24 Hours of Impact: “SV Gives” Shows Strong Support of Community

At Family Supportive Housing, we believe in the transformative impact of providing comprehensive, targeted support. Time and again, we have seen the enormous difference that it makes to connect people with community resources that they had previously been unaware of, and to help them build their own capacities.

This Spring, Family Supportive Housing was on the receiving end of that kind of expert, in-depth support from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, through its “SV Gives” campaign. As many of you know, SV Gives was a 24-hour online fundraising effort for local nonprofits, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of community foundations. On May 6th, donors contributed close to eight million dollars to support causes they care about in San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito counties.

We are grateful to all of you who contributed on the big day. We exceeded our fundraising goal by 65%, and more than half of our donors during the 24-hour SV Gives fundraising effort were new to our organization. Thank you, and welcome!

Every dollar makes a real difference in our ability to help homeless families with children. 88% of each dollar we raise goes directly to program services. Your support helps us to provide three healthful meals a day, 365 days a year, to the children, youth and parents staying at our San Jose Family Shelter. It helps to underwrite our Voyager Child Development Program, which offers quality onsite childcare to families as they struggle to regain control of their lives. It supports our Homework Enrichment Program in delivering supervised, intensive academic assistance, targeted skill development and enrichment activities to some 150 school children in grades K-12 each year.

“88% of each dollar we raise goes directly to program services”

For those who are also interested to share their time and talents, we invite you to get involved! More than 1,500 volunteers from local corporations, businesses, churches, service organizations and schools participate in Shelter program activities each year.

With your support, we are having a transformative impact on the lives of homeless families with children. From all of us at Family Supportive Housing, thank you.

The Mission of One High School Student to Help Homeless Families

“When I think of how challenging it is for me to balance school, homework and social activities, I can't imagine doing all that without a stable home.” - Sydney, 15 years old

After Sydney learned that Family Supportive Housing was short of supplies for our San Jose Family Shelter, she reached out to her family and friends and collected $500 to purchase much needed items. Here, Sydney shares her story with us.

I am really excited to have raised money to cover some of the needs for Family Supportive Housing! Family Supportive Housing has always had a special place in my heart. When I was 10 years old and volunteered with my church to serve meals at the shelter, I was shocked to see kids my age and younger. Seeing the families really touched me. I had many questions for my Mom and one of the answers she gave still stays with me. That is, the shelter helps families with basic needs including assistance getting back on their feet and that the volunteers and contributions from the community go a long way in helping Family Supportive Housing fulfill their mission.

When I think of how challenging it is for me to balance school, homework and social activities, I can't imagine doing all that without a stable home. I am therefore very inspired by the mission of Family Supportive Housing and am happy to help them in helping our local families in need. I look forward to continue working with Family Supportive Housing and also have gotten some of my friends interested in volunteering.

-Sydney
Dear Friends,

If you’re like me, then you find change difficult. Even changes that you really want to make—exercising more, eating better, obtaining a credential that will open career doors—are tough to initiate and stick with, in the best of circumstances.

The homeless families we serve ask our help to cope with circumstances harder than most of us can imagine. Those may include job loss, eviction, serious illness and the responsibility for keeping a child safe, healthy and fed on very limited resources.

Family Supportive Housing opened its doors in 1986 with a commitment to help homeless families remain intact while addressing their needs for food, shelter, employment and education. Our mission is to offer families a respite, an opportunity to make life-altering changes, and a system to aid in finding permanent housing. I am enormously proud of the work that we’ve done.

But if you’re like me, then you know that it takes committed, long-term support from a few allies to make life-altering changes.

Our Bridges AfterCare program was created to give homeless families that critical support. AfterCare offers families who leave our San Jose Family Shelter for permanent housing an additional nine months of case management and access to supportive services.

We now plan to extend that support. Why? Because we know that studies show families are at greatest risk of relapsing into homelessness during the first two years after leaving a shelter. Because we know that families transitioning to independence need to continue developing key skills like budgeting, being good tenants, and remaining healthy and active. And because we know from our own experience that making big, lasting changes takes time.

I will be sharing more about our new “two phase” service model in upcoming newsletters and on our website. I invite anyone who wants to learn more about it to contact me. I’d be thrilled to share our vision and emerging plans with you.

As always, I thank you for your support. **We couldn’t do this work without you.**

Sincerely,

Beth Leary
Executive Director
Family Supportive Housing

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**SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES**

Our annual Summer Camp is just around the corner! We are recruiting for the following volunteer positions:

- **Summer Camp Counselors**
- **Homework Enrichment Program Tutors and Mentors**

If you if you are interested in volunteering, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Christi Moyer-Kelly at: volunteer@familysupportivehousing.org or (408) 926.8885

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**SHELTER WISH LIST**

We are in need of the following items:

- **Sheet sets** (full & twin)
- **Comforters** (full & twin)
- **Diapers** (sizes 1-6)
- **Bath mats**

To schedule a donation drop off, contact Operations Manager, Yolanda Gonzalez at: (408) 926-8885
Our New Program Launch: Healthy Eating, Healthy Living

Every day we strive to create healthy families so they can have productive and stable futures. Health and wellness play a significant role in our programs for families. Homeless families are at risk for health problems due to access and affordability of nutritious food, as well as lack of health education. We believe that a family’s economic status should not be a factor in whether they have access to fresh, nutritious food.

This year, we launched our Healthy Eating, Healthy Living program for families at our San Jose Family Shelter. We are excited about this new program and the community partners involved with making it successful. Healthy Eating, Healthy Living provides families at our San Jose Family Shelter with healthy meals and nutrition education focusing on healthy food choices and preparation, and the overall promotion of physical and emotional well-being.

“We believe that a family's economic status should not be a factor in whether they have access to fresh, healthy food”

A generous grant from the Sharks Foundation allows us to provide nutritious foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, to families residing at our San Jose Family Shelter. The goal of providing healthy foods to families is to improve their abilities to concentrate, improve school attendance and homework completion, and overall increase our families’ progress towards self-sufficiency.

This micro-garden project was made possible through the United Way of Silicon Valley’s Alternative Spring Break, Therma of San Jose, CommUniverCity and Garden2Table. On a slightly rainy weekend at the end of March, over 40 college students constructed three beautiful garden beds and planted fresh vegetables and herbs.

Vania, our Lead Chef, is excited to use the vegetables and herbs harvested from our garden in the daily meals that she prepares: “We are looking forward to harvesting cherry and beef steak tomatoes. I love gathering cilantro to use in our fresh, homemade salsa. The addition of thyme, oregano and basil, will enhance the flavors of our healthy meals. Nothing beats fresh basil on pasta or thyme on roasted chicken! The garden will let the children here experience how long veggies take to grow as they observe the crop process. And soon, they will be able to taste each crop when it is ready!”

This fall, our Healthy Eating, Healthy Living program will expand its services, thanks to our new partnership with The Health Trust. Through this partnership, we will have the benefit of a full-time Americorp employee who will provide continuing garden based education to children at our shelter. For information on this position, please visit our website.

An exciting addition to our Healthy Eating, Healthy Living program is our micro-garden located on our Shelter’s terrace.

Thank you to all of our Healthy Eating, Healthy Living partners!
Miss Out on SV Gives?
You Can Still DOUBLE Your Donation!

Help us meet our match!

**SOBRATO**
Family Foundation Challenge Grant

The Sobrato Family Foundation 2:1 Challenge Grant to Family Supportive Housing **ends June 30**th. This year, if we raise $70,000 in qualified donations, The Sobrato Family Foundation will match the $70,000 with a 5% increase!

**How the Grant Works:**
- If you are a **First Time Donor**, your gift will be matched 100%!
- If you are a **Lapsed Donor** (you have not made a gift in the past 12+ months), your gift will be matched 100%!
- If you are a **Current Donor**, your gift will be matched by the increased portion of your most recent gift (if you gave $100 last year, and increase your gift to $200 this year, Sobrato Family Foundation will match the $100 difference).

**Our Mission**
To provide shelter and supportive services to homeless families in Santa Clara County, to empower them to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency in our community.

www.familysupportivehousing.org