

## Valley Churches United Missions – 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 victims of this disaster.

**1985** Valley Churches United was founded by Annette Marcum 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.

**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 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. With the assistance of our County Supervisor, United Way and Santa Cruz Greater Community Foundation as well as 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.

**1996** VCUM purchased, refurbished and moved to its permanent location in down town Ben Lomond. Fulfilling a mission of service to assist the less fortunate in times of need, 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** El Nino storms pounded our valley during January through 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 food supplies inventory.

**2010** To date: in our years of operation, we have raised **16.5 million dollars** 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.