



# January 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

New Help For Section 8 Families!

The Sequester Eviction Prevention Program (SEPP) provides one-time

### Congratulations to the Marketing Smarts Fall 2013 Graduates!



On December 4, 2013, five past participants of the Franklin McKinley Women's Initiative (FMWI) program graduated from the Fall 2013 Marketing Smarts program offered at San Jose State University (SJSU). Marketing Smarts is a program partnership between Step Up Silicon Valley, FMWI, SJSU, and [CommUniverCity](#) that helps women micro-entrepreneurs develop their marketing competencies and take their business ventures to the next level.

In the program, business students act as consultants to the women community clients. The students help them become more aware of the importance of various external factors impacting the planning and start of their business ventures. Together, they create marketing communication plans around the women's ventures to help them on their path to economic independence.

To learn more about the FMWI project, please contact [Debra Pacio](#).

### 1,000 Out of Poverty Collaboration: TeenForce and Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County Help Foster Youth

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County Refugee Foster Care program began its collaboration with TeenForce in September 2013. [TeenForce](#) is a non-profit social enterprise placing youth 14-20 (extending to age 24 for former foster youth) into paid positions with businesses around the county. In addition to several other services, the [Refugee Foster Care Program](#) works to develop key independent living skills in all their youth ages 16 and up. Employment is noted as one such critical skill and is a key component in developing a youth's acculturation to America, ability to be self-sufficient, and overall sense of self-worth. TeenForce and Refugee Foster Care recognize the importance of collaboration in efforts to not only benefit the Refugee Foster Care population, but also the community.

When the Refugee Foster Care Program feels youth are ready, they refer their participants to TeenForce. Recently, Catholic Charities and TeenForce were able to partner and have two former foster youth interview for a CNA position with Los Gatos Meadows, in which one was placed with a contract position through TeenForce. Following the placement, there were unforeseen challenges and the youth

Program (SEFF) 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!

#### IVSN'S Villa Re-Opening Celebration

Tues., Feb. 13 4:30PM-6PM  
184 S. 11th Streeth, San Jose, CA  
Join us to celebrate the re-opening of Invision Shelter Network's Villa shelter for homeless families! The celebration includes a presentation from our CEO, guided tours, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP [here](#).

#### Step Up Silicon Valley Meeting

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.

Following the placement, there were unforeseen challenges and the youth unfortunately did not continue with the position. Nevertheless, TeenForce and Catholic Charities feel that a continued collaboration will be of utmost benefit and as youth skills continue to be developed, future success with job placements is unquestionable.

The collaboration between TeenForce and the Catholic Charities of Santa Clara is a part of a larger initiative by Step Up Silicon Valley working to help lift 1,000 families out of poverty in Santa Clara County.

For more information on TeenForce, please contact [John Hogan](#).

To learn more about the 1,000 Out of Poverty initiative, please contact [Debra Pacio](#).

## CCUSA Convenes Top Charities to Fight Poverty

In honor of the 50th anniversary on the War on Poverty, Catholic Charities USA has convened leaders from several of the nation's largest humanitarian organizations to work together in 2014 to educate, innovate, and act. Committed organizations include Feeding America, Save the Children, the Salvation Army, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Lutheran Services in America, United Way, and the Alliance for Children and Families.

On January 8, 2014, the organizations announced that they will convene a roundtable discussion on reform next month. Click here to read the full [press release](#).

## Stanford Releases National Report Card on Poverty & Inequality

On January 13, The Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality hosted The State of the Union on Poverty and Inequality. The event featured the release of the Center's first annual [Report Card on Poverty and Inequality](#). The report covers seven domains authored by the country's top experts in labor markets, poverty, the safety net, income inequality, wealth inequality, health inequality, and education.

For more information on the report, Please visit [The Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality](#).

## Wealth Gaps Widen in the Midst of Unemployment Crisis

Recent debates over the loss of long-term unemployment benefits spurring a widening wealth gap has called into question how we define income inequality. NPR host Audie Cornish interviews Drew DeSilver of the Pew Research Center to address the metrics and measurements of income inequality.

According to DeSilver, there are various ways to measure wealth or consumption inequality depending on whether factors such as such as Social Security payments or unemployment insurance are considered. DeSilver, however, points out that regardless of the data set utilized, "you will see a generally rising trend over time, particularly in recent years."

Research by University of California researcher Manuel Saiz indicates that the top 1% of American families had 20.9% of all income in the U.S. By 2012, that number rose to 22.5%, nearly a quarter of the total U.S. income. Conversely, the bottom 90% who once shared 52% of the national income in 2008 saw these numbers drop to 49.6% in 2012. Wealth inequality is even more unevenly distributed than income inequality. According to Saiz, the richest 20% of U.S. families own 88.9% of all the wealth in the country, whereas the highest-earning 20% of all U.S. families own 59.1% of all income.

The wealth gap is threatened to widen with the expiration of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program. The program officially ended on December 28, 2013, leaving 1.3 Americans without unemployment insurance. An estimated

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.

220,000 unemployed Californians now face greater challenges as they fall at a higher risk of falling below the poverty line in light of the loss of this major financial safety net.

Source(s):

Ortiz, Jon and Alexei Koseff. "[Californians face new year w ithout long-term unemployment benefits.](#)" The Sacramento Bee. The Sacramento Bee, 17 Jan. 2014. Web. 17 Jan. 2014.

"[The Widening Wealth Gap: Bringing Income Inequality Into Focus.](#)" Audie Cornish. All Things Considered.NPR. National Public Radio. 2 Jan. 2014. Web. 15 Jan. 2014.

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