



Valley Churches United

2022 Annual Report

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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



Looking back at our year of 2022 and looking forward to 2023

A message from the Executive Director

This year of 2023 has certainly started out with challenges for everyone in our service area of the San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley and Bonny Doon due to the relentless storm damage that has occurred in every part of our service area. Looking back at 2022, it now seems like a calmer time and yet it presented it's own challenges as well.

Throughout last year we remained focused on helping our food pantry clients remain as self sufficient as possible. We were still seeing folks that had setbacks due to Covid layoffs from work, and residents that lost everything to the CZU fire. The slow recovery from the 2020 devastating CZU fire for so many local people remains a huge issue. Even two and a half years later we see how hard it has been for clients to make progress. If they were homeowners or renters they needed to find a new place to live, which is still a major challenge in this area. If they are trying to rebuild, there are so many hurdles and obstacles as part of the building process that it becomes completely discouraging.

Continued on page 2

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 by providing assistance to local residents, thus promoting stability, self-sufficiency and hope.

2021 Annual Report message from the Executive Director

Continued from page 1.

Through the Santa Cruz County Long Term Recovery Group, Valley Churches has been helping to fund the unmet needs of fire survivors. Their stories are both heartbreaking but inspiring as well. There is a resilience I observe, giving me hope that our community will truly be stronger and it is an honor to have Valley Churches be a little part of that process.

This past year added the hardship of inflation that we all felt at the grocery store, at the gas pump, with our utilities and more. Our clients tried their best, but we really saw more people falling through the cracks in 2022 that had previously been completely self-sufficient. Fortunately through the generosity of our donors, we have the food and resources to provide that hand-up in a time of need to get folks back on track during a temporary time of financial hardship. To be a nonprofit organization that has successfully kept our food pantry programs serving families, seniors and single adults for 41 years is quite an accomplishment. We are as needed now during these challenging times as we were back in the storms of 1982!

Whatever comes our way Valley Churches United is here to help thanks to the amazing kindness and generosity of so many incredible donors who keep us going stronger than ever. We share our deepest gratitude with all of you!



“The beginning of 2023 has been such a challenge and yet I experience the resilience once again of the community coming together. After all that our local residents has been through in the last few years with the CZU fire, the Covid issues, the escalating inflation costs and now the devastating storm damage, it has been overwhelming. Through all of this I experience the community support that helps people in their time of need and I truly witness despair turn to hope!”

With gratitude, Lynn Robinson

Valley Churches United Staff



Linda Meyer, Operations & Programs Manager
Lynn Robinson, Executive Director
Sarah DeWorken, Operations Assistant

There is never a dull moment and rarely a quiet moment at Valley Churches and 2022 was as busy as ever. With just a staff of three and a smaller group of volunteers than before Covid, we certainly kept all our pantry programs in full production. Along with providing all the year-round pantry days for our clients, we managed all the special holiday distributions of Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas along with the School Backpack program.

Along with the direct client contact we have throughout the week, we are always working on our administrative projects, our constant inventory processes, and so much more that keeps us hopping. 2023 looks to be as busy as ever and we are ready!

Valley Churches United is truly volunteer-powered!

There are so many opportunities to help those in need in our own community by volunteering a few times a year, a month, a week or even more often, as some of our wonderful volunteers do. From special holiday projects to everyday pantry tasks, or picking up food donations, there is always a job to be done. We truly have such fantastic volunteers that serve with such joy. This past year in 2022 we were able to bring back more volunteers that had waited until Covid issues improved.



We had joyful volunteers helping with the first Annual Spring Thing Sidewalk Sale, and they all did an amazing job of setting up a fantastic sidewalk sale on five different days. It was a great success thanks to all their hard work. Then we also brought back the Enchanted Gardens of the Valley with incredible gardens around Scotts Valley. The garden hosts and their gardens were spectacular! It takes lots of dedicated volunteers to put on this big fundraising event. It was a lot of work and we were so grateful for all of our volunteers and garden hosts! We also brought back our Holiday Gift Shop with the very special volunteers that make the gift shop store an incredible shopping experience every November and December. It was another huge success in 2022!

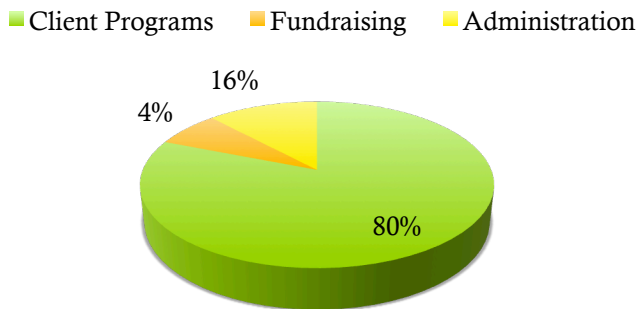


Come and join our amazing team of volunteers!

VALLEY CHURCHES UNITED 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



2022



Client Programs =

\$1,035,318

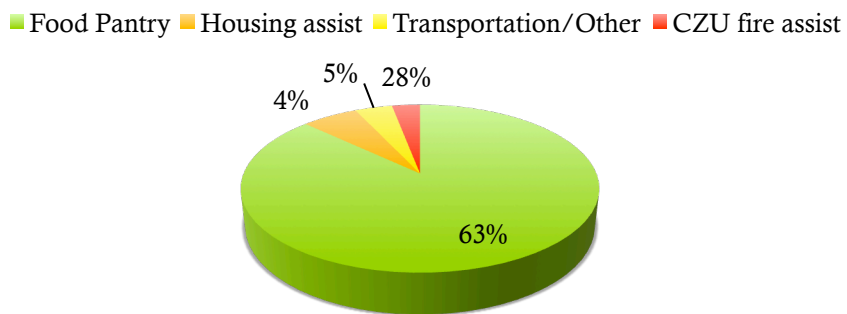
Fundraising =

\$41,775

Administration =

\$203,188

Client Programs



Food Pantry assistance =

\$635,808

Housing assistance =

\$37,041

Transportation/Other =

\$50,000

CZU fire support =

\$287,481

VALLEY CHURCHES UNITED 2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL REVENUE

\$950,894.00

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,182,128.00

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$3,716,380.00

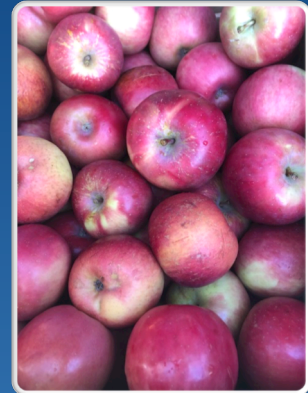
* Financial figures based on July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 fiscal year



Connect With Valley Churches United

As a nonprofit that has been serving the community for over 41 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 efforts. Many of our donors support us year after year. We hear from those donors how important it is that they see the direct benefits that help local residents. Providing direct assistance for qualified clients in their time of need is how we serve the community through our pantry programs.

This continued success into 2023 would not be possible without your support. Please feel free to connect with us at Valley Churches United anytime!



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Valley Churches United

VCUM Staff

Lynn Robinson – Executive
Director

Linda Meyer – Operations &
Programs Manager

Sarah Deworken – Operations
Assistant

WAYS TO DONATE

- Mail checks to: Valley Churches United, PO Box 367, Ben Lomond, CA 95005
- Facebook or vcum.org and click Donate to make a donation
- Visit in person at 9400 Highway 9, Ben Lomond, M–F, 9am – 4pm to donate