



# Valley Churches United

## 2017 Annual Report

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Valley Churches United is primarily a year-round food pantry serving qualified residents of San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley, Bonny Doon and including the Summit area.



## Looking back at our year of 2017 and looking forward to 2018

### A message from the Executive Director

As I look back on 2017, I could share so many amazing moments that have been truly inspiring at Valley Churches United. I will highlight some examples of the help and hope that takes place all year round for our clients through the incredible generosity and support of our community.

The first three months of 2017 involved the extreme winter storms that seriously challenged our Santa Cruz mountain region. We were able to keep our doors open every business day to serve our clients in their time of need. Between flooding, mudslides, and even a couple house fires, we were able to directly offer emergency aide to local qualified residents that were unprepared for their sudden disasters.

Spring couldn't come soon enough and our staff and volunteers eagerly jumped into our Annual Easter Project, which is one of the

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### Programs

Year-round food pantry serving qualified clients within our service area

Emergency rental and utility assistance to qualified clients on a case-by-case basis

Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas special distributions including toys for children

Back to School Backpack program and educational scholarships for qualified students

Disaster assistance during an emergency



Valley Churches United bridges the gap in times of crisis, promotes self-sufficiency and provides hope.

# 2017 Annual Report message from the Executive Director

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special holiday distributions we provide qualified clients. During the same time as our successful Easter distribution, we were in the midst of our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Bucks for Hunger Drive that helps keep our pantry filled with food through the spring and summer. The community support was heartwarming!

June 2017 introduced our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Enchanted Gardens of the Valley Tour, which thanks to the incredible vision of dedicated volunteers, was a huge success! We are looking forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Garden Tour 'Enchanting Gardens in the Mountains' to take place in Bonny Doon on June 10, 2018. Strong community support for these important fundraisers is how we keep all the client programs available year-round for our local, qualified residents.

We are seeing many more local households experiencing unexpected rental and utility costs soaring, often creating a temporary financial crisis. Valley Churches United focuses on its mission to bridge the gap in times of crisis, promote self-sufficiency and provide hope. Through the fall of 2017 and into the holiday spirit of giving, I was truly inspired by the generosity of our donors. You stepped up and provided monetary donations to Valley Churches United so we could indeed give that 'hand up' which provided hope and relieved a temporary crisis, in turn promoting self-sufficiency. With your invaluable support, we truly look forward to providing this critical help to our local residents-in-need throughout 2018!



**Lynn Robinson**  
Executive Director

"I truly get to experience this wonderful job of gratitude every day at Valley Churches United. To be a part of such a giving community that steps up throughout the year to help their fellow residents in need is extremely rewarding!"



Annette Marcum's sons Dennis and Jeremiah volunteer four days a week. They work hard and she would be so proud!

## Valley Churches United Staff



Linda Meyer, Program Manager and Linda Lovelace, Operations Director are all smiles during our very busy Christmas distribution !

2018 will be another busy year for both the staff and the many volunteers at Valley Churches United. No sooner do we seem to wrap up one of the big client holiday projects, then we are off and running onto the next big thing on our calendar with barely a break. Both our small staff and our big volunteer base are focused all year round on helping clients in need through our food pantry and other programs.



Part-time assistant Sarah Deworken is busy keeping the daily files in order.

# Valley Churches United is truly volunteer-powered!

The client support that happens all year round would not be possible without the dedication of our amazing volunteers. In 2017 Valley Churches had over 150 active volunteers helping us with all our client programs. VCUM volunteers logged an incredible 8,950 total hours in 2017!



VCUM volunteer and Board member Paul Callahan receiving the 2017 Angel of the Year Award for all of his amazing volunteering time and energy to help Valley Churches thrive!

From the very beginning in 1982, it has been the spirit and dedication of volunteers that has made such a lasting legacy of providing hope and self-sufficiency to thousands of local residents-in-need. Every essential task from drivers picking up food, folks sorting or bagging food, intake volunteers interviewing clients, gift shop volunteers helping during the holidays, folks wrapping presents for the children's wish lists or filling school back packs, our volunteers make such a difference. They are truly a source of inspiration.

*Come and join our amazing team of volunteers!*



Our very dedicated volunteers working in the food pantry

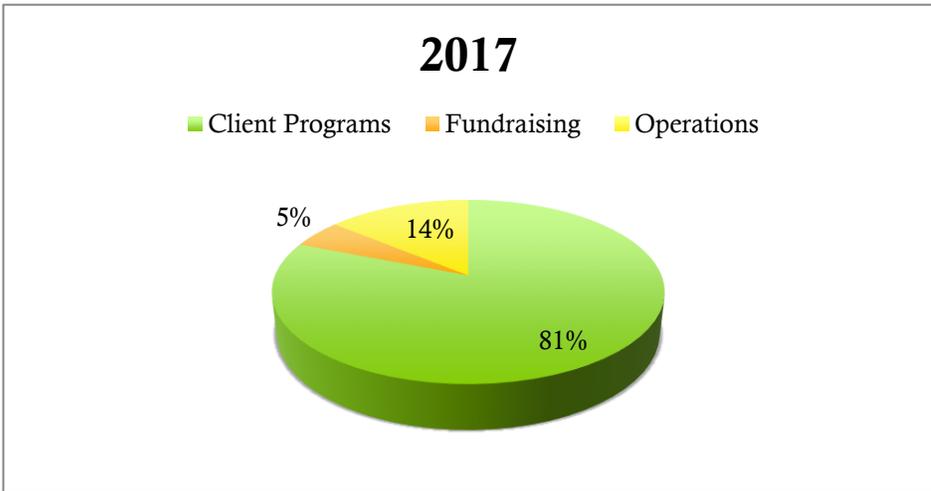


“I have been a volunteer at Valley Churches United since June of 2003. While I was aware of Valley Churches “good works,” it wasn’t until I started volunteering that I realized just how much of a difference we make in our neighbors’ lives. Valley Churches is unique in that every day we see the results of what we do. I can honestly say that I receive more than I give, because I am able to get to know the people we serve. I hear their stories and I see the challenges they face. We give them hope, and it’s a great feeling. What could be better?”

Jane Gordon



# VALLEY CHURCHES UNITED 2017 BY THE NUMBERS



Client Programs =

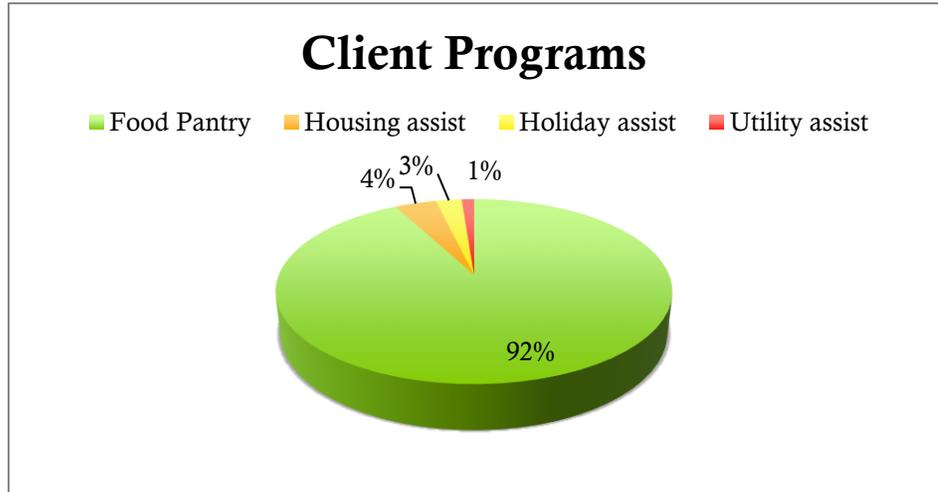
\$848,683

Fundraising =

\$51,000

Operations =

\$150,165



Food Pantry assistance =

\$603,021

Housing assistance =

\$33,793

Holiday assistance =

\$19,579

Utility assistance =

\$11,878

VALLEY CHURCHES UNITED  
2017  
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL REVENUE

\$1,149,590.00

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,049,886.00

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$1,725,927.00



# Connect With Valley Churches United

Every day at Valley Churches United, there is the chance to experience something special taking place. People who come to us in need and people who come to help both bring so much resilience and hope all year round.

Over the years, many former clients come back to help in the form of volunteering or providing financial support to give back to the place that gave them a hand up in their time of need.

We have donors who give donations year after year because they see the direct benefit that helps people right here in our community. We truly are a nonprofit that provides direct assistance to our local residents. Because we do not receive government funding, 'Neighbors helping Neighbors' really describes the simplicity of how financial donations to our nonprofit directly benefit local clients.



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831-336-8258  
vcum.org

## VCUM Board of Directors

Kim Teves – Chair

Danny Reber – Vice Chair

Deborah Elston – Treasurer-Sec

Lisa Baumert

Al Frischmann

Jane Gordon

Paul Callahan

Lynn Frischmann



**Valley Churches United**

## VCUM Staff

Lynn Robinson – Executive Director

Linda Lovelace – Operations Director

Linda Meyer – Program Manager

Sarah Deworken – Part-time Assistant

## WAYS TO DONATE

- **Mail checks to: Valley Churches United, PO Box 367, Ben Lomond, CA 95005**
- **Visit our website at [vcum.org](http://vcum.org) and click Donate for a PayPal donation**
- **Visit in person at 9400 Highway 9, Ben Lomond, M –F, 9am – 4pm to donate.**