



FROM THE DESK OF ANNETTE MARCUM

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The purpose of our Annual Report is to give you, our supporters, a total picture of how our funding is raised and spent to help fight hunger and homelessness in our valleys. We thank each and every one who helped to make this possible.

We accomplish this while holding administrative costs to a mere 4.9%. For 27 years we have been an established focused grass-roots organization with a 99% volunteer staff, all having a deep commitment to help people in crisis situations. Our board governs, not manages, their responsibilities.

In March of 2008 our Pantry Manager Jane Hurlbut was honored with the Second Harvest Food Bank's "Hunger Fighter of the Year" award. I was also honored in May, receiving the American Red Cross "Lifetime Achievement" Award. For the 2nd year in a row in a contest run by the Valley Press/Banner called "Faves & Raves," VCUM was chosen the "Fave" non-profit organization.

Our budget has reached \$972,470.00 this year. Our first budget was \$11,175.00. Volunteer professionals carefully monitor our financial monthly statements, to alert the board if shortages occur and what (if any) programs need to be cut back.

I wish to thank Linda Lovelace, Operations Director, our only paid staff, for her hard work and dedication; and key volunteers Lisa Baumert, Financial Secretary, and Diana Campbell, Financial Treasurer.

There's no need to remind you of the terrible state of the economy. What I would like to leave you with is a comment from a grateful recipient: "VCUM has helped my family so much, from *no way*, to showing *a way* which has made it possible for us to get back on our feet".

Our job here is not to just give a man a fish, but to also help him learn to fish. There is a light at the end of this tunnel and it will continue to shine through your faith and giving.

Ways to help our "Mission of Love"

Donate cash, food or new items • Designate your United Way gift or company matched Grant Plan • Designate Memorial, Birthday & Anniversary Gifts for your Loved Ones • Designate Appreciated Stock • Include us in your Estate • Use your Shoppers Card designating VCUM at the Ben Lomond or Scotts Valley Markets.
• Last but not least, volunteer your talents.

We accept running and registered vehicles to benefit families.

Love & warmest regards,
Annette Marcum,
Director & Founder

Our 501-C3# is 77-0163322

*To make a gift by credit card, call our Treasurer
Diana Campbell at 831-336-8258 ext 227.*

*We do not rent, sell or exchange our
donor mailing lists.*



Valley Churches United 2008 Accomplishments

Operate our food Pantry fully staffed with volunteers.
Provide Direct Aid Assistance and Distributed Food Bags to alleviate hunger 5 days a week.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:

\$ 15,820.00	Senior Vouchers
\$ 80,206.00	Food Vouchers
2,956.00	Bus Passes
3,340.00	Gas Vouchers
9,807.00	Food Bank Purchases
1,006.00	Vehicle Repairs/Expenses
11,314.00	Utility Payments/Avoid Shutoff
914.00	Medical/Dental
625.00	Mission Outreach
282,341.00	Distributed Donated Food Items

32,059.00	Emergency Rent/Avoid Eviction & Homelessness
1,499.00	Individual Funds for Catastrophic Illness Victims
2,338.00	Client Info/Referral/Postage
18,784.00	Back Pack/School Supplies/\$25.00 K-Mart New Shoes Voucher
1,735.00	Science Camp Sponsorship

ACCOMPLISHMENTS – DIRECT AID & SERVICES:

- Provided site and volunteers to distribute USDA Food in 2008 – 2,942 households (6,691 individuals) served.
- Provided site and volunteers to distribute Food for Children bags with VCUM supplements to 2,048 households, 3,776 children.
- Provided site and volunteers to distribute Grey Bear Senior Bags – 5,046 distributed in 2008.
- Additionally provided low-income seniors (160 per week) with supplemental food bags and food vouchers from our funds.
- Collected, sorted, bagged and distributed 48,100 food bags.
- Provided emergency rent/mortgage assistance to avoid eviction or homelessness to 51 households (125 people).
- Provided emergency funds for utilities to avoid shut-off to 41 households (109 people).
- Provided MCR with access to interview Latino clients at VCUM distributions to accumulate statistical data.
- Provided Santa Cruz Mountain Arts Center with referrals of low-income children interested in art for participation in the Anicka Mihalik Memorial Fund.
- Provided a cash grant and items to Presbyterian Church of Felton for homeless lunch program.

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- Provided a cash grant to St. Lawrence Youth for monthly senior dinners.
- Provided 305 low-income students with Back-to-School backpacks containing supplies by grade. Plus \$25 vouchers to purchase new shoes.
- Provided tuition to school summer camp and science camp fees for 18 students.
- Provided Abbot's clothing and household vouchers.
- Provided 6 households with a donated vehicle in working condition.

We received \$65,433.00 in contributions from out of area donors, which allow us to mission out when the need arises

ACCOMPLISHMENTS – EMERGENCY / DISASTER CENTER

Direct Disaster aid assistance is provided on an individual basis after client interview and disaster assessment.

- Provide a disaster assistance site for Ben Lomond Fire Department to distribute sand bags during winter storms.
- Participated in the San Lorenzo Valley Disaster Planning Committee along with PG&E and other agencies.
- Provided lodging in motels, food and clothing to families after house fires.



AGENCY PROFILE

OUR MISSION: The Valley Churches United Missions is a coalition of community and church volunteers coming together to perform humanitarian acts by providing direct aid assistance in the form of food and emergency rent and utilities to the San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley residents in their time of crisis.

OUR IMPACT: Our primary community service is decreasing hunger and homelessness and providing

hope for the less fortunate in our community. The emergency food pantry volunteers prepare food bags for 1,100 people per month.

OUR PROGRAMS – Client Direct Aid Assistance:

1. Emergency Food Pantry, food vouchers, bus passes, gas vouchers distribution.
2. Senior low-income food and voucher distribution.
3. Crisis rent/mortgage assistance to avoid homelessness.
4. Crisis utility assistance to avoid shut-off.
5. Crisis medical/dental assistance (limited).
6. Education supplies, backpacks for children, camp fees.
7. Disaster relief, before, during, and after.
8. Holiday Projects: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas food and gifts.
9. Mission Outreach, sharing with agencies and individuals.
10. Individual fund-raising when a catastrophic illness strikes, 100% direct aid.

OTHER PROGRAMS AND CLIENT SERVICES AID

1. Client information and referral.
2. USDA monthly food distribution site plus supplements.
3. Food for Children monthly food distribution site.
4. Weekly Grey Bear distributions.
5. Weekly VCUM Senior distributions.

OUR RESOURCES: Our support comes from caring, sharing donors near and far. We receive no government assistance. We send mail appeals twice a year to generate funds. Our major fundraising drives are the "Buck For Hunger" and the Valley Christmas Project. We do not phone solicit or share our donor lists.

OUR ITEM DONATION RESOURCES: Item donation support comes from our local businesses, schools, service clubs, churches, youth groups and individuals.

OUR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS: Only 4.9% is used for the operation of our buildings, vehicles, utilities, insurance and one paid staff member. We can do all this because we operate with a 99% volunteer staff.



VCUM: A BRIEF HISTORY

1982 The storms which caused mud slides and floods resulting in loss of lives and severe property damage inspired this grassroots group to organize at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ben Lomond under the direction of Annette Marcum to aid disaster victims.

1985 Valley Churches United was formed by bringing together representatives of area churches and the community, to form a distribution site in our area for USDA food, a food pantry, and social services.

1987 Valley Churches United received a grant of \$5,000 from Hands Across America and founded the Valley Resource Center to house the VCUM food pantry as well as unite under one roof various governmental and community organizations to provide a variety of social services to valley residents.

1988 Valley Churches United Missions agree to make Valley Resource Center a separate non-profit corporation so that VCUM could concentrate its efforts to provide direct aid while the Resource Center concentrated its efforts on expanding social services.

1989 The Loma Prieta Earthquake created devastating property loss. VCUM responded to the needs by opening a Disaster Center that channeled over a half million donated dollars in items and cash to assist 3,042 disaster victims. Annette Marcum was the recipient for VCUM of the National FEMA Award for Disaster Response.

1990 VCUM was forced to relocate due to the rebuilding of Ben Lomond Market. With the assistance of our County Supervisor, United Way, Santa Cruz Greater Community Foundation and the generosity of our community, VCUM moved into its own location separate from Valley Resource Center. Similar names and the common location had created confusion as to organizational responsibilities.

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1996 VCUM purchased, refurbished and moved to its permanent location in downtown Ben Lomond. Fulfilling a mission of service to assist the less fortunate in times of crisis, VCUM was the only non-profit organization in Santa Cruz County operating on a budget of a half million dollars a year totally staffed by volunteers and with no government funding.

1998 Fierce El Nino storms pounded our valley during January and February creating many disaster victims. Our VCUM facility became a disaster relief center for the community. Our storage area flooded, causing losses of over \$60,000 in inventory of food supplies.

2001 – Linda Lovelace was hired as a part-time Assistant Director, our only paid staff. Annette Marcum continues as the unpaid Director. Volunteers contributed over 14,000 hours this year.

2008 – In our years of operation, we have raised and distributed \$14,196,421.14 in cash and items to low-income families and disaster victims in direct aid for food, shelter, medical and disaster relief to San Lorenzo and Scotts Valley residents in their time of need.

VCUM's programs include emergency food distribution, direct aid assistance for crisis rent, utility and medical needs, educational supplies, disaster relief, Holiday projects (Easter, Thanksgiving and the Valley Christmas Project), and USDA and Grey Bears food distributions.



**A Grand Mission of Love and Giving Since 1982
2008 27th Annual
Valley Christmas Project Report**

Our 27th Annual Holiday project touched the lives of 5,210 people county-wide. This grassroots project starts with serving all in need in the San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley areas, and then missions out with donations received from out of area, to 38 agencies providing direct aid to lonely nursing home

residents, incarcerated youth, low income families, mentally ill and county homeless. VCUM is truly a Mission of Love, *not a church or religious organization*, but community volunteers helping neighbors in need.

Your generous contributions provided holiday meals, food, food certificates and brightly wrapped new gifts in answer to 673 Santa letters from SLV and SV children. Our Senior Project boxes were distributed to 369 seniors.

\$338,495.00 was contributed in cash donations and item donations valued at \$284,015.00 were received. Total receipts were \$622,510. Our Administrative total cost was 4.6%. Dedicated volunteers devoted 6,290 hours and 5,728 students participated in the Canned Food Drives for a total of 37,560 lbs. of food collected. The "Grand Can Award" went to Vine Hill Elementary School in Scotts Valley, and SLV High School in the San Lorenzo Valley. Youth groups baked cookies, decorated boxes and cookie bags, and made cards. For the Stocking Project, 1,054 Santa wishes were answered, valued at \$42,160. Business Food Drives collected 15,118 lbs., valued at \$22,677.50.

Businesses, SLV and SV Chambers of Commerce, churches, schools and service clubs and youth groups held 38 community fundraising events, raising \$87,462.00.

We thank all of you in this time of economic crisis for being a part of this caring project.

Recipient thank you letters continue to pour in. One quoted, "You have renewed our faith in our fellow man. My heart has been opened to see the true meaning of Christmas. Our valley children are so blessed and lucky and grateful for this project."

Remember, "Hunger doesn't take a Holiday."
We operate our direct aid programs year round.

Love,
Annette Marcum, Executive Director
Linda Lovelace, Operations Director

**2008 Events Benefiting VCUM
Thanksgiving & Christmas Project Events**

- Oct. 24 St. John's Catholic Church Spaghetti Dinner
- Oct. 29 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Preschool Halloween Kick-off Food Drive
- Nov. 1 San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley Schools Can Food Drives (through Dec. 18)
- Nov. 9 Bushard Family Scotts Valley Safeway Food Drive -Thanksgiving
- Nov. 11 Henfling's / Vito Benefit Concert
- Nov. 13 Ben Lomond Market / Scotts Valley Market "Dinner in a Bag" Holiday Drive
- Nov. 15 December's Child Benefit Concert
- Nov. 15 Scouting for Food Collection
- Nov. 16 St. Michael's Catholic Church Pancake Breakfast
- Nov. 17 Scotts Valley Scout Pack 604 Book Sale
- Nov. 22 Scotts Valley Moose Lodge Safeway Food Drive - Thanksgiving
- Nov. 22 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Kirking of the Tartans
- Nov. 22 Boulder Creek Men's Golf Club - Tournament
- Nov. 22 Church of Latter Day Saints Felton Safeway Food Drive - Thanksgiving
- Nov. 25 Second Harvest Turkey Tuesday
- Nov. 25 Redwood Pizzeria Sales Benefit
- Dec. 1 Henfling's Alice's Restaurant Benefit
- Dec. 4 Holiday Gala Dinner Auction / Angel Awards
- Dec. 4 Sons of California Raffle
- Dec. 5 Aptos Jr. High Senior Boxes (60)
- Dec. 6 Scotts Valley Moose Lodge Dinner
- Dec. 6 Joe's Bar Holiday Raffle
- Dec. 6 San Mateo Fire Department Toy Drive
- Dec. 6 Scotts Valley Christmas Tree Lighting and Lights Festival
- Dec. 6 Ghost Mountain Riders Toy and Food Drive
- Dec. 7 Northern California Van Council
- Dec. 12 Boulder Creek Elementary Cocoa Sale
- Dec. 12 San Lorenzo Valley Realtors Christmas Party
- Dec. 12 Pfister Holiday Plant Sale
- Dec. 13 Henfling's / My Stupid Brother Benefit Concert
- Dec. 13 Bushard Family Scotts Valley Safeway Food Drive - Christmas
- Dec. 14 Santa Cruz HOGS Toy Drive
- Dec. 15 San Lorenzo Valley Chamber Light Up the Valley
- Dec. 19 San Lorenzo Valley Middle School Winter Carnival
- Dec. 20 Church of Latter Day Saints Felton Safeway Food Drive - Christmas
- Dec. 20 Family Giving Tree Toy Donation
- Dec. 20 De Laveaga Women's Golf Club Toy Drive
- Dec. 20 Boulder Creek Elementary Chores Drive Collection
- Dec. 20 Abbot's Thrift Raffle
- Dec. 20 Felton Round Table Pizza

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Memorials - 2008

We will truly miss their life force, service and dedication, which benefited Valley Churches United Missions and the Community:

Since 1987 – Maria Anderson

Since 1982 – Vera Wilder



Donations were made in memory of the following individuals:

Al Bernard

Huntley Dayton

Marie Des Chane

Benno Everett De Boer Luephe IV

Gayle Eaton

James Kearney

Larry Vantiem

Jim Willot



Special Thanks to our Community Partners

Twenty-one Churches appear on our member list. Clergy continue to spread the word of direct aid need year round. Many participate during the Holidays by distributing grocery bags and coin cans to be filled. Several maintain long-standing traditions by sponsoring fundraiser events. Many of our long-standing volunteers originally learned of VCUM's mission through their clergy. However, we are not a church or religious organization. Church cash donations raised \$13,133.50.

Special Thanks to our Local Businesses

In kind donations valued at \$213,560.78 from Safeway, Ben Lomond Market, New Leaf Markets, Johnnies Market, Boulder Creek Pharmacy, Coffee 9, Mountain Roasting Co., Longs and Rite Aid. Our volunteers pick up 'day-old' and other items 7 days a week.

Special Thanks to so many year-round contributors:

- Area post office workers for the May Food Drive (3,718 lbs.).
- Faithful local individual and business donors.
- Scopazzi's Holiday Gala & Angel Award Dinner (\$14,685.00).
- Ben Lomond Market for our Youth Education support.
- San Lorenzo and Scotts Valley area Dentists for toothbrushes and toothpaste.
- Abbot's Thrift for generously providing household/clothing vouchers, food and cash donations.
- Local Media: Santa Cruz Sentinel, Valley Post, Press Banner, Good Times, San Jose Mercury News, KSCO Radio, KPIG Radio, KSBW, KION, and Community T.V. for their support in keeping the public informed of our needs.
- Service Organizations and Youth Groups that run food drives, volunteer, decorate cookie bags and senior boxes, bake cookies, host senior projects – including but not limited to: Girl Scout Troop 1101, Community Impact Volunteer Group, Aptos Jr. High Students, S.L.V.H.S. Key Club, S.V.H.S. Interact Club and St. Lawrence Academy Students.
- Second Harvest Food Bank for our allocations of Holiday Food Drive collections.
- PG&E for January 2008 storm response (disaster supplies for disaster center activities and Holiday Grant).
- Employee charitable giving / match grants.
- Bushard Family Back-pack and Food drives.
- Monty's Jello Toss Event.
- Schwartzbach Art & Wine parking lot.
- New Leaf Community Day.
- Rock for a Reason / Henflings / Honest Mistake / Who's Holdin'.
- Santa Cruz Senior Follies.
- Spring Lakes Soup Luncheon.
- Redwood Pizzeria sales percentage.
- Alan Shawn Feinstein Grant.
- Bonny Doon Ladies Club Baby Layette Project.
- Businesses hosting our coin canisters.
- Events benefiting VCUM: Fishing Booth (\$444.00), Rug Sale (\$1,243.00), BFH Drive (\$43,858.60), Annual Contributions (\$48,986.70), Easter Project (\$10,303.00), Back-Pack Drive (\$7,866.35), Items (\$12,652.96)
- Donor Drop-off sites: Ben Lomond Gas Station (Talab) and Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce.
- Building Maintenance and repair contributors – Broom Hilda Cleaning Service for window cleaning; Contractor Dave Butler for stain repair, replace roof, track and fix water leak.
- Church of Latter Day Saints youth and adult volunteers on Saturday, September 13th, 2008. They brought their own materials and proceeded to:
 1. Paint the Boutique and Admin offices
 2. Pulled weeds and cleared the parking area
 3. Put a new awning over the back steps
 4. Replaced the floor in the disaster supply shed
- United Way Designations
- Lockheed employees Holiday Grant
- Director Annette Marcum for 2,355 hours in 2008 (total 45,925 hours to date)
- VCUM Board, Staff and exemplary volunteers who contributed 13,021 hours of service in 2008 –
 - Admin Office: Lisa Baumert and Diana Campbell
 - Pantry Support: Manager Jane Hurlbutt and the brigade of intake workers, food baggers, sorters and drivers.
 - Food for Children Support.
 - Pantry: Senior Manager Evelyn DeAlba, Cyndi Jarvis and Grey Bear volunteers, USDA support.
 - Saturday Pantry Manager Susan Thieman, Pauline Ross and volunteers.
 - Holiday Project Coordinators: Vallorie Reisig, Paula Kutty, Susan Kamprath, Cathy Immel, Elisha McKeown, Marilyn Mickelwait.
 - Holiday Gala : Bill Reisig and Diana Campbell
 - Building Maintenance: Konrad Baumert
 - Computer Gurus: Bill Reisig and Ramon Rodriguez
 - Accountant: Louise Beagle
 - Corporate Tax Preparer: Tracy New
 - Annual Report Design: Jean Van Ausdall

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**Thank You to all who participated in
our Gala Auction Dinner
December 2008**

Adventure Sports	Malone's Grille
Andersen Winery	Mark Stone
Bay Federal	Massage of Boulder Creek
Bay Photo	Monet Salon & Spa
Bayview Hotel B&B	Nancy Crouch
Bob Slawinski	Nickelodeon Theater
Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club	NuNu's
Brian's Bird Houses	Old Mountain Inn
Bruno's BBQ	Pfister's Plants
Byington Winery & Vineyard	Pro Golf
Café Cruz	Quasi MFG
Café Sparrow	Redwood Pet Sitting
Cava Wine Bar	Roaring Camp Railroads
Chocolate Visions	Roudon Smith Winery
Creative Hands	Santa Cruz Mountains Winegrower's Assoc.
Curves, Felton	Scopazzi's Restaurant
Curves, Scotts Valley	Scotts Valley Sports Center
Ed Lambing	Sessions
Felton Feed	Severino's Grill
Fran Golder	Shadowbrook
Gilroy Gardens	Solutions Technology
Hunter Hill	Storrs
Hilton of Scotts Valley	The Art Store
Houghtby Sewing	Topaz Lodge
In Vino Veritas	Tyrolean Inn
Jack Alves	Valley Gardens Golf Club
Jeanne & Larry Sikes	Verrerie Goods
Kayak Connection	Video 9
Lundberg Studio	Windows Murals.com
	World Gym

In addition, a very special thank you for the efforts of the Sons of California who sponsored an additional Raffle with dozens of items they solicited far and wide.

Please consider supporting this event by donating an auction or raffle item or gift certificate for services.

Many thanks to all, and especially to anyone we may have overlooked.



**VALLEY CHURCHES UNITED MISSIONS
Board Members, February 2009**

Corporate President, Director & Founder

Annette Marcum, St. Andrew's

Treasurer

Diana Campbell, Community BL

Financial Secretary

Lisa Baumert, St. John's

Board:

Board Chair	Judy Husted	Community BL
Vice Chair	Vallorie Reisig	Community BD
Secretary	Cathy Immel	Community BC
Minister Contact	Jeanne Bell	Non-denomination Minister
Operations Dir.	Linda Lovelace	Community BC

Board Members:

Diana Belzer	Valley Vineyard SV
Kristian Bie	Community BC
Syd Carlson	Community SV
Evelyn DeAlba	St. Michael's
Jane Gordon	Community BC
Jane Hurlbut	Community BC
Judy Husted	Community BL
Cathy Immel	Community BC
Susan Kamprath	Community BC
Marilyn Mickelwait	Community SV
Lyn O'Niel	Community BC
Bill Reisig	Community BD
Vallorie Reisig	Community BD
Jeanne Sikes	Valley Vinyard SV

Honorary Members:

Richard Bergman	St. John's Cath.
Dave Bustichi	St. John's Cath.
Les Grizzel	St. Andrew's Epis.
Jeanne Henry	St. Andrew's Epis.
Jocelyn Nelson	Community
Paul & Sonja O'Brien	St. John's Cath.
Darlyn Phinny	Community
Mary Ann Clare	Community
Pauline Ross	Community

Historians:

Mary Ann Clare	Community
Pauline Ross	Community

I am enclosing my donation to Valley Churches United Missions in the amount of:

\$ _____ \$25 \$35 (will provide a Family Meal Bag for 4) \$50 \$100

Check or money order made out to VCUM or Valley Churches United Missions, and mail to: P.O. Box 367, Ben Lomond, CA 95005-0367

Consider an automatic monthly debit donation to VCUM

Please call our Treasurer Diana Campbell at 831-336-8258 x227 to donate with your VISA or MasterCard credit card

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____

I am interested in volunteering, please contact me using the above information.

We do not rent, sell or exchange our donor information.

Thank you for your support! Our non-profit 501-C3# is 77-0163322



**VALLEY
CHURCHES
UNITED
MISSIONS**

**2008
ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE
CALENDAR YEAR
ENDING 12/31/08**

*Valley Churches United Missions is happy to
provide Community Service opportunities for
our local schools and service organizations.
Please contact Linda at 336-8258 x221
to find out more about volunteering.*

**We wish to thank the following sponsors
who responded so quickly to our appeal
to help fund this mailing.**

**As you can imagine VCUM is currently
inundated with families, seniors and
disabled adults seeking assistance
in this economic climate.**



**VCUM is currently facing challenges of
fundraising and rising expenses, as are
many charitable organizations.
We feel it is necessary and appropriate
to utilize as much of your donations as
possible for direct aid to clients.**

**Any sponsor funding received after
publication of this report will be
acknowledged in our next mailing.**