

We are Grateful for our Giving Community

We welcome 2009 with hope for opportunities, but also with the realization that tough economic times could bring challenges in the coming days. For the past 35 years, SCCC has been a collaborative partner with government funding sources, foundations, United Way, First Five, school districts, and other agencies to provide a wide array of community-based social services to over 6000 individuals and their families throughout Santa Cruz County.

We recognize that in order to sustain these vital programs, we need to enhance our partnership with our donors. We believe that a contribution to SCCC is one of the soundest investments anyone can make these days. Your dollars ensure that:

- Children aged 0-5 and their parents get a "Head Start" for school readiness;
- Teens learn positive behaviors and improve their self-esteem so that they can complete their education and make an effective transition to independence;
- Adults on the path to recovery receive the tools and encouragement to assist them on their journey; and
- Individuals dealing with the challenges of mental illness have access to treatment and housing opportunities to support their wellness.

We have experienced a wonderful outpouring of assistance over the past few months. On "Make a Difference Day", ShareFest volunteers from local faith-based organizations worked to improve our facilities by painting, landscaping, and making repairs. Local realtor Joelle Mower held a "Gratitude Gathering" at her home as a benefit for Youth Services. Merrell gave warm clothing and backpacks to River Street Shelter residents. DCD Insurance designated their holiday party donations to Youth Services. Numerous individuals and local businesses contributed gifts for children and teens in our programs, as well as food for holiday celebrations.



SCCCC Executive Director Carolyn Coleman greets Head Start children on Halloween.

It is clear to us that despite the financial downturn, many in our community have been especially generous in helping those in need. The response to our holiday appeal was very encouraging, and we are most thankful for every donation.

Here are some other creative ways you can help us:

- Host a house party to benefit SCCC; we're happy to help with planning, servers, clean-up crew, and program if desired.
- For your next birthday or special occasion, ask friends and relatives to make a donation to SCCC as your gift.
- Join our Resource Development Committee and help us plan future activities.
- Remember SCCC in your estate planning.

To discuss these or any other ways to get involved, please call Linda Baker at (831) 469-1700 x153 or email her at linda.baker@sccc.org.

Finally, our wish for all of you is a peaceful and healthy year ahead!

In Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn".

Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director

You can make a direct contribution in the enclosed envelope or on our secure website at www.sccc.org/donate.

Save The Date - Giving O' The Green - Tuesday, March 17th. Have dinner at Shadowbrook Restaurant where 1/3 of your bill will be donated to SCCC. This is a great opportunity to gather a group for a fun evening out at one of Santa Cruz County's premier restaurants. Call (831) 475-1511 to reserve your table and make sure to say that you'll be dining on behalf of Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center. Reservations can be made 28 days in advance.

Video Viewing - Watch a great mini-documentary about SCCC programs produced by Community Television of Santa Cruz County. Go to our website: www.sccc.org/news and click on the video link.

Drug court gives clients “a life”

SCCCC Programs

Child and Family Development Programs

- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Families Together
- First Five Starlight Infant/Toddler Program
- Papás
- State Preschool

Community Recovery Services

- ALTO Counseling Center
- Fenix Services
- Hermanas
- Santa Cruz Residential Recovery
- Si Se Puede

Community Support Services

- El Dorado Center
- Paloma House
- Crisis House
- Permanent Affordable Supported Housing
- Independent Living Program for Foster Youth
- River Street Shelter
- Money Management Services
- Transitional Housing Program - Plus for Former Foster Youth

Youth Services

- Alcohol and Drug Counseling
- Crossroads
- Escuela Quetzal School
- YouthCare
- OASIS
- Pajaritos
- Prevention Services
- School Counseling
- STRANGE
- Tyler House
- Vision
- YES School



community
recovery
services
**DRUG COURT
PROGRAM**

Many clients express great appreciation for the second chance Drug Court has offered them. “Drug Court saves lives. It gives people the tools to stay drug free. It gives us structure and direction, a ‘light at the end of the tunnel,’” says client Scott ‘Pops’ Whitney. Clients recently attended a barbecue hosted by ALTO. Judges,

public defenders, court staff, counselors, as well as clients, attended as a way to celebrate “Recovery.” One attendee felt compelled to write a letter of appreciation and gratitude.

“Over time I have come to see my sentence to Drug Court as an opportunity rather than a punishment. If I use the tools I have learned to sustain my recovery, I would say that Drug Court has shown me how to save my own life,” wrote Tina, who has been in treatment for a year and successfully completed Drug Court. Drug Court saves lives!

How You Can Help: Your donation will help others to learn how they can save their own lives.

Drug Court, a program of ALTO Counseling Center, offers adults convicted of drug-related offenses a comprehensive program that avoids jail and promotes positive steps toward a new life.

Services include:

- Outpatient treatment
- Drug counseling and testing
- Family classes
- Life skills training
- Court meetings and hearings
- Employment support
- Financial counseling.

Individual and group counseling services are provided in a comfortable and supportive setting.

New Resource Center for Youth

Community Support Services’ Independent Living program opened a new Resource Center in January 2009.

This Center will assist current and former foster youth ages 15-24 in building the skills, self-esteem, and support systems necessary to make a successful transition to independent living in the community. Our programs help youth get jobs, register for college, enroll in vocational training, find housing, learn budgeting skills, and make healthy decisions and choices for their futures.

The young adults in these programs do not have the financial support and guidance from their parents that most of the youth in our community have. Youth who emancipate from the foster care system face disproportionately higher rates of unemployment, lower educational attainment, incarceration, dependence on public assistance, substance abuse, non-marital childbirth, and other high-risk behaviors. Nearly 40% of transitioning youth will be homeless

community
support
services
**INDEPENDENT
LIVING PROGRAM**

within eighteen months of discharge. According to the May 12, 2006 Select Committee Hearing of the California Legislature, over 70% of all State Penitentiary inmates have spent time in the foster care system.

Our accessible Resource Center will benefit the youth by providing a safe space to access resources such as computers for employment and scholarship searches, housing assistance, skill-building workshops, counseling, and a support network. Maria Ruiz, a former foster youth program participant commented, “I now feel that I have more support and a clearer picture of what I want to do in life. Knowing that there are people who care about me makes life easier.”



Maria Ruiz, program participant

How You Can Help: Donate an item from the Independent Living Program Resource Center’s wishlist, such as new home furnishings for youth. For a complete list, visit www.sccc.org/donate/wishlist.

First 5 Starlight Infant/Toddler Program

Community Heroes!

Child and Family Development Programs' Starlight Infant/Toddler Program (SITP) is an exciting new collaboration between Early Head Start and First Five of Santa Cruz County, with funding provided by First Five. This home-visiting model program offers a wide variety of comprehensive bilingual services for fifty families and very young children, ages zero to three, in the Watsonville area. The program is located at the Baptist Church site on Arthur Road, near our Starlight State Preschool program. A key goal is to create a "learning community" that promotes early literacy and helps prepare children and their families for successful transitions to public school.

Staff specialists work with expectant parents beginning with prenatal services and support to ensure healthy labor and birth outcomes. A father-friendly focus in partnership with our Papas program is also emphasized. The program utilizes a strength-based, culturally relevant approach that responds to each family's interests and needs and provides ongoing parent education, individualized home visits, infant and toddler play groups and referrals to community resources. SITP adheres to high performance standards



SCCC Executive Director Carolyn Coleman, Head Start Home Visitor Margarita Melgoza, and parents Miguel and Angelica Alvarez visit the new Center with their daughter Leslie.

based on Federal Early Head Start guidelines, using an evidence-based curriculum widely acclaimed on a national level, "Partners for Healthy Families." In-depth assessments on health, nutrition, and a variety of social and emotional developmental areas are also completed for each child to ensure school readiness. We are very excited about this new collaboration and its potential to give children and their families a positive start.

child and family development programs
FIRST FIVE STARLIGHT INFANT/TODDLER PROGRAM

How You Can Help: Your donation will support education and services to promote healthy families.

United Way's Community Assessment Program (CAP) has annually honored community heroes - special individuals whose efforts help move Santa Cruz County toward the achievement of the community goals.

We were very proud to have five CFDP Head Start and State Preschool Teachers recognized as First Five coaches promoting early literacy (from left to right):

Desiree Cubero
Rocio Ramirez
Gabi Solano
Maria Alcantar
Antonette Ramento (not pictured)



YouthCare Counseling Program

Homelessness is frightening for children. It means not knowing where they will sleep at night or whether there will be food to eat. Moving around from place to place can mean leaving friends and relatives, changing schools, changing lifestyles.

Youth Services' YouthCare counselors bring considerable experience and vital team collaboration to their work with children and families facing unstable housing situations.

The YouthCare Counseling Program serves over 90 families annually who are experiencing serious emotional and social distress. Children may experience anger, depression and anxiety. They can act aggressively towards others; crying and tantrums may increase; talking to parents

and teachers becomes difficult. Schoolwork can be overwhelming and relationships with friends become strained. Unhealthy behaviors such as drug or alcohol use, self-harm, or setting fires may escalate quickly with increased stress.

YouthCare counselors provide support to parents struggling with mental illness and substance abuse. Counselors work in coordination with schools and other agencies to assist children and families who may be living in motels, campgrounds, shelters and even cars. Many times our counselors are the only consistent adult influence these children have. The services provided by our YouthCare program are vital to ensure the well-being of these young people.

One of the many YouthCare success stories

involves a single mom with three children who was scared, homeless, and overwhelmed. Two of her children began receiving counseling services while staying at a shelter to support them in making huge transitions in their lives. Her children are now in stable, long-term housing, and are thriving in mainstream public schools. This mom is working on completing the EKG technician program at Cabrillo and is an inspiration to many others.

How You Can Help: Your donation will support vital counseling services to homeless children and their families.

youth services

YOUTH CARE COUNSELING PROGRAM

Visit our web site! www.sccccc.org
If you would like to receive our newsletter by
email, contact us at info@sccccc.org

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Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center

Changing Lives, Building Community — Since 1973



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Our mission and services

Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center builds on the strength of people working together to create healthy change in their lives and community. We deliver quality human services guided by the values of diversity, partnership, and the power of workplace democracy.

Child and Family Development Programs

An array of early childhood education, social services, and parent education programs serving low-income children ages birth to 5 and their families, including Head Start/Early Head Start.

Community Recovery Services

Residential and outpatient drug and alcohol recovery services for adults at six facilities in Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

Community Support Services

Case management, residential treatment, emergency shelter, affordable supported housing for adults with mental illness. Independent living support for foster youth.

Youth Services

Prevention and treatment strategies to assist youth ages 12-20 and their families to find positive solutions to the challenges that arise in adolescence.

Funders include: County of Santa Cruz • U.S. Department of Health and Human Services • California State Department of Education • Robert Wood Johnson Foundation • Cities of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Capitola, and Scotts Valley • United Way • Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County • First Five of Santa Cruz County • County Office of Education • U.S. Probation Office • Center Point • California Youth Authority • We also thank our many generous private donors for supporting our community-based services.

