

February 2014 Newsletter



Convening . Advocacy . Incubation .

About Us

Step Up Silicon Valley is a movement to cut poverty and increase economic opportunity in Santa Clara County. Led by the county's non-profit, public, and private sector leaders, this movement seeks to nurture cross-sector conversations, collaborations, and solutions in service of disrupting systems that cause and perpetuate poverty.

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
[-Step Up Progress Through 2013-](#)

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

Community Announcements

From Idea to Action: PFS Goes to Sacramento!



Above: Caroline Whistler, Gary Graves, Almaz Negash with Senators Darrell Steinberg, Jim Beall, Kevin De Leon, Bill Monning, Ellen Corbet, and Jerry Hill

On February 5, Pay for Success-Social Innovation Financing (PFS) was presented for to the Democratic State Senate Caucus in Sacramento. Introducing the effort on social investment was Caroline Whistler, Co-Founder and Partner of Third Sector Capital Partners; Gary Graves, COO of the County of Santa Clara; and Almaz Negash, Managing Director of Step Up Silicon Valley. The report at the 2014 Senate Democratic Caucus Policy Conference included an overview on PFS, progress made towards implementing the new social finance model in Santa Clara County, and recommendations for the state.

In August 2013, Step Up Silicon Valley, in partnership with Third Sector and Santa Clara County, implemented the first county-funded PFS pilot in the country. The PFS model spur performance-based contracting between the government and service providers in which funds are more wisely allocated based on successful outcomes rather than the number of services provided.

We thank Senator Darrell Steinberg for his leadership and willingness to explore innovative ways to reduce poverty. There is an opportunity for our county to be the model on how to achieve better social outcomes and fiscal savings by building public-private partnerships, and aligning key stakeholders at the regional and state-level.

For more information on Pay for Success-Social Innovation Financing, please contact [Adelene Ramos](#).

New Help For Section 8 Families!

The Sequester Eviction Prevention Program (SEPP) provides one-time grants to pay past due rent and a security deposit for a more affordable home for eligible Section 8 participants. Free legal services will be able to help you determine whether you are eligible. For more information, call (408) 280-2424 or contact [Kyra Kazantzis](#) of the Law Foundation.

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](#).

Save the Date: Spring Forward A 5K/10K Charity Run
Saturday, April 5, 8AM
Microsoft Campus, 1065 La Avenida, Mountain View, CA 94043
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. [Register](#) today!

The Silicon Valley Third Annual Social Innovation Leadership Forum

Friday., April 25, 8:30AM-4:30PM
San Jose City Hall

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!

Step Up Silicon Valley Meeting

April 25 -Save the Date: The Silicon Valley Third Annual Social Innovation Leadership Forum 2014

April 25th, 2014 (Friday), 8:30AM-4:30PM, San Jose City Hall
Register [here](#).

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 SJSU Global Leadership Advancement Center (GLAC), is designed to encourage cross-community collaboration to drive innovative solutions in addressing our community's social issues. The overarching theme for the 2014 forum is, "Create Disruptive Social Innovation by Leveraging off the Collective Wisdom of Partnerships." - would like to suggest that we change this to read as follows: The overarching theme for the 2014 forum is, "Create Disruptive Social Innovation by leveraging the work of Step Up Silicon Valley; the movement to reduce poverty in Silicon Valley.

This year's forum will include an "[Unconference](#)" event in the morning and a Community Innovation Challenge event in the afternoon. [The Innovation Challenge](#) will be an organized brainstorming session enabling creative and scalable solutions to predetermined issues. In addition to the new Community Innovation Challenge, SILF 2014 will incorporate Cisco's online collaboration tool, Telepresence. Telepresence will empower global collaboration by virtually connecting with people beyond the Silicon Valley. This event will serve as a pilot. It will be the first in a series of events to help harness higher education's collective wisdom in partnership with industry. This process can be used to forge new partnerships between higher education, the public, nonprofit and private sectors to help solve the pressing issues facing us within the Silicon Valley.

Start driving the SILF 2014 conversation by joining the online forum to submit the topics you would like to discuss. To facilitate a session or volunteer at the event, click [here](#).

For more information on the upcoming Social Innovation Leadership Forum, please contact [Bobbi Makani](#).

Progress into 2014: Opportunity Youth Partnership

The Santa Clara County Opportunity Youth Partnership is currently in a one year planning period to better connect resources to support improved outcomes for Santa Clara County youth ages 16-24 who are not working and not in school. The OYP is currently working to identify key pathways and strategies for youth to reengage in school and work. The three year implementation phase of this work will begin in late 2014. For the first phase of this work, the OYP will focus on youth who are homeless, pregnant and parenting, involved in the justice system, or foster system.

If you have questions about the OYP or would like to get involved, please contact [Katrina Slater](#).

Gilroy Prohibits Proliferation of Predatory Payday Lending

This past January, the Gilroy City Council unanimously adopted a strong ordinance to protect its community from new payday lenders. The ordinance

Thurs, Feb. 20, 8:30 AM-10:30 AM
Join us to learn more about our initiatives and to engage in deeper dialogue on how systems analysis can be implemented in our network. RSVP [here](#).

1,000 Out of Poverty Meeting
Friday, February 21, 8-10:30AM
The 1,000 OOP network meets monthly to discuss new ideas and share successes, challenges, and opportunities.

Contact [Debra Pacio](#) to learn more about our initiative.

Upcoming Community Action
Poverty Simulation Dates

1/24 Menlo School
2/19 CC Hawaii
2/21 Sunnyvale Community Service
3/16 St. Christopher Parish

Please contact [Liz Lilly](#) to learn more.

...to protect the community from new payday lenders. The Council bans new payday or check cashing shops from opening in the City and prohibits existing lenders from relocating or expanding their businesses. The Council has also adopted a resolution calling upon state and federal policy makers to enact restrictions on payday loans.

Gilroy joins a growing group of Californian cities that are taking legislative action against fringe financial outlets. Sunnyvale, Long Beach, San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Los Altos, Santa Clara, and San Jose are amongst the cities who have adopted limits on payday lenders in recent years, with Fresno currently poised to enact new regulations.

The Coalition Against Payday Predators (CAPP) continues to work towards educating the community on payday lending and to advocate against predatory financial practices. The Gilroy City Council is now investigating the discovery of several other unlicensed fringe financial businesses recently uncovered by CAPP.

Learn more about payday lending through the [Payday Lending Advocacy Toolkit](#), provided by the [Insight Center for Community Economic Development](#).

For more information on the "Payday Lending Study Issue" in Sunnyvale, please contact Kyra Kazantzis of the [Law Foundation of Silicon Valley](#) or see the [Coalition Against Payday Predators](#).

Housing Challenges Continue in California

Amidst a partial housing recovering remain long-term challenges that continue to affect the California population, particularly for those who struggle against rising home values and high rents. Despite foreclosures falling to their lowest levels in years and new home construction increasing, most homeowners and renters continue to feel the effects of the housing bust. Housing remains expensive and Californians spend significant portions of their income on housing. Housing costs have traditionally been higher in California relative to the rest of the nation, but Californians only make 14% higher than incomes nationwide. 36% of mortgaged homeowners and 48% of renters spend more than 35% of their incomes on housing compared to 26% and 43%, respectively, nationwide.

San Jose in Santa Clara County is amongst one of the six cities in California that currently have the least affordable housing markets in the country. Location affects costs, making coastal areas particularly unaffordable. Because Coastal and Bay Area counties house two-thirds of the state population, a vast majority of the California population faces continuous financial challenges in terms of housing affordability. In the second quarter of 2013, less than one-third of households could afford median-priced homes in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Cruz, and San Jose. Homeownership rates have declined, and rents continue to rise. Six of the most expensive large metropolitan rental markets in the U.S. are in CA, including San Francisco, Oakland, Orange County, San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Jose.

Learn more on [housing in California](#) through the [Public Policy Institute of CA](#).

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