



An Enduring Community Working Together

*Samaritan House champions
a history of success in the
fight against poverty.*

Just a 5 minute drive from Foster City, the Samaritan House headquarters in San Mateo showcases an operation serving a full breadth of essential services and personalized support to the working poor. It is the largest truck-to-table food distribution agency in the county and offers free accessibility to shelter, medical and dental clinics, clothes for children, personalized case management and more. Since 1974, Samaritan House has kept clients fed, clothed, healthy, and housed.

The Bay Area is the birthplace of life changing technology and forward thinking geniuses. It is an area of great wealth and opportunity, but a growing crisis hides underneath. It is a crisis that affects the working poor, the ones who actually support comfortable lifestyles. It affects the security guard sleeping in his car, the teacher whose emergency room visit put her a month behind rent, or the mom working three jobs to keep her kids fed and warm. Economic disparity has pushed those the community depends on into survival mode, and it's not pretty.

One such individual is Sarah, a resident on the Peninsula and a mother of four. She is just one example of resilience in this unceasing cycle of life. She manages her rent and monthly expenses through work, but began going to Samaritan House at the end of 2015 for food assistance. The food pantry helps offset hundreds of dollars a month in expenses that would otherwise make monthly bills difficult to manage. With help from the Back to School Program, the Holiday Program, and Kids Closet too, Sarah's children have received clothing, new backpacks full of school supplies, and even holiday gifts. When every person has the resources he or she needs, stability is created so that they may remain an active, successful part of the community.

Every school within the San Mateo Foster City School District participates in an empathy-building program called Project WEECare, as do more than 30 schools in the area. In the program, children learn about the issues of poverty and how they can help. WEECare initiatives are integrated into established school service learning programs where schools commit to undertake four collection drives over the school year. By providing the tools for local poverty awareness and empathy building, the program encourages conversation and action among children, teachers, and parents.

While tackling poverty is anything but easy, it's true that many hands make light work. From Genentech in South San Francisco to Facebook in Menlo Park, corporate and organization volunteers help Samaritan House connect almost 15,000 clients a year to the resources they need across San Mateo County. Whichever way one turns, a person is likely to run into an individual, organization, or school in Foster City involved with Samaritan House.

Corporations from Gilead Sciences, VISA Inc., and Costco to community organizations such as the City of Foster City, the Rotary Club, the Police and Fire Departments, Foster City Lions Charities, Pacific Skyline Council Boy Scouts, Bayside Community Church, Atria at Foster Square, Ronald C. Wornick Jewish Day School, Mid-Pen Housing, and Foster City Chamber of Commerce frequently serve in giving or volunteerism.

“I witnessed Samaritan House’s unique ability in uniting those in need with those willing to step up and meet those needs. I love Samaritan House because ‘our’ mission is to help our fellow human beings in the most efficient and intimate manner.”

Former Mayor of Foster City and longtime Samaritan House supporter, Pam Frisella



Here, great wealth and opportunity coexist with poverty and systemic inequality. In this context of growing economic disparity, Samaritan House is ensuring the working poor aren't invisible. Together, this enduring community is in the fight to break the cycle of poverty.

To learn how you can make a difference, visit samaritanhousesanmateo.org

14,902 clients served through comprehensive programs that lift the working poor towards a **healthy, stable, and self-reliant life.**

1,375,622 meals served to families, seniors and individuals to **prevent hunger.**

3,675 volunteers devoted to **relieving the pressures of poverty.**

54,206 pieces of children's clothing and shoes distributed to **keep kids clothed.**

