



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](#)

Santa Clara County Selected for California Pay for Success Initiative

Santa Clara County has been selected by the Nonprofit Finance Fund and the James Irvine Foundation to be one of five projects to participate in the new California Pay for Success Initiative, which launched in January 2014.

According to the Nonprofit Finance Fund, "The Initiative provides flexible funding and technical assistance with the goal of helping nonprofit and government leaders structure Pay for Success agreements in California over the next two years. Participants will form an active learning cohort to share their experiences, challenges and results in this work."

The five projects will take place in various California locations and will address issues of homelessness, mental illness, recidivism, maternal and child health, and more.

The Pay for Success (PFS) model spurs 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.

To learn more about the California Pay for Success Initiative and the five projects selected to participate, please [click here](#).

About Santa Clara County's Pay for Success Initiative

Santa Clara County's project will focus on reducing suffering and increasing wellness for the chronically homeless and the acutely mentally ill. The funds will go towards program design, deal structuring, evaluation, and capacity building for service providers that participate in the County's program.

Recently, the County announced the launch of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Lead Agency for the County Pay for Success project in chronic homelessness. The deadline to submit the Proposal is Friday, June 20, 2014. For bid guidelines and more information about the project, please [click here](#).

Step Up Silicon Valley, thanks to funding from The Health Trust, has advocated for this groundbreaking, performance-based contracting since 2012. In August 2013, Step Up partnered with Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc. and Santa Clara County to implement the first county-funded Pay for Success pilot in the nation.

To learn more about the history of Santa Clara County's Pay for Success Initiative, [click here](#) to access the Case Study: "From Idea to Action: Pay for Success in Santa Clara County."

SILF 2014 Was a Huge Success!

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

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

Community Announcements

Build Your Career in Health Care! Enroll in a FREE Certificate Program for Geriatric Home Aid!

Earn a Certificate from Foothill College when you complete 104 hours of training. Classes are FREE and no residency documentation is required. Classes take place May 12 - June 26, Monday - Thursday, from 2:00PM-6:00PM.

For more information please contact [Imela Vrankic](#) or call (408) 325-5171.

Get Ready To 'Play With A Purpose'!

On June 9, 2014 more than 250 golfers, donors, sponsors, volunteers and committee members will gather at beautiful [Cinnabar Hills Golf Club](#), to raise critical funds for the programs and services Catholic Charities provides to over 40,000 individuals and families right here in Santa Clara County. These programs help move people from poverty to self-sufficiency. [Sign up today](#) and be part of this 30 year Santa Clara Valley tradition!

For more information please email [Kathleen Burroughs](#) or call 408-325-5250.

Step Up Silicon Valley Core Team Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 8:30AM-10:30AM

Topic: Kids College Savings Account. Stay tuned for more info!

The SUSV Core Team meets monthly to engage in deeper dialogue on how systems analysis can be implemented in



A group discusses innovative solutions to affordable housing during a break-out session on Homelessness at SILF 2014.

The Third Annual Silicon Valley Social Innovation Leadership Forum (SILF), a cluster of Step Up Silicon Valley, was a huge success! Held on April 25, 2014, more than 270 participants converged at San Jose City Hall to discuss how to disrupt Silicon Valley for a better tomorrow. In addition to networking, attendees built leadership skills and capacity, shared best practices, and generated innovative ideas to advance community initiatives addressing homelessness and education.

Hosted by the City of San Jose Housing Department, this year's SILF involved 27 partner organizations (including the City of San Jose, Step Up Silicon Valley, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, CommUniverCity, and the Bay Area Social Enterprise Alliance), eight Universities, and seven colleges from San Jose State University. Thanks to a partnership with Cisco and SJSU's IT department, many attendees joined via WebEx. Many sessions were recorded and the SILF team plans to make the videos available to other Universities to serve as a resource for student projects in social innovation.

People are already looking forward to next year's Fourth Annual SILF. We will share the date and location when they are confirmed. To learn more about SILF, please [click here](#) or email Bobbi Makani at bobbi.makani@sjsu.edu.



A group participates in a deep discussion during the Social Innovation and Job Creation break-out session at SILF 2014.

A New Alternative to Payday Lending and High Interest Check Cashing

our network.

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

1,000 Out of Poverty Meeting

Friday, June 13, 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.

Community Action Poverty Simulations

June 28 - Los Altos United Methodist Church

October 21 - Grace Baptist Church, San Jose

November 4 - Mitty High School, San Jose

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



The Sunday Friends Ticket Bank: Sunday Friends families develop financial management skills as they earn, save, bank, accrue interest and shop with tickets at Sunday Friends.

Sunday Friends, an organization committed to empowering families in need to break the cycle of poverty, is excited to share that through a collaboration with Community Trust Prospera, a credit union that serves the low-income community, they will be able to help families use their developing financial management skills and go from the world of tickets to the world of dollars.

Now the families that come to Sunday Friends will be able to open checking accounts with Community Trust Prospera. They can deposit their paychecks and withdraw cash without having to pay fees. They will also be able to open "Fresh Start Loans," which will help them build credit from scratch. By building credit, these families will be able to rent apartments, get jobs, and finance vehicles and college educations. This new program offers a great alternative to paying exorbitant fees to payday lenders and check cashing services.

To learn more about Sunday Friends and this new program, please [click here](#) or contact Ali Barakat at ali@sundayfriends.org.



The New Prospera Credit Union Station at Sunday Friends: Sunday Friends families consult with Prospera financial representatives and open accounts to start saving and building credit.

Federal Minimum Wage Legislation

Failed, Democrats Will Not Give Up

A Democratic bill to raise the federal minimum wage failed in a vote in the Senate last week. Although the defeat was expected, President Obama and Senate Democrats are committed to making it an issue in the 2014 elections. The legislation would have raised the federal minimum wage gradually, in three phases, to \$10.10 an hour.

Conversely, in California, Governor Jerry Brown signed a law in 2013 that increased the state minimum wage to \$10 an hour by 2016. Democrats are now pushing for a union-backed bill, Senate Bill 935, which would increase the minimum wage to \$13 by 2017. The minimum wage in San Jose is now \$10.15 an hour and in Seattle there is a move to raise it to \$15 an hour. So the momentum continues.

To learn more about California's minimum wage efforts, please [click here](#). To learn more about the proposed federal minimum wage hike, please [click here](#).

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



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