

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Six-Month Highlights



Mid-Year Program Results from July to December, 2010

Because of you, thousands of local people are getting the help they need to overcome the barriers to self-sufficiency and achieve financial stability. This report reflects the lives you have touched during the first six months of United Way Silicon Valley's fiscal year. These numbers represent real people who are turning their lives around thanks to you. United Way Silicon Valley invests donations to its Community Action Fund in proven programs run by United Way and its partner agencies. United Way focuses its investments on the building blocks for a good life: income, education and health.



INCOME

Promoting Financial Stability and Independence

2013 ASPIRATIONAL GOAL: 80% of local households achieve economic self-sufficiency, up from 75% of households.

What is Economic Self-Sufficiency?

This means not having to forgo one basic need for another — such as housing, health care, child care or food — due to lack of income. The Self-Sufficiency Standard measures the actual cost of living for different household types, including costs for housing, food, health care, taxes and child care.

Why is this important?

- Low- to moderate-income workers and their families benefit when workers gain skills that increase income, build savings, and gain and sustain assets.
- Local employers benefit from a stronger, more skilled and crisis-resistant workforce.
- Communities benefit from safe neighborhoods, thriving small businesses and the general financial stability of residents.

Mid-Year Results

- 59,806 people — half of them children — received healthy groceries, nutritional education and family support to help keep them stable and able to better manage their limited resources.
- 5,661 people were helped by the Emergency Assistance Network: 5,371 with food and 290 with rental and utility assistance, medicine or transportation, helping to keep them in their homes.
- 1,551 people opened starter/second-chance bank accounts to enter the financial mainstream as part of the Bank on San Jose initiative.
- 1,414 households received direct financial assistance to avoid eviction or utility shutoffs.
- 365 adults participated in 26 financial education classes; 86% passed the certification test and are able to open starter/second-chance bank accounts as part of Bank on San Jose.
- 313 low-income people living with medical complications from HIV/AIDS received housing, utility and transportation assistance, helping them to live independently.
- 297 people completed training and applied for citizenship, 133 people passed their in-person interview and 65 people passed their citizenship test. Citizenship is the gateway to being fully engaged in society and securing gainful employment.
- 266 frail seniors are receiving nutrition and well-being support, helping to keep them independent, at home and out of expensive institutions, reducing the financial burdens on their families.

Job Skills Improve Opportunity

Donato was at risk of losing his small business if he didn't get a contractor's license. But that required computer skills and he didn't know how to use a computer. He felt embarrassed and defeated until he turned to Friends of Vision Literacy. Donato enrolled in the agency's computer class, supported by donations to United Way Silicon Valley's Community Action Fund. He was able to learn the computer skills he needed to get his contractor's license, allowing him to stay gainfully employed.



- 231 local volunteers were trained and received IRS certification to assist low-income taxpayers with free tax preparation services. The aim is to exceed last year's efforts that brought \$5.7 million in refunds into the local economy, including \$2 million in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) and \$1.1 million in Child Care Tax Credits.
- 127 adults began employment training, and 48 of them have already secured jobs, putting them on the road to financial independence.
- 117 at-risk young adults participating in job training have gained marketable skills and are on the path to secure gainful employment.
- 93 low-income entrepreneurs received small business technical assistance and 54 of them secured \$827,000 in microfinance loans to expand their businesses and create jobs.
- 67 mothers with children received safe haven and 75% of them have already found long-term housing free from domestic violence.
- 57 adults acquired literacy and basic computer skills in job training programs.
- 43 low-income women have completed business management training in preparation to launch new micro-enterprises.
- 30 trained volunteer credit coaches are working with 39 people to learn skills to better manage monthly expenses and improve their credit scores.

EDUCATION

Helping Children and Youth Achieve their Potential

2013 ASPIRATIONAL GOAL: Reduce the ethnic/racial educational achievement gap by one-third.

What is the ethnic/racial educational achievement gap?

The gap reflects the disparity in academic performance between lower-performing Hispanic/Latino and African-American students and higher-performing Asian and White students. In 2003, the achievement gap in English-Language Arts for Santa Clara County students in grades second through eleventh was at 43%. By 2010, it had dropped to 39%. Among San Jose high school students, the gap has been 44%. United Way aims to help the community reduce that gap to 30% by 2013.

Why is this important?

Children who experience quality early learning opportunities perform better in elementary school. Children who fall behind in reading by third grade usually do not catch up and are likely to drop out of high school. Poor academic achievement affects individuals and communities. It leads to a higher dropout rate, a less-skilled workforce, poorer health outcomes and higher rates of crime and incarceration.

Mid-Year Results

- 734 kids are receiving specialized child care with instruction for parents on how to get their kids socially and emotionally ready for kindergarten.
- 733 youth are participating in after-school programs, improving their skills in math and literacy, physical fitness and social cooperation, keeping them on track to finish high school.
- 217 court-involved teens are receiving counseling and support on making healthy life choices and learning needed skills, and they are committing to living within the law.

- 177 at-risk teens are receiving emotional and family support, keeping them on track to finish school and be prepared for success after graduation.
- 120 parents gained new skills to help their children with special needs be more successful in school.
- 43 volunteers received specialized training to serve as early-learning reading mentors for 81 kindergartners, helping to get those kids on track for third-grade reading proficiency.

HEALTH

Improving People's Health

2013 ASPIRATIONAL GOAL: 100% of children in Santa Clara County have access to routine health care.

What is United Way doing to meet this goal?

- Supporting community efforts to keep kids healthy, able to regularly visit their family doctor and dentist and avoid unnecessary hospital emergency room care.
- Advocating to save and expand critical health insurance programs (Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Healthy Kids) benefitting thousands of local children.

Why is this important?

For a good start in life, children need access to regular and quality health care. Maintaining the current mix of health insurance programs (Healthy Families, Medi-Cal, Healthy Kids) available to low-income families ensures that children have access to prevention and early intervention care, especially for treatment of chronic diseases like asthma, diabetes and obesity. A focus on prevention through health coverage instead of costly emergency room treatment is fiscally responsible for our state and local community, and helps kids stay healthy and in school.

Mid-Year Results

United Way Silicon Valley helped mobilize the community in support of Measure A, which would have ensured that all children in Santa Clara County have the health coverage they need to stay healthy and in school. Most voters (58%) supported Measure A, but it did not get the two-thirds majority required to pass a parcel tax. Measure A would have created a sustainable funding source for the widely successful Healthy Kids program that helps Santa Clara County families secure affordable health insurance for their children when they don't qualify for other programs. Advocates raised awareness of the issue and critical partnerships were developed between grassroots advocates and community leaders, including the Santa Clara Family Health Foundation, Valley Medical Center Foundation, Working Partnerships USA, United Way Silicon Valley, Silicon Valley Leadership Group and People Acting in Community Together (PACT). The experience of working together on Measure A has united us and together we will continue to work for a solution for the children who need Healthy Kids. Some highlights include:

- Mobilized 99 volunteers to make phone calls on behalf of Measure A.
- Educated more than 6,100 individuals on the initiative through in-person presentations.
- Operated Measure A phone banks, managing the efforts of 186 volunteers that spoke to 2,890 voters.
- Generated awareness with in-kind direct-mail outreach efforts that included more than 1 million pieces.



Lifeline to Success

When Jasmine first turned to Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY), she was “lost in a world full of drugs and violence. I didn’t have anybody looking out for me, not even myself,” she says. At FLY, Jasmine was connected with a case manager who helped her get sober, back on track in school and focused on a new vision: becoming a physical therapist. Jasmine is part of FLY’s Legal Eagle program, supported by donations to United Way Silicon Valley’s Community Action Fund. “Since I’ve been involved with FLY, everything has changed. I think and do things differently.” Jasmine is now on track to attend community college next fall.

Programs and Partner Agencies

Income Partners

Job Placement and Training

- Bill Wilson Center
- Center for Employment Training
- Family & Children Services
- Friends of Vision Literacy
- Goodwill of Silicon Valley
- Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
- St. Joseph's Family Center
- Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation (VIVO)
- Women's Initiative for Self Employment

Immigration and Citizenship

- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County – Immigrant Legal Services
- Santa Clara County Asian Law Alliance
- Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network – SIREN

Emergency Assistance & Basic Needs

- Community Services Agency of Mountain View and Los Altos
- Community Solutions for Children, Families & Individuals
- Sacred Heart Community Service
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Sunnyvale Community Services

Education Partners

Early Childhood Education and Parenting Skills

- Estrella Family Services
- Grail Family Services
- Kidango
- Pacific Autism Center for Education
- Parents Helping Parents, Inc.
- SJB Child Development Centers

- The Health Trust – HIV/AIDS Services
- Live Oak Adult Day Services
- Emergency Assistance Network Partners – United Way Silicon Valley
 - Community Services Agency of Mountain View and Los Altos
 - InnVision the Way Home
 - Sacred Heart Community Service
 - Salvation Army of Santa Clara County
 - St. Joseph's Family Center
 - Sunnyvale Community Services
 - West Valley Community Services

Financial Education

- Bank on San Jose Coalition
- United Way Silicon Valley's Credit Coaching Program

Microfinance

- Opportunity Fund

Tax Preparation Assistance

- Earn It, Keep It, Save It Coalition
- VITA Network and Internal Revenue Service

After-School and Independent Learning

- Alum Rock Counseling Center, Inc.
- Bill Wilson Center
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley
- Breakthrough Collaborative
- California Community Partners for Youth
- Fresh Lifelines for Youth
- Pathway Society, Inc.
- Rebekah Children's Services
- YMCA of Silicon Valley's Project Cornerstone



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