



# Valley Churches United

## 2018 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 2018 and looking forward to 2019

### A message from the Executive Director

2018 was a fantastic year of many successes, amazing community support, and also a year of heartfelt gratitude at Valley Churches United.

The winter of 2018 lingered on, keeping the rain flowing for a very long season. I think all of us let out a sigh of relief that we did not experience the severe rainfall that can create such havoc in our mountain communities. As it was, there were some hardship cases with our clients that we helped during the extended winter season. As always, we kept a winter supply of sand and sandbags on site for the community to use when needed, thanks to the County of Santa Cruz.

Our 2018 Spring Bucks for Hunger fundraiser mailing was a big success, bringing in more than \$60,000 in donations from donors near and far. It is so inspiring to experience both donors who have moved away and continue to support our efforts from afar, and new donors

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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.

# 2018 Annual Report message from the Executive Director

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donors who we are so fortunate to have supporting our programs! Another fabulous success was our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Garden Tour 'Enchanting Gardens in the Mountains' which took place in our service area of Bonny Doon. Strong community support for these important fundraisers is how we keep all the client programs available year-round for our local, qualified residents.

Valley Churches United went through a very vigorous financial audit at the end of our fiscal year June 30<sup>th</sup>. I am so pleased to announce the very positive audit findings showing our nonprofit organization to be in great financial position. We are very proud of the trust from the community that provides us the financial support to help those in need right here in our large service area. We are very accountable for the trust we have earned.

This year we have experienced the sad passing of too many special, long-time volunteers, as well as several clients, creating a long year of reflection for us at Valley Churches. Neighbors helping neighbors is at the core of how we provide hope in times of need, and 2018 truly shined a light on caring for each other. I have such deep appreciation for every person that steps up to help. Valley Churches begins 2019 in such a strong position to help our local residents when they are in need of a hand up. With your invaluable support, we will continue to provide the many client programs through our pantry that truly make a difference in so many lives in their time of need!



Lynn Robinson  
Executive Director

"This past year has been such an inspiration for me here at Valley Churches United. We have been able to help hundreds of local qualified residents in need of assistance due entirely to the generosity of our large community of support. Every week I am inspired that we can help clients in their time of need because so many donor, volunteers and our staff give the best of themselves to provide support and hope when it is most needed. The abundant gratitude we receive in return is a reflection of how our community cares and provides such a positive outcome. "

With deepest gratitude,

Lynn

## Valley Churches United Staff



Lynn Robinson, Executive Director  
Sarah DeWorken, Assistant to Director  
Linda Lovelace, Operations Director  
Linda Meyer, Program Director

Every month of the year at Valley Churches United is so packed with client programs and projects that keep our small but mighty staff at full speed. Along side our dedicated volunteers, staff keeps our weekly schedules running smoothly, along with planning very large and involved special client projects during the holidays and back to school. It seems there should be a quiet time to catch a breath, but we are always focused on being ready to help our clients through our year-round pantry and the special distributions we provide throughout the year. Our staff picture was during preparations for our recent Easter distribution, when we found that moment to relax and breathe, and then we all went back to work!

# Valley Churches United is truly volunteer-powered!

During 2018, our volunteers were there every step of the way to directly help Valley Churches run smoothly each and every day. There are so many ways that volunteers are able to give back to the community through their various jobs they do throughout the year. Their dedication and joy is contagious and we are so very grateful for the difference they make!



Our very



Long time volunteers Ed and Sue Oliver receiving the 2018 Angel of the Year Award at the recent Volunteer Luncheon. They bring their wonderful energy and help



From the very beginning of Valley Churches United, it has been the commitment and dedication of our volunteers that has kept our nonprofit food pantry going strong for over 37 years now. There are so many opportunities to help those in our own community by volunteering a few times a year, a month, a week or even more, as some of our incredible volunteers do. From special holiday projects and everyday pantry tasks, to driving vans to pick up food, there is always a job to be done. We have a fantastic team that always serves with such joy. You are welcome to join our volunteers in action any time!



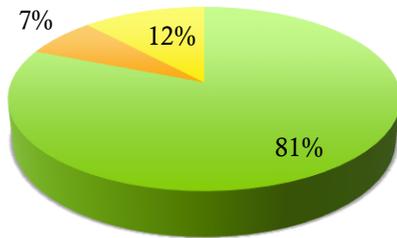
*Come and join our amazing team of volunteers!*

# VALLEY CHURCHES UNITED 2018 BY THE NUMBERS



## 2018

■ Client Programs   ■ Fundraising   ■ Administration



Client Programs =

\$899,181

Fundraising =

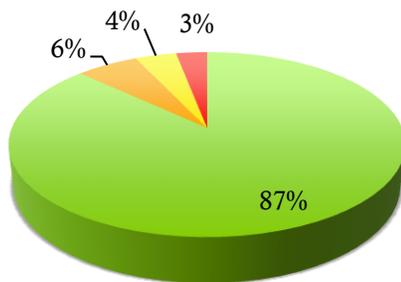
\$74,875

Administration =

\$129,336

## Client Programs

■ Food Pantry   ■ Housing assist   ■ Transportation/Other   ■ Utility assist



Food Pantry assistance =

\$780,855

Housing assistance =

\$57,034

Transportation/Other =

\$37,239

Utility assistance =

\$24,053

VALLEY CHURCHES UNITED  
2018  
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL REVENUE

\$1,127,315.00

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,103,392.00

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$1,751,286.00



# Connect With Valley Churches United

As a nonprofit that has been serving the community for over 37 years, we often experience multi-generations giving back to their community year after year. It is such an inspiration to have people of all ages and stages in life support Valley Churches United through their financial donations and volunteer opportunities. One thing we hear consistently from donors that support us year after year is how important it is that they see the direct benefits that help local residents right here in our community. Providing that direct assistance for qualified clients in their time of need in order to help them get back on track is how we help through our pantry programs.

This continued success into 2019 could not be possible without your support. Please feel free to connect with us at Valley Churches United anytime!



Valley Churches United  
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Ben Lomond, CA 95005

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vcum.org

## VCUM Board of Directors

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Danny Reber – Vice Chair

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## Valley Churches United

## VCUM Staff

Lynn Robinson – Executive  
Director

Linda Lovelace – Operations  
Director

Linda Meyer – Programs  
Director

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.**