



April 2014 Newsletter



Convening. Advocacy. Incubation.

About Us

Step Up Silicon Valley is a social innovation network focused on reducing poverty in Santa Clara County through convening, advocating for policy changes, and incubating innovative solutions to help people move out of poverty. We achieve this by working closely with representatives from various organizations and community members to coordinate breakthrough systems change that allow us to holistically create a thriving community in which none are too poor to give or too wealthy to be in need, and where everyone has access to affordable health care, sufficient nutritious food, decent affordable housing, meaningful educational and career opportunities, and reliable income that meets their basic financial needs. Learn more at www.stepupsv.org.

Our Vision & Mission

Our vision is to reduce poverty and increase economic opportunities in Santa Clara County. The mission of Step Up Silicon Valley is to achieve this vision by transforming community awareness and generating the political will to create systems change that will enable individuals and families to step up and out of poverty in Santa Clara County.

Learn about our steps forward:

Step Up Pay for Success
[Idea to Action Document](#)

2013 Annual Report



By Nicholas Santos, S.J. Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Marketing
College of Business
Marquette University
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The Step Up Silicon Valley Network: A True Incubator/Leader in Social Innovation

Social innovation involves conceptualizing, developing, and implementing creative and often entrepreneurial solutions to social problems. Unfortunately, often these solutions revolve around the social innovator or the organization that houses the innovation resulting in a silo approach to solving these problems. The Santa Clara County Community came together and pioneered an innovative approach to break free from the silo-mentality and to create a platform where like-minded organizations could work together and share resources to solve social problems such as poverty. That approach is called, "Step Up Silicon Valley: The Movement To Cut Poverty in Silicon Valley." Today Step Up Silicon Valley convenes organizations in Silicon Valley around the theme of cutting poverty through increased awareness, advocacy, and incubation. These organizations consist of non-profits, social service agencies, businesses, faith-based organizations, and government entities. Having co-chaired the incubation committee for a couple of years, I am aware that bringing together a diverse group of people to a common table is not easy. However, through the support of the community and its backbone organization, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, Step Up has been able to overcome these obstacles and to make positive strides towards achieving the goal of reducing poverty in Silicon Valley.

Some recent innovative initiatives that are worthy of mentioning: The first is the 1,000 Out of Poverty initiative. This initiative set a goal of getting 1,000 people out of poverty in a year and invited partner organizations to commit to a certain number of people so as to help attain this goal. The innovativeness of this idea is that it sets an achievable target – 1,000 people divided amongst 15 organizations each committed to lifting a certain number of individuals out of poverty. Further, once organizations realize that it is possible to get people out of poverty if they intentionally decide to do so, there is a momentum that is built. The second initiative is Pay for Success (PFS) that Step Up was instrumental in launching. PFS is a form of contracting between the government and social service providers with the understanding that payment will be made only if certain agreed upon social outcomes are achieved. The innovativeness of this approach is that it shifts the focus from merely providing services to achieving certain social outcomes.

Another initiative that SUSV is proud to support from its inception is the Social Innovation Leadership Forum (SILF). The forum is designed to encourage cross sector collaboration to drive innovative solutions to address economic and social needs. More information on the event is below.

2013 Annual Report
[Step Up Progress Through 2013](#)

Join our [mailing list](#) or visit our [website](#) to learn more about SUSV.

Community Announcements

COPE 2014 Awards Dinner - April 5

Keynote speaker is Richard Trumka, National President of the AFL-CIO. This is a critical campaign season where we have the opportunity to get San Jose headed back in the direction of a place that cares about working families and respects its public employees, and elect labor champions up and down the ballot. Your tickets will help fund the South Bay Labor Council's campaign efforts and help labor-backed candidates succeed in the June Primary.

Saturday, April 5
Reception at 6 PM
Dinner at 7 PM
Grand Ballroom
San Jose Convention Center

[RSVP](#) today for this annual fundraiser!

Spring Forward 5K/10K Charity Run - April 5

Saturday, April 5, 8AM
Microsoft Campus
1065 La Avenida
Mountain View, CA 94043

[Register](#) today!

SGI and Microsoft host our Spring Forward Charity Run! Proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County programs that help people overcome poverty and become self-reliant.

SVCN's SJ City Council Candidate Briefing - April 10

Thursday, April 10
1:30-3:30PM
Sobrato Center for Nonprofits
1400 Parkmoor Avenue
San Jose, CA 95126
Room: Cupertino A & B

[Click here](#) to register

In these many initiatives, as well as in the very act of getting together so many organizations on a common platform, I think that the Step Up Silicon Valley Network is a true incubator and leader in social innovation.

[Read more](#) about social innovations and poverty alleviation.

[Help DISRUPT Silicon Valley - Attend the Silicon Valley Third Annual Social Innovation Leadership Forum \(SILF\) 2014](#)

Friday, April 25
8:30AM-4:30PM
San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

The Social Innovation Leadership Forum (SILF) 2014 is an initiative by the Global Leadership Advancement Center (GLAC) designed to encourage cross-community collaboration to drive innovation issues in addressing our community's social issues.

We need you to help DISRUPT Silicon Valley towards a better tomorrow - [Register](#) for the event today!

The Social Innovation Leadership Forum (SILF) 2014 builds on last year's [successful event](#) where over 250 innovators, representing many public and private sectors, participated in Learning, Connecting and Collaborating with each other. The SILF, an initiative by the Global Leadership Advancement Center (GLAC), is designed to encourage cross-community collaboration to drive innovative solutions in addressing our community's social issues. This year's forum will include an "[Unconference](#)" event in the morning and a Community Innovation Challenge event in the afternoon. SILF 2014 will focus on addressing the issues of homelessness and education in Silicon Valley.

The Community Innovation Challenge is similar to a mini "[Innovation Jam](#)" where participants from several sectors form small groups and use their creativity and brainpower to come up with innovative solutions to a predetermined problem or issue. If you have a great idea, we'd like to hear about it!

Start driving the SILF 2014 conversation today. [Join the online forum](#) and submit the topics YOU would like to discuss at the forum!

[Register](#) today! For more information about SILF 2014, visit www.sjsu.edu/svsiln or email svsiln@sjsu.edu.

[Internship Opportunities in Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts](#)

Do you know a youth or teen interested in the arts? This 10 week placement will collaborate with Santa Clara University students and recent alums in an arts-based internship within the community. For more information, please contact [Kristin Kusanovich](#).

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



American
Leadership
Forum
Silicon Valley



[Click here](#) to register.

The City of San Jose will have new Council Representatives in 4 seats plus the Mayor Race. This change will have significant impact on the future direction for the City of San Jose. The Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN) has invited candidates from the Mayor and District 1, 3, 5, and 7 to join us for a presentation and discussion surrounding the services nonprofit providers do in the City of San Jose. Come meet the Candidates and help shape their thoughts about the importance of the Nonprofit Sector.

If you have any questions, please email AlisonB@svcn.org.

Free Tax Prep Services!

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income people (\$52k and below) to prepare tax returns. Individuals and families who qualify are encouraged to use this free resource! Go to [Earn It! Keep It! Save It!](#) for more information. A free alternative online resource for people to self-complete their taxes is also now available online [here](#).

1,000 Out of Poverty Meeting

Friday, April 18, 8:30AM-10:30AM

The 1,000 OOP network meets monthly to discuss new ideas and share successes, challenges, and opportunities.

Contact [Adelene Ramos](#) to learn more about our initiative.

Upcoming Community Action Poverty Simulation Dates

4/7 Presentation High School

Contact [Adelene Ramos](#) to learn more.



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