally approved for a senior affordable housing unit. WVCS was able to house and move her in May and helped emerge her from homelessness and find her a forever home. When Jane heard that the apartment had been approved for her, she was so happy and excited. The moving day was surreal for her and she kept expressing, "This is so unreal! I am actually going to have my own apartment, a place to shower, a bathroom to go to without having to worry and plan to where to make a pitstop. I don't have to worry about who to leave my dog with when I have to find a gym to shower!" The opportunity to be in her own apartment finally, after all the years of being homeless, meant the world to her. You as our community members made this possible.

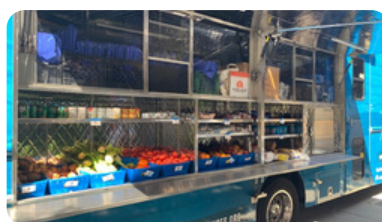
WVCS PARK-IT-MARKET CONTINUES TO GROW

With the rising costs of living in the Bay Area, WVCS's Park-It Market continues to support families' access to a broad range of healthy and nutritious foods, promotes positive health outcomes, and helps families save money on food. The money saved can then be used for rent, childcare, or transportation, effectively stretching a client's household budget.

The locations where our Park-It Market provides food at no cost are Fellowship Plaza, Open Doors Apartments, Anderson Elementary, Rosemary Elementary, Moreland School District, Mountain Bible/Skyland Church, De Anza College, West Valley College, and our newest site, Leigh High School.

The Park-It Market has an incredible number of compassionate and consistent volunteers who come to help us at various locations. Thanks to their help, the Park-It Market team has been able to welcome, connect, and build positive relationships with all of the clients at the Park-It Market.

As a result, the Park-it Market program helps prevent homelessness in low-income households, creates economic stability, and supports better health outcomes.



CHEFS OF COMPASSION ANNUAL GALA



After two years of virtual celebration, our unique fundraising event, Chefs of Compassion, was celebrated in person on Friday, March 31st. There was so much excitement days before the event date that we sold out completely. The event was a resounding success attended by more than 440 people, with some guests coming from as far as Orange County to show their support for our cause of uniting the community to fight hunger and homelessness. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring love, support, compassion, and giving from our communities. This year our participating Chefs were Billy Hazra (British Bankers Club), A.J. Szenda (Bon Appetit Management Company), and Leonardo Ramirez (The Charapa Project). They each prepared one dish of a 3 course dinner inspired by ingredients found in the WVCS food market and competed for the title of Chef of Compassion.



We were incredibly grateful and delighted to recognize our long-time supporters Chuck and Nancy Harper and the Sobrato Family Foundation at the event. Inspiring client stories on how WVCS made a difference in their lives made the event special. We are extremely thankful to all the sponsors and donors who supported this year's event which helps us to implement all the WVCS programs and services.

Some of our guests shared their experience at the event:

"Thank you for the in person gathering. It was humbling to see how WVCS helps the community. Best Wishes always!"

"Very professional and coordinated. Loved all the stories, including the chefs."

"Thanks so much for the logistics of putting this banquet together and for the several moving speeches."



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING DONORS AND PARTNERS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!



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



A Gift From
Michael Rubin & Family

A Gift From
Anonymous Donor

A Gift From
Jeanne Bradford

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We are honored to feature in this edition our long time supporter, Mr. Mani Krishnan, Founder of Shastha Food.



Mani has been living in the Bay Area for the past 46 years and has been running Shastha Foods since 2003. He faced many hardships and challenges to establish his successful business empire but never forgot to give back to the community.

He says, "I have seen success and failure many times. I am very thankful for what I have. The quality of life has been very good and my current success is due to the community." He believes that there is an ever increasing need in the community, as wages have not kept pace with inflation and the increasing cost of living, making the need to support even more critical.

Mani came to know about West valley Community Services about 5 years ago during his search for contributing to homelessness. He said, "I see a lot of people in need around and appreciate the time and support that organizations like yours do to fill the vacuum."

Mani and his organization, Shastha Foods, has always supported WVCS through both monetary and in-kind donations. In August of last year, they came to our rescue when we were facing the challenges of reduced food drives and increased demands in both our food markets. Each Wednesday afternoon for 6 weeks Shastha Foods delivered 100 two-pound bags to WVCS, each containing rice and beans. This simple gift kept many clients and families sustained until we were able to procure more donations and food to meet our demands. We are very grateful for his quick response to our request and his continued willingness to help feed our community.

Shastha Foods was also one of the sponsors for our biggest benefit gala event, Chefs of Compassion 2023. We are deeply thankful for their ongoing support which helps us to implement various programs and services to fight hunger and homelessness in our community.

GIFT OF HOPE 2022

The holidays are an especially hard season for families struggling to make ends meet. Thanks to community donors and partners who brought hope to over 1,300 clients in need. We saw smiles on faces as families took home toys, blankets, heaters, etc. for the holidays.

On December 10, 2022, our annual Gift of Hope event returned to an in-person format at West Valley Presbyterian Church, where the church graciously partnered with us to make the event possible.

Thanks to our communities of donors, Gift of Hope 2022 served many families. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the donors and volunteers who helped make this year's Gift of Hope a resounding success, bringing holiday joy to those in need!



Thank you to all of our amazing donors and partners for making this event possible!



Individual Donors

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ROBERT (BOB) WITHERS

Our volunteer for this month's spotlight is Robert (Bob) Withers. He started volunteering at the WVCS Food Market in May 2021.

1) Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I worked as a Career Counselor for 21 years for the City of Sunnyvale. I would often refer clients to the local community services for help they might need for food and housing while they were out of work. I found that the local community services could help my out-of-work clients in many ways.



2) How did you find us, when did you start volunteering and why did you choose to volunteer here at WVCS?

My wife was a liaison with WVCS for El Camino Hospital. We attended many Chefs of Compassion Fundraisers and were so impressed with the work that WVCS does. The events were so well run and raised so much to help the clients. And Josh Selo was always such a fabulous MC, and has done such a marvelous job leading WVCS. So, when I retired a couple of years ago I knew that WVCS was an excellent organization for which I would like to volunteer.

3) What have you learned about yourself volunteering here at WVCS?

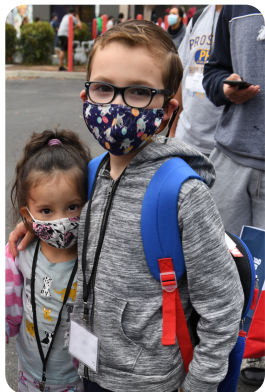
I have really enjoyed spending my Thursday and Friday mornings at WVCS volunteering in the Food Market. Seeing the clients going through the market and being able to pick the food items they need and want, and seeing their appreciation for this service is always rewarding.

4) Any special moments you would like to share about your volunteering experience here at WVCS?

The special moments are frequent throughout the morning as clients express their appreciation. The WVCS staff and volunteers are wonderful people to work with. They really care about providing great service to the wide variety of clients that come to WVCS.

SAVE THE DATE: BACK TO SCHOOL 2023

West Valley Community Services' annual Back To School Program will be IN-PERSON at Westgate Mall's Old Navy on Saturday, August 5th, 2023. This program is for school-aged children entering TK through 12th grade to receive new clothes, backpacks, and school supplies. Thank you for exemplifying your compassion for the children experiencing food and housing insecurity in our community.



- Donate: www.wvcommunityservices.org/donatenow
- Volunteer: Bobbi Bornstein, Volunteer Manager, volunteer@wvcommunityservices.org
- Event Info: Michelle Mattson, Event Coordinator, specialprograms@wvcommunityservices.org

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