As 2023 closes, please accept Santa Maria’s heartfelt gratitude for your critical support this year! Community support, financial donations, food donations and volunteers have allowed Santa Maria to keep up with the heart-rending demand from families dealing with economic hardship.

The scale of need in San Jose now is truly staggering. Many new families come to Santa Maria every day for help. We have long lines of clients that wind through our parking lot daily. Each month this year we served about 1,500 families – a volume almost four times pre-pandemic levels. In November we distributed 1,927 boxes of groceries – staples, plus frozen chickens, fresh produce, eggs and cooking oil. More than 90,000 pounds of food!

How do we do it? Only with the community’s help! As a front-line community food pantry, Santa Maria receives support from Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Target, Trader Joe’s and Grocery Outlet Markets. Individuals and churches provide regular food donations. Volunteers regularly bring baked goods and items from Whole Foods and other sources.

Our modest $350,000 annual budget is entirely dependent on generous donors. Individuals from the bay area and as far away as Maine, Texas and N. Carolina send support. Churches and service clubs. Employees of Apple and Google donate through their matching programs. Santa Maria appreciates every dollar!

As we anticipate continued high demand for food in 2024, we appeal to you to continue to support Santa Maria’s efforts to feed hungry families in San Jose. If you could increase your donation even by 10%, we would be so grateful! Every dollar you send makes a difference!

You may use the enclosed envelope or use the QR code to the right to send your much-needed and appreciated support. Thank you!
Merry Christmas and Happy 2024!
For forty years Santa Maria has supported transformative change in the lives of those we serve. 2024 will be no different. Santa Maria is a welcoming place that treats clients with warmth, dignity and respect.

STUDIO after-school homework support restarts in January with Santa Clara University student mentors. Studio provides meaningful support to grade schoolers and helps put young students on a path to academic success.

ESL classes are offered at Santa Maria in conjunction with West Valley College. 2023 classes were full! New sessions begin in January. Evening classes provide learning and practice after work to help enrollees build proficiency to better their lives.

WARM HEART MINISTRY distributes sleeping bags, coats, socks. Coats desperately needed! Santa Maria provides new socks, underwear, sleeping bags, backpacks with hygiene items and jackets to the homeless. Many donors make this help possible, including Los Gatos Rotary Foundation and the American Association of University Women. If you have clothing for the homeless please bring it on by! Thank you!

VITA tax services bring hundreds of thousands of needed dollars into the community every year by helping workers file for their tax refunds. Santa Maria relies on dedicated volunteers who commit their Saturdays during tax season to help low-income tax payers navigate the tax system and file.

Family Fund Continues to Help

Working with leadership from Washington, Rocketship Mateo Sheedy and Sacred Heart Nativity elementary schools, Santa Maria provides for families who are especially in need. Through the Family Fund, Santa Maria provides Target gift cards to identified families to help with clothing, shoes and other school-year essentials for students. This fall SantaMaria helped 31 families with very critical grants of $350 each.

Santa Maria runs very lean with just two employees. Everything else, including all of our programs, is run by our dedicated volunteers. We encourage you to visit any weekday morning to see our bustling Food Pantry in action! It’s a chance to witness the impact that Santa Maria has on the lives of our families, and to feel the compassion that is sustained by your generous support.

Your donation of funds, food, and warm clothing are most needed now. And we’d love to have you join us as a volunteer! Just contact Alfonso Mendez TODAY!