

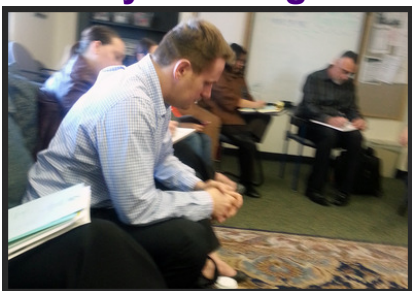
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# February 2015 Newsletter



Convening. Advocacy. Incubation.

## Stepping into 2015: A Look at the 1000 Out of Poverty Redesign



In January 2013, Step Up Silicon Valley teamed up with community stakeholders to launch "1000 Out of Poverty," a collective impact pilot seeking new strategies to help community members in need onto the path of self-sufficiency. Rather than

measure how many services our clients receive, we measure how many individuals are able to measurably move toward self-sufficiency. Thirteen organizations remain committed to a five-year pilot in which each organization will collaborate by utilizing its existing strategies and leverage strategies of the membership for a shared cohort of clients.

One of the many lessons learned during these past two years is that the work of the group could be more effective by narrowing its focus during the pilot to assist people that have the ability to become employed if given the opportunity. The belief is that by obtaining employment, the movement toward self-sufficiency will be expedited. These "unemployed, but employable" individuals may have multiple barriers to employment, e.g. ex-offenders, formerly homeless, veterans, former foster youth, limited English-proficient immigrants or clients with mental illness.



The redesign also includes new leadership. Leaders of two of our core service providers, Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO of the Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, and Trish Dorsey, Vice President, Goodwill Industries Silicon Valley, now serve as the co-chairs of the 1000 Out of Poverty effort.

1000 Out of Poverty ultimately seeks to change the current poverty reduction model to shift from policies and programs that maintain people in poverty, to implementing strategies of community economic development.

Learn more about [1000 Out of Poverty here](#) or e-mail [aramos@stepupsv.org](mailto:aramos@stepupsv.org).

## Community Announcements

### Environmental Injustice Stakeholder's Meeting

Tuesday, March 3,  
4:00-5:15 pm  
Wiegand Room, Vari Hall  
Santa Clara University

RSVP: Email [aramos@stepupsv.org](mailto:aramos@stepupsv.org)

To learn more, please go to this [website](#) or contact Christopher Bacon at [cbacon@scu.edu](mailto:cbacon@scu.edu).

### 1,000 Out of Poverty Team Meeting

March 20, 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.

### Step Up Silicon Valley Core Team Meeting

## Step Up Silicon Valley Matters; Affirmed by Network Members

On January 29, Step Up Silicon Valley hosted its fourth annual retreat facilitated by Greg Ranstrom of American Leadership Forum (ALF). Partners from the Step Up core team and the 1000 Out of Poverty Initiative came together to celebrate each other, strengthen relationships, recognize humble successes, and to make plans for the future of the network. It was an invigorating and inspiring day. Thank you to those who were able to join us!



### Some highlights from the retreat:

- **Step Up is a Volunteer Network** – the team realized that we are a voluntary group, committed to working together for systems change.
- **Step Up is a Testing Lab** – the network brings a diverse group of people to work together, to see things differently, test ideas, incubate, and advocate for policy changes.
- **Step Up is About Relationship Building** – the team valued the existence of Step Up Silicon Valley and expressed gratitude for the friendships developed, connections made, actions resulted, and community supported.

If you would like to learn more about the results of the retreat, please email [aramos@stepupsv.org](mailto:aramos@stepupsv.org).

## Poverty Simulation – Engaging Community for Social Change

The Step Up Silicon Valley Poverty Simulation is an effective tool to increase awareness and social change in our community. The simulation allows individuals to experience the day-to-day realities of those living in poverty in Santa Clara County.



During the simulation, participants role-play the lives of low-income families. The task of each family is to provide food, shelter, and other basic necessities while interacting with various community resources staffed by low-income volunteers. Many who have participated in a Poverty Simulation have said that

the experience changed their lives.

If you would like to attend a Poverty Simulation, or if you would like to

March 26, 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.

### Community Action Poverty Simulations

There's still room for Saturday, February 28, 10 am-12:30 pm

To register contact [Rod Sinks](#) TODAY!

Location: Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling, Cupertino, 95014. Hosted by Cupertino Rotary.

### Upcoming Simulations:

March 15 - Sacred Heart, Saratoga

March 30 - Mitty High School, San Jose

April 1 - Grace Baptist Church, San Jose

April 22 - Presentation High School, San Jose

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

### Spring Forward 5k/10k Benefit Walk/Run for Catholic Charities Programs

April 18, 2015

host or sponsor one, please see the sidebar for more information.

Location: Microsoft  
Corporate Campus and  
Shoreline Park

[Click here](#) to register

Learn more  
at [springforward5k10k.com](http://springforward5k10k.com)

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## Free Money Matters for Beginners Workshops Through CommUniverCity San Jose

CommUniverCity San Jose, San Jose State University College of Business, City of San Jose, Step Up Silicon Valley, Wells Fargo volunteer bankers, and other community partners are collaborating in a Financial Literacy education project for central San Jose families. San Jose State University Business students will lead workshops for adults and for children about basic money management.

### Dates of Workshops:

- Thursday Nights, 6 pm-8 pm
- 1st Workshop: Basic Banking services, March 12
- 2nd Workshop: Money Management, March 19
- 3rd Workshop: Protecting Yourself Financially, April 2
- 4th Workshop: Using credit to your advantage, April 16
- 5th Workshop: Basics on Retirement, April 30
- Final Event: Money Matters Graduation, May 7

### Sign up for Money Matters 2015 Interest list on Google Forms:

- [English Form](#)
- [Forma en español](#)
- [Mẫu đăng ký Việt](#)

For more information: 408.297.3301 or [info@cucsj.org](mailto:info@cucsj.org)

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## Free Money Management and Credit Workshops Through Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

### Learn How to:

- Manage bank accounts
- Create and maintain a monthly budget
- Save money
- Establish, build, and maintain a good credit score

### Dates/Times of Workshops:

- Wednesday, March 18, 2015

### Learning & Development Series

Thursday, May 7, 2015,  
8:30-10:00 am

The War on Poverty

Presented by Professor  
Hilary Hoynes from the  
University of California,  
Berkeley

Wiegand Room, Vari Hall,  
Santa Clara University

RSVP: Email  
[aramos@stepupsv.org](mailto:aramos@stepupsv.org)

- Wednesday, April 15, 2015
- Wednesday, May 20, 2015
- All workshops 6:00pm – 7:30pm

**Location:** Catholic Charities, 2625 Zanker Road, San Jose, CA 95134

**To Register:** Contact Asmir

Pinjic at [apinjic@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org](mailto:apinjic@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org) or (408) 325-5236 at least one day before the workshop.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

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## Free Tax Prep Services Available at Various Sites and Online Through United Way

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program offers FREE tax help to people who make \$53,000 or less. The tax preparation services are provided by trained, IRS-certified volunteers in a number of languages. Individuals and families who qualify are encouraged to use this free resource!

Please visit [www.211scc.org](http://www.211scc.org) or dial 2-1-1 for the most up-to-date information for site hours/locations and/or language capabilities. Learn more about the VITA program at <http://www.uwsv.org/free-tax-help>.

Free Tax Self-Prep Online – VITA is able to offer an online alternative option for internet-sawy folks to self-complete their taxes. Thanks to a national partnership between the IRS, United Way Worldwide, Goodwill Industries, Walmart and others, anyone who earns less than \$58k is eligible to access this free resource at: <http://myfreetaxes.com/uwsv>.

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## Free Tax Prep Services for Households Earning \$53,000 or Less Through Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Services offered in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own interpreter. Must arrive 30 minutes prior to scheduled appointment. All VITA sites will not prepare married filing separate returns.

### Tax Preparation Sessions Available:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays
- All workshops 5:00-8:00pm

### Appointments Only, No Walk-ins:

- (408) 325-5241 - English / Spanish
- (408) 325-5106 - English
- Email: [TaxEZ@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org](mailto:TaxEZ@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org)

[Click here](#) to learn more. This project has been made possible in part by a grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

## 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](http://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:

2014 Annual Report - [Step Up Community Update 2014](#)

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

Join our [mailing list](#), visit our [website](#), or find us on social media.



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Managing Director, Step Up Silicon Valley  
(408) 325-5128  
[anegash@stepupsv.org](mailto:anegash@stepupsv.org)

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