

A FAMILY ON THE BRINK: MILAN'S STORY

Milan is a 36-year-old single father raising three young boys alone. He is a construction worker, and he faced lingering income loss due to the pandemic. When Milan came to West Valley Community Services, he was struggling to find work that would also give him the flexibility to care for his family. Working with a WVCS case manager, Milan applied for emergency rental assistance, and began to visit the WVCS Market for food. Milan had this to say about his experience with WVCS.



"I would like to personally give a very big thank you to my case manager and WVCS for blessing me and my family with emergency assistance and food. I have a family of 4 with 3 boys and suddenly financial hardship hit us early this year. With no money for rent, utilities, and food, I did not know the future. While looking for rent assistance programs, I came across WVCS. My case manager reached out to me speedily, helping me work on the necessary steps to receive help. No other programs that I had applied to had even reached out to me by the time my case manager had my application in

process. The professionalism and integrity that my case manager displayed were what helped me see WVCS' sincerity and that I would not experience homelessness with my family. Immensely grateful and thankful beyond words. Thank you to the whole WVCS family."

Milan is back to work, and his children are thriving now that the threat of eviction and homelessness have abated. Your support helped Milan weather this storm and has provided assistance to the more than 4,400 men, women, and children who visited us last year.

Thank you so much for all you make possible!

BACK TO SCHOOL 2022 SERVES MORE CHILDREN THAN EVER

For more than 20 years, West Valley Community Services has hosted the Back to School Program, helping to prepare children entering transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade as they return to school each fall. From the beginning, Back to School was a unique event, providing an opportunity for volunteers to accompany children as they select their clothing from a local store.



But COVID-19 put a temporary end to that, and over the past two years, we have run the program as a drive-through distribution of gift cards and items, with limited volunteer involvement in order to keep our community safe.

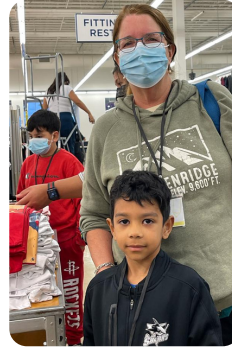
This year, for the first time since August 2019, Back to School was back, bringing together children, parents, and volunteers in-person for a joyous and heartwarming morning. In addition to being our first live Back to School program in more than two years, it was also our largest one on record.

(cont.)

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM (cont.)

Thanks to the generosity of our individual, foundation, government, and corporate donors, we were able to prepare 437 children for school with clothing, shoes, backpacks, and supplies - a **15% increase** year over year. In addition, participants enjoyed music, as well as breakfast provided by the Kiwanis Club of De Anza-Cupertino.

This program would not have been possible without the help of our generous and compassionate community! Thank you to the donor and volunteers that supported the confidence and self-esteem of our community's youngest residents - and future leaders. WVCS could not have done this without each and every one of our awesome partners.



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



Event Partners



And THANK YOU to individuals who sponsored an individual today and other community partners for supporting this event

Save the Date



Cooking for a Cause


April 1st, 2022




FRIDAY
MARCH 31, 2023

More info will be available on www.chefsofcompassion.org



West Valley Community Services

GIFT OF HOPE
December 10th, 2022



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



Donate Online
wvcommunityservices.org/goh

Donate by Check
WVCS
10104 Vista Dr, Cupertino, CA 95014

Vivian Dang - Event Coordinator
WVCS Office (669) 245-4128 Email: specialprograms@wvcommunityservices.org

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

STAR ONE CREDIT UNION: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Star One Credit Union is one of the stalwarts in the community supporting non-profits. Their support makes it possible for West Valley Community Services to provide services to our local community. For the last two years, Star One Credit Union has been West Valley Community Services' lead sponsor in the fundraising gala - Chefs of Compassion.

We are delighted to take this opportunity to highlight Rashad Wiley and Tina Howard, who lead the Community Involvement Committee (CIC) at Star One. Rashad is part of Business Development and Chairs CIC. Tina is the Assistant Manager at the Saratoga branch of Star One and the committee's Co-Chair. Together, they are making a true impact possible in the community!

Star One is committed to supporting the communities they serve and finding opportunities for deeper engagement. Working closely with many organizations, Tina and Rashad are reminded that anyone can need a hand-up anytime. They understand where help is needed and as representatives of the CIC committee, they want to be there for their community.

Tina added, "the stories of people keep me motivated to do this work. It puts a face to the name, and it touches our hearts. People can become homeless or face critical needs at any turn in life. We understand how hard it can be to ask for help, which is why we want to be there for the community. We are proud to support West Valley Community Services so they can succeed in serving our community."

Rashad and Tina have attended and genuinely appreciate the Chefs of Compassion event; the team has enjoyed the extraordinary creations of chefs and the virtual voting for the most famous chef.

Thank you, Rashad, Tina, the CIC committee, and Star One Credit Union, for supporting West Valley Community Service. We look forward to a continued and deep partnership over the years with you!




HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE LAST YEAR (2021-2022)

 **4,450**


unique individuals were served

 **3,054**


families and individuals visited the market and Park-It Market weekly for fresh food including staples such as rice, beans, canned, dried goods, dairy products and fresh vegetables

 **380**


children in K-12th grade received new clothing, shoes and backpacks to prepare them to go back to school in Fall 2021

 **855,874**


pounds of food was distributed at the WVCS Market and the Park-It Market

 **1,602**

individuals served through the Park-It Market

 **1,164**

people received jackets, small appliances, household items, and toys at the Annual Gift of Hope Holiday Program

 **1,283,811**

total number of meals were provided to families

 **\$2,376,726**

in emergency assistance prevented eviction and utility shut off for 725 individuals

THE EVOLUTION OF THE WVCS CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The WVCS Client Advisory Committee, a work group made up of folks with lived experience, current WVCS clients, Below Market Rate housing residents, and WVCS team members, has been hard at work for almost a year. This committee has been meeting on a regular basis to share feedback about our programs and services, and to work closely with one another to advance social change that positively impacts our clients, our organization, and our community.

This committee is about to enter its next chapter as it transitions into the Lived Experience Advisory Committee. This reframing occurred when we realized that the committee brings together people who have direct experience with food and housing insecurity, whether or not they are a WVCS client. This group engages a wide range of individuals that have personal perspectives resulting from their interaction with affordable housing, homelessness, neurodivergence and disabilities, food insecurity, and so much more. Their experience and partnership has enabled us to deepen our work around fighting hunger and homelessness in our community - and we are excited to take this work to the next level.

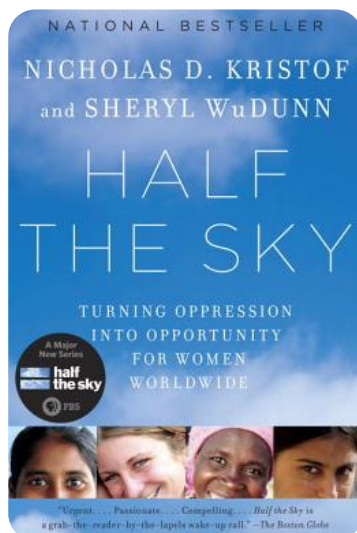


As the Lived Experience Advisory Committee enters its second year, it is rapidly growing, with members attending organizing trainings and the committee identifying priority issues. Through these powerful conversations between folks with lived experience and our team members, new barriers to stability and self-sufficiency are being revealed, and exciting solutions are being elevated. Over the next year, the committee plans to do a deep dive into a range of issues, including access to hot meals through food stamps, microwave access for people experiencing homelessness, streamlined access to public benefits, and advocacy surrounding affordable housing.

For more information about the work of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee, contact Kylie Clark, Public Policy Coordinator, at kyliec@wvcommunityservices.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB

Join us for our next Social Justice Book Club at WVCS in person on Tuesday, December 6th at 7pm. We will be discussing "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide" by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.



For more information, please contact Josh Selo at 408.956.6113 or josh@wvcommunityservices.org

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