

VALLEY CHURCHES

UNITED MISSIONS

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

**FOR THE CALENDAR
YEAR ENDING 12/31/07**

From the Desk of Annette Marcum

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The purpose of our Annual Report is to give you, our supporters a true picture of how our funds are raised and how your donations are used to help fight hunger and homelessness in our valleys. We thank each and everyone who helped make this possible.

We continue to operate as we have the past 26 years with a 99% volunteer staff allowing the highest amount of your donated dollar to directly assist our neighbors in need.

For many years VCUM has been the temperature takers of the conditions of the economy. The month of January 2008 brought 50 new households in need of the basic necessity: food. We expect the *need will increase* this year. Most people in need of assistance have exhausted all their resources. They face financial crisis as a result of unemployment, illness or family separation. They are often referred from agency to agency for assistance. When they leave VCUM with bags of food to feed their hungry family they cry, they smile, they say thank you and often offer to volunteer. One family wrote, "Your generosity not only filled our stomachs, but warmed our hearts and gave us hope."

During the Christmas Project a child tugged at his mother's coat as she nervously was signing up for assistance and said, "Does this mean Santa will come for me too?" The mother had previously told him she didn't think Santa could come this year. You made that child happy through *your giving*.

A senior wrote, "The disadvantages of being old and lonely are overcome by all the love I received from your Holiday visits and gifts."

A donor wrote, "99% Volunteers? You and your volunteer team are the community's true heroes, an inspiration to all of us!"

We remain an organization with no government funding, but rely solely on your help to fund our programs.

Ann Frank once wrote, "No one has ever become poor by giving." I ask that you prove her right by sending your tax-deductible donation today.

It is with God's help and yours that I will continue to administrate this great organization. I pray that you will continue to support our efforts.

Won't you please write a check today?

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.

Love,

Annette Marcum, Director & Founder

Our 501-C3# is 77-0163322

To make a gift by credit card call our Treasurer Diana @ (831) 336-8258

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

Valley Churches United 2007 Accomplishments

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

Assistance Funded:

\$ 73,625.00	Food Vouchers
2,260.00	Bus Passes
3,000.00	Gas Vouchers
16,565.00	Food Bank Shared Cost Food Purchase
4,487.00	Vehicle Repairs/Expenses
10,356.00	Utility Payments/Avoid Shutoff
1,469.00	Medical/Dental
500.00	Mission Outreach
47,263.00	Emergency Rent/Avoid Eviction & Homelessness
3,247.00	Individual Funds for Catastrophic Illness Victims
700.00	Client Info/Referral/Postage
10,003.00	Back Pack/School Supplies/\$25.00 K-Mart New Shoes Voucher/ Science Camp Sponsorship (in severe financial hardship situations)

♡♡ VCUM works with one employee and weekly volunteers ♡♡

Accomplishments – Direct Aid & Services

- ♡ Provided site and volunteers to distribute monthly USDA Food in 2007-2889 households served.
- ♡ Provided the site and volunteers to distribute Food for Children bags with VCUM supplements to 1856 households, 3411 children.
- ♡ Provided the site and volunteers to distribute Grey Bears Seniors bags – 3115 people.
- ♡ Additionally provided low-income seniors (160 per week) with supplemental food bags and food vouchers from our funds.
- ♡ Collected, sorted, bagged and distributed 31,002 food bags.
- ♡ Provided emergency rent/mortgage assistance to avoid eviction or homelessness to 61 households – 140 people.
- ♡ Provided emergency utilities to avoid shut off to 42 households – 115 people.
- ♡ Provided MCR with access to interview Latino clients at VCUM distributions to accumulate statistical data.

- ♥ **Provided MCR with Holiday gifts and food for their teen program, providing a dinner at New Life Shelter, Santa Cruz.**
- ♥ **Provide Santa Cruz Mountain Arts Center with referrals of low-income children interested in art for participation in the Anicka Mihalik Memorial Fund.**
- ♥ **Provided 318 low-income students with Back to School backpacks containing supplies needed to do school work by grade. Provided 318 \$25.00 vouchers to purchase new shoes.**
- ♥ **Provided tuition to school summer camp and science camp fees for 12 students.**
- ♥ **Provided 475 Abbot's clothing and household vouchers.**
- ♥ **Provided 7 households with a donated vehicle in working condition.**
- ♥ **Provided grants to purchase food at the Food Bank for 13 pantries countywide.**

♥♥♥♥“We have many out of area contributors which allow us to mission out when the need arises” ♥♥♥♥

Accomplishments - Disaster

♥♥ 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 and bags during winter storms.**
- ♥ **Participated and was one of the sponsors of the Emergency Preparedness Faire held at SLV High. Active members of the San Lorenzo Valley Disaster Planning Committee.**
- ♥ **Provided lodgings in motels, food and clothing to 3 families after house fires.**

VALLEY CHURCHES UNITED MISSIONS

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 1100 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 SERVICES CLIENT AID

- 1.) Client information and referral
- 2.) USDA monthly food distribution site plus supplements
- 3.) Food for Children monthly food distribution site
- 4.) Abbots Thrift Shop vouchers for clothing & household items.

OUR RESOURCES: Our support comes from caring, sharing donors near and far. We receive no government assistance or grants. We send mail appeals twice a year to generate funds. Our major fund raising 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 5.57% 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.

Valley Churches United Missions - Mission & Brief History

Valley Churches United Mission is a coalition of church and community volunteers working together to perform humanitarian acts by providing immediate direct aid to the San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley residents in their time of need.

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 VCUM applied for and received a grant of \$5,000 from Hands Across America – the original Valley Resource Center and permanent Food Pantry was established by Valley Churches United.

1988 Based on residents increased needs Valley Churches United Missions voted to form a separate non-profit corporation to concentrate on expanding social services to area residents, with a paid director and staff. In October of 1988 the Valley Resource Center received its non-profit status.

1989 The October 17th Loma Prieta Earthquake created devastating property loss. Valley Churches United responded to the needs by opening a Disaster Center that channeled over a half million donated dollars in items and cash to assist 3042 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. The assistance of our County Supervisor, a one-time grant from United Way, Santa Cruz Greater Community Foundation and the generosity of our community made the move possible. This move separated the quarters of VCUM from VRC. Similar names, as well as a common location created confusion as to organizational responsibilities.

1996 VCUM purchased, refurbished and moved to its permanent location in down town Ben Lomond. The Mission was dedicated on Sunday, October 27th. Fulfilling a mission of service to assist the less fortunate in times of crisis VCUM remains 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 was a year of losses and challenges for our Mission. Beginning with the fierce El Nino storms that pounded our valleys during January through February creating many disaster victims. Our own facility included. Our storage area flooded and caused losses of over \$60,000 in inventory of food supplies collected during the Holiday food drives.

In October we lost Father Terry Somerville, our Board Chair and Ministers contact to cancer. During the storms he was out in the rain filling sand bags and helping with the clean up after the flood. The Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce honored Annette Marcum as the Scotts Valley Woman of the Year and KSBW TV for presented her with the Jefferson Award for volunteer service.

1999 to Present – Maintain and operate our centrally located facilities with only one paid staff – Operations Director – continuing our Missions of serving San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley area residents.

In our 26 years of operation, we have raised and distributed \$13,072,450.27 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, educational supplies, disaster relief, Holiday projects, Easter, Thanksgiving and the Valley Christmas Project, USDA food, Food for Children and Grey Bears distributions and VCUM supplements.

A Mission of Love and Giving Since 1982

2007

26th Annual Valley Christmas Project Report

Our 26th Annual Holiday project touched the lives of 10,077 people countywide. This grassroots project mission 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 37 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 642 Santa letters from SLC & SV children. Our Senior project boxes were distributed to 372 Seniors.

\$278,685.00 was raised in cash donations and item donations at \$278,581 were received. Total receipts and gifts value was \$555,266. Our Administrative total cost was 5.57%. Dedicated volunteers devoted 4106 hours and 5905 students participated in the Canned Food Drives in SLV & SV and collected 47,768 lbs. of food. Vine Hill Elementary School won the “Grand Can Award”. SLV High ran a close second. Children baked 326 dozen cookies, decorated boxes, made cards, and ran food drives. Area businesses, post offices, fire departments and police departments distributed Santa Letters, which resulted in bringing in 1302 gifts valued at \$52,080.00. Barrels collected 20,275 lbs. of food valued at \$30,412.50.

Business’s service clubs, churches and schools held 28 Holiday events.

Our first Annual Holiday Gala Event and Angel Awards Dinner, a real team effort by VCUM board and staff was held at Scopazzi’s raising \$15,414.00.

Thank you letters continue to pour in from grateful recipients. One quotes “The gifts were so appreciated, but most of all, you gave us back the true meaning of the Christmas Spirit, knowing that there are still caring loving people in this world.”

The Holiday Project is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Funds raised are also used to operate our direct aid programs for those in need throughout the winter months. Remembering “**Hunger doesn’t take a Holiday.**” Our 99% volunteer staff operates our programs 6 days a week year round.

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

2007
26th Annual Valley Christmas Project Events

St. Andrew's Preschool Halloween Food Drive
St. John's Catholic Church Spaghetti Dinner
St. Michael's Catholic Church Breakfast
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Kirking of the Tartans' Dinner
Girl Scouts & Safeway Thanksgiving Food Drive
Market Street Seniors "Granny's Attic" Sale Proceeds
Oak Tree Villa Holiday Pantry Collection
Ben Lomond/SV Markets Food Bag Drive
Boulder Creek Men's Club Holiday Fundraiser
Scotts Valley Holiday Light Cruise Food Drive – SV Recreation & Service Clubs
Santa Cruz Hogs Christmas Dinner & Children's Gifts
Son's of California Raffle & Auction Prize Collection Gala Event
December Child Concert - Still Fuming Record – Superior Olive
Northern California Van Counsel Toy Drive
Light Up Valley - Felton Community Hall – Monty's Log Cabin Food Drive
Skyland Community Church – Walk Plus Breakfast Proceeds
Roudon Smith Winery – Wine Tasting Food Drive
Dominican Hospital Thanksgiving & Christmas Employee Turkey Donation
Ken Stone Photo Raffle @ the Trout Farm
Goodwill Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party Proceeds
San Lorenzo Valley Middle School Winter Carnival
Ghost Mountain Riders Toy Run - Children's Gifts
The Mint - Scotts Valley - "Day to Donate" Proceeds
Little Peoples School Hygiene Drive
SLV and SV Schools Food Drives –Thanksgiving & Christmas
Businesses & Post Offices Stocking Project – Children's Gifts
Henfling's Holiday Havoc Food Drive
Heather Boucher Birthday Food Drive
San Mateo Fire Fighters – Toy Drive
The Family Giving Tree – Toy Drive
SPCA Pet Program
Autumn Bushard Food Drive

Memorials -2007

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

Patrick Vance

Loyal Smith

Gary Andersen

Beverly Mork Cutting

Grester Gideon

Ralph Nix

Don McQuillan

Rex Shoop

Anthony Ferrantino - named VCUM as one
of the beneficiaries in his pending estate settlement.

Special Thanks to Our Community Partners

21 Churches appear on our member list. Clergy continue to spread the word of direct aid needed 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 term volunteers originally learned of VCUM's mission through their clergy. However, *we are not a church or religious organization*. Church fundraisers and item donations raised **\$7,987.01**

*****Special Thanks*****

In kind donations valued at **\$222,367.69** from Safeway, Ben Lomond Market, New Leaf Markets, Johnnies Market, Boulder Creek Pharmacy, Coffee 9, Mountain Roasting Co., Longs, and Rite Aid. Our volunteers pickup day old and other items seven days a week.

*****Special Thanks*****

- To:** Area post office workers for the May Food Drive.
- To:** Faithful local individual and business donors.
- To:** Scopazzi's 1st Annual Holiday Gala & Angel Award Dinner.
- To:** Ben Lomond & Scotts Valley Markets for our Youth Education support
- To:** Out of area donors who help fund our Mission Outreach Programs.
- To:** San Lorenzo and Scotts Valley area Dentists for toothbrushes and toothpaste.
- To:** Abbot's Thrift for generously providing household/clothing vouchers, food and cash donations.
- To:** Local Media: Santa Cruz Sentinel, Press Banner, Valley Post, 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.
- To:** 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. We depend on all of these partners for help in supporting VCUM's Mission to serve the community.
- To:** Director Annette Marcum for **1,505** hours of volunteer service.
- To:** VCUM Board, Staff and exemplary volunteers who contributed **15,605** hours of service in 2007.
 - 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 and Grey Bear volunteers plus USDA support.
 - Saturday Pantry Manager-Susan Thieman, Pauline Ross and volunteers.
 - Holiday Project Coordinators: Vallorie Reisig, Paula Kutty, Marilyn Mickerwait, Susan Kamprath, Elisha McKeown and Cathly Immel.
 - Building Maintenance-Konrad Baumert
 - Computer Gurus – Bill Reisig and Ramon Rodriguez

**VALLEY CHURCHES UNITED MISSION's
Board Members February 2008**

Director & Founder	Annette Marcum	St. Andrew's
Treasurer	Diana Campbell	Community BL
Financial Secretary	Lisa Baumert	St. John's
Board Chair	Judy Husted	Community BL
Vice Chair	Vallorie Reisig	Community BD
Secretary	Cathy Immel	Community BC
Minister Contact:	Rev. Keith Johnson	Community BC
Operations Director	Linda Lovelace	(Only paid staff)
Board Members:	Louise Beagle	Community F
	Evelyn DeAlba	St. Michael's
	Jane Gordon	Community BC
	Jane Hurlbut	BC Community Church
	Judy Husted	Community BL
	Cathy Immel	Community BC
	Susan Kamprath	Community BC
	Jocelyn Nelson	Community SC
	Sonia O'Brien	St. John's
	Lyn O'Niel	Community BC
	Bill Reisig	Community BD
Honorary Members	Richard Bergman	
	Dave Bustichi	
	Les Grizzel	
	Darlyn Phinny	
	Vera Wilder	
Historians	Mary Ann Clare	
	Pauline Ross	

**REMEMBER WORKING FOR GOD PAYS VERY LITTLE,
BUT THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD!**