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November 2014 Newsletter



Convening. Advocacy. Incubation.

Next Steps on Step Up Silicon Valley's Learning and Development Series

Savings Groups With Professor Jeff Ashe



We would like to thank Professor Jeff Ashe for a thought-provoking presentation last week at the Step Up Silicon Valley Learning and Development Series at Santa Clara University.

A microfinance pioneer and founder of Working Capital, once the largest microfinance institution in the U.S, Jeff discussed how savings groups are revolutionizing development. In savings groups, members save whatever they can to a communal pot and loan the funds to group members. In Jeff's book, "[In Their Own Hands](#)," he talks about how, "Savings groups are a 'catalytic innovation' that bypasses subsidies, dependency, and high costs while effectively increasing food security, building assets, and empowering the community."

To learn more about the presentation and watch the video, [click here](#). You may also [click here](#) to view Jeff's slides.

Community Announcements

1,000 Out of Poverty Team Meeting

November 14, 8:30-10:30 am

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.

Participate in a Holiday Shopping Spree at Target and Help Benefit the Families of [Sunday Friends](#)

Bring your friends and family members, plus \$10-\$100 (or more) on the following days:

- Friday, November 14 and/or
- Friday, November 21
- 6:30- 8:30PM

Choose from two Target locations (for either/both dates):

- Cupertino Target, 20745 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino
- Hillsdale Target, 1811 Hillsdale Avenue, San Jose

Next Steps

Attendees at the event had many questions for Jeff and everyone expressed interest in learning how to establish savings groups in Silicon Valley to help low-income individuals. Jeff is planning to return to the area to continue the conversation. If you are interested in learning more about savings groups and how you can get involved, please contact [Adelene Ramos](#).

Update on Environmental Injustice Research

Stakeholder's Meeting



This is a follow-up to the March 20, 2014 Step Up Silicon Valley Learning and Development Series, "Environmental Injustice: A Spatial Analysis of Cumulative Environmental Benefits and Burdens for Santa Clara County's Neighborhoods." We are happy to announce that the results of the research have recently been published in the academic journal, *Applied Geography*. "[The uneven distribution of environmental burdens and benefits in Silicon Valley's backyard](#)" can be viewed and the paper can be downloaded until December 1, 2014 at [this website](#).

Next Steps

Step Up Silicon Valley is planning to convene a Stakeholder's Meeting on this topic in December. If you are interested in environmental injustice and would like to join us, please contact [Adelene Ramos](#) to learn more.

To learn more, please email mail@sundayfriends.org or [visit their website](#).

Light Up the Night, A Benefit for Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence

December 11, 6:00 pm

Community Office
234 E. Gish Road, Suite 200
San Jose, CA 95112

RSVP by December 5
to 408-501-7558 or
lightupthenight@nextdoor.org.
[Click here](#) to learn more.

Community Action Poverty Simulations

November 20 – Community Leadership San Jose

December 10 – Presentation High School, San Jose

If you would like to sponsor, host, or attend a poverty simulation, please contact [Adelene Ramos](#).

Step Up Silicon Valley Core Team Meeting

January 29, 8:30-10:30 am

The SUSV core team meets on a monthly basis in order to build and strengthen relationships, identify community needs and strives to work with diverse leaders and the community-at-large to cut poverty and build the capacity to bring about needed systemic change.

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

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 and 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](#)

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