

Valley Churches United Missions –History

Mission Statement: 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.

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.

1988 Valley Churches United Missions agree to make Valley Resources 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 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.

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 hour this year.

2010 To date: in our years of operation, we have raised **15 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.

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, Food for Children and Grey Bears food distributions.