

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Foothill Unity Center, Inc.

HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

For over 40 years, Foothill Unity Center has helped individuals and families in need with programs that focus on: Food, Health, Crisis Case Management, Job Development, Housing, and Homeless services, supported by our Volunteer Program.

MISSION

We help neighbors in crisis attain self-sufficiency by partnering with the community and using our resources wisely to provide vital support services with love and dignity.

VISION

Foothill Unity Center, Inc., envisions a community where: - All have their basic needs met, including the need to give - All get the necessary support to become self-sufficient - All are treated with love and dignity ... all the time.

POSITION STATEMENT

Foothill Unity Center, Inc., a federally designated Community Action Agency, is the leading safety net providing food, health services, housing, and employment resources to bridge the gap in times of financial crisis. FUCI serves thousands of families and individuals each year to prevent homelessness before it begins. Through its proven, individualized case management model, breadth of vital community partnerships, and robust volunteer base, FUCI provides the largest and most efficient food distribution in the San Gabriel Valley.

CORE VALUES

Leadership | Empathy | Integrity | Inclusivity | Equality



A YEAR OF SERVICE, IN THE WORDS OF JHOANA HIRASUNA

Dear Friends,

This past year tested the strength of our community in ways few could have imagined. When the 2025 Eaton Fire devastated Altadena and surrounding neighborhoods, thousands of families were suddenly facing loss, uncertainty, and the long road to recovery.

In moments like these, the compassion of a community becomes its greatest strength, and that compassion was reflected in the generosity of supporters like you.

Throughout the year, I had the privilege of meeting many of the families you helped, parents determined to rebuild, seniors grateful for a warm meal, and neighbors supporting one another through unimaginable loss.

At the same time, organizations like Foothill Unity Center faced growing challenges as public resources were stretched across multiple recovery efforts and many traditional funding streams were reduced. Yet even in the midst of these difficulties, our community responded with extraordinary generosity.

Because of you, Foothill Unity Center was able to remain a steady source of support for families who needed it most. Over the past year, we served **14,949 individuals**, provided more than **1,269,869 meals**, rescued **1.7 million pounds of food**, and delivered **11,155 pet food and veterinary clinic services** so families could also care for the animals that are part of their households.

Behind each of these numbers are neighbors who found relief, dignity, and hope during difficult times. One family you helped shared the following after receiving support during a sudden job loss:

"A huge thank you to everyone at Foothill Unity Center who helped us for four months after a sudden layoff. They provided food for my husband and me, as well as food and vaccines for our service dog. We are so grateful."

Your support ensured that, even during a year of uncertainty, our neighbors did not have to face hardship alone.

As we move into the year ahead, the road to recovery continues. But what gives me hope is the resilience of this community and the compassion and generosity of people like you. Your belief in our mission strengthens our work and ensures that Foothill Unity Center can continue responding to the evolving needs of our neighbors.

Thank you for standing with Foothill Unity Center during a year of great need and for helping ensure that our neighbors always have a place to turn in times of hardship.

With gratitude,

Jhoana Hirasuna
Executive Director



TOGETHER, WE ARE ENSURING THAT EVERY NEIGHBOR IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY HAS A PLACE TO TURN IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP



CLIENT PROFILE

14,949

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

6,873

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

1,836

FAMILIES ARE NEW TO THE CENTER

4,181

CLIENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE & LIVE BELOW 200% OF THE FPL

2,350

CLIENTS LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY (BELOW 50% OF FPL = FAMILY OF 4 STRUGGLING WITH LESS THAN \$15,600)

2,460

CLIENTS ARE CHILDREN

2,657

CLIENTS ARE SENIORS

In 2025, Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of 4 = \$31,200, family of 1 = \$15,060

88 cents out of every dollar goes directly to programs and services

COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Foothill Unity Center is proud to be recognized for our services and our impact on the community. We have received top ratings from charity watch dogs and positive reviews from the community. Accountability and transparency are important to us. Year after year, we have been awarded with a five-star rating from Great Nonprofits as a top-rated charity, as well as the Platinum Seal of Transparency rating by Guidestar and the highest rating from Charity Navigator. In 2025, we were proud to add the Platinum Transparency Seal from Candid.



HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO CHANGE

HELP

Through programs and services that address basic needs

HOPE

From a responsive and caring community

HEALTH

Economic stability, nutrition and wellness

Helping People and Changing Lives!

Foothill Unity Center provides a lifeline to low-income and homeless neighbors in need. By removing barriers and providing access to resources and support, we create pathways to self-sufficiency. We serve twelve cities along the Foothills of the San Gabriel Valley: Altadena, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Duarte, Irwindale, Monrovia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, and Temple City.



TOUGH COMPETITION—Danita Hiestand, 19-year-old daughter of Mrs. Beverly Roth of Altadena, gives her Angus heifer a good scrubbing before judging in the open livestock division of the Los Angeles County Fair. Danita, who has won blue ribbons in previous junior division shows at the Los Angeles County Fair, placed fourth in her class in the open division in which she was competing with [unclear] Search Crop Markun

DANITA'S STORY

Danita has been a star since she can remember—she was taught to ride horses at a very young age and has been competing ever since. Danita's home used to be a ranch on top of Fair Oaks in Altadena, where she trained horses and gave lessons in between competitions. After the wildfires, Danita was uncertain about her future. **"We were luckily able to get all of the animals off the ranch safely. It took a few hours. If I'd tried to go back and get anything else, I would have died."**

Danita found temporary boarding for her horses, PJ and Athena, while she thought about the next steps. Through Foothill Unity Center, she was able to receive a grant that helped with her own housing, and the weekly food distributions have allowed her to focus on regrouping. **"The meat that I get here is so good—I use it for tacos, burritos, everything. It's fresh, healthy, and they also provide dog food, which is what I feed my birds."**

Through another grant, Danita is in the process of getting her truck driving license and currently has her permit. She is hopeful that by the end of the year, she can get her CDL and start working again.

"I would like to thank Foothill Unity Center for the generous, generous help. My future is looking really good. I really want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

GINA & DANIEL'S STORY

Gina and Daniel had lived in Altadena for 40 years. In January, the couple had to leave their beloved home at 3:30am in the morning as the fire approached from across the street. **"It has been a long journey to find a place to stay."** After living with friends and family for the initial few weeks, the couple was able to secure temporary lodging in Old Town Pasadena. **"It's just overwhelming, especially when you're older, the challenges get harder."**

Through a wildfire grant received from Foothill Unity Center, Gina was able to get new tires and a new battery for their only vehicle, along with a replacement hearing aid for Daniel, who was in the process of recovering from open heart surgery. **"The hearing aid would have cost us \$7,000 out of pocket. Thank you to Foothill Unity Center for all the support, it has helped us a lot."**



BUDDY & KENT'S STORY

This is Buddy. Kent* took him under his wing after finding out that his previous living situation was not favorable. Buddy's past resonated with him, and in honor of a loved one he couldn't save from a similar situation, Kent decided to step up. While Kent is currently unhoused, he saw an opportunity to try to give Buddy the love he deserved.

Kent has been coming to Foothill Unity Center for over a year now, after making the tough decision to leave his previous life behind for the sake of his mental health. He is grateful for the staff at the front desk, and said **"whenever I'm having a bad day, the staff's encouragement gives me the strength to move forward."** While Kent has struggled with asking for help at times, he's appreciative of all that he's been able to receive for Buddy and himself at Foothill Unity Center.

**Name changed for anonymity*

THE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY

Food Insecurity

24%

of families are food insecure in LA County

35%

of low-income LA County households suffer severe food insecurity

21%

of LA County households are affected by nutrition insecurity (limited access to healthy and culturally appropriate food)

44%

of food insecure LA households receive CalFresh, with many not qualifying

LA County Homeless Count

72,195

Total Homeless Count, LA County

47,450

Unsheltered, LA County

We are providing access and opportunities, and removing barriers for the low-income and working poor, providing a safety net of services to the disadvantaged to prevent homelessness, and supporting the underserved homeless population. We serve twelve cities along the Foothills of the San Gabriel Valley: Altadena, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Duarte, Irwindale, Monrovia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, and Temple City.

Sources: LAHSA 2025 homeless counts. USC Dorsife Center for Economic and Social Research, Understanding America Study, 2025

MAKING HEADLINES



By Tony Cabrera
Feb. 19, 2025

Fire victims in need find hope at Pasadena resource center

PASADENA, Calif. (KABC) -- Pasadena multi-service organization Foothill Unity Center has helped people in crisis for decades, but it's also pivoting to help victims of the Southern California wildfires.



By Jasmine Viel
Oct. 10, 2025

LA food banks and restaurants offering to help federal employees amid shutdown

"...we just see a huge influx, probably about 30 to 35 percent more clients in need, people who would normally not come to [Foothill Unity Center]. There are no barriers coming and accessing food." - Julie Swayze



By Anissa Rivera
Nov. 18, 2025

Holiday helpers at Foothill Unity Center, Union Station, assemble, distribute more than 1,200 Thanksgiving meals

Volunteers at the Foothill Unity Center distribute food kits to needy families ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday in Pasadena.



Dec. 25 2025

Foothill Unity Center Turns Into Candy Land

This holiday season, Foothill Unity Center turned its food-forward pantry into a festive Candy Land, welcoming parents of the community to stroll through each station with a shopping cart and pick out new toys for their children.

FOOD PROGRAM

Many neighbors in our community are one job loss or medical crisis away from food insecurity. Foothill Unity Center leads the fight against hunger and poor nutrition in the San Gabriel Foothills through our food distribution, community kitchen and nutrition education programs.

Food distributions include food for a week for those who have the means to refrigerate and cook food, plus packed lunches and hygiene kits for those experiencing homelessness. Food boxes are delivered to seniors, homebound, and disabled clients who cannot drive. Thanksgiving and Holiday Food Distributions are special events that are added to the food distribution. We aim to include fresh nutritious produce with all our food distributions.

We continue to be driven to improve the quality of our food and services. In 2025, our Pasadena location received Gold Status for the Nutritional Pantry Program through Leah's Pantry.

 **1,269,869**
TOTAL MEALS


 **12,760**
MEALS FOR UNHOUSED

 **2,594**
FOOD BOXES DELIVERED
TO SENIORS & DISABLED



HEALTH PROGRAM

Access to healthcare, education on ways to manage chronic health diseases, and assistance with navigating the healthcare system. Among the other services we provide are dental and vision screenings, dental procedures, eye exams, glasses, and eye glass vouchers from mobile and on-site dental and vision clinics, flu vaccines, blood pressure screenings, nutrition, physical and mental health, and education that includes workshops, classes, exercise groups, and healthy cooking/recipe demonstrations and flyers. We leverage our workforce annually with work trainees, nursing students pursuing licenses, and interns in social work.

 **11,169**
DIABETES AND VITAL HEALTH
SCREENINGS, FLU & COVID VACCINES

 **15,279**
HEALTH & NUTRITION
EDUCATION RESOURCES

 **1,243**
VISION SERVICES INCLUDING
EXAMS & EYEGLASSES

 **88**
DENTAL SERVICES INCLUDING
SCREENINGS & PROCEDURES



CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The driving strategy and standard of care practice that support our core programs through assessment, case planning, care coordination, advocacy, resource linkages, and follow-up. Individualized client plans allow the case managers to track progress and make adjustments specific to personal situations. Case management provides access to a complete continuum of services, a safety net that improves the odds of success for an individual to move from poverty to economic security.



755

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES



9,114

DIAPER PACKAGES



5,909

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
TAXIS, DIAL-A-RIDE, TAP CARDS

Crisis case management related services including resource referrals, services for victims of domestic violence, food, health, transportation, housing & job development.

HOUSING & UNHOUSED SUPPORT PROGRAM

Provides food and hygiene support for the unhoused. Works on permanent and temporary housing placement solutions and services, such as motel vouchers, rental assistance, eviction prevention, and related services to those experiencing urgent emergency and chronic housing needs, navigation, retention, temporary housing, and rapid rehousing.



302

HOUSING SERVICES FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE, EVICTION PREVENTION, & WILDFIRE GRANTS



15,820

CLOTHES, SHOES, CHARGING STATIONS, INCLUDING **4,809** HYGIENE KITS



4,282

MOBILE SHOWERS



379

FREE LIFELINE CELL PHONES WITH COVERAGE & CHARGING PORTS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our integrated services with our core programs would not be possible without our Volunteer Program which includes hundreds of dedicated volunteers who support all our programs and special events.



77,000

VOLUNTEER HOURS



2,456

VOLUNTEERS

\$2.6 MIL

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS WE COULD NOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!



JOB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Helps to improve the economic lives of individuals with hands-on assistance to gain employment for those unemployed and underemployed. The program aims to reduce the barriers to employment, thereby ending the cycle of poverty for the next generation. Annually, we supervise work experience trainees and interns, including at-risk youth, transitional youth, adults and seniors.



106

RESUMÉ BUILDING, COACHING, JOB DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING AND RESOURCES



56

WORK TRAINEES AND INTERNS (including **14** work-experience trainees and **36** nursing students; **5** public health interns and **1** social worker intern)

Services include on-site training, academic and vocational counseling, resume assistance, certifications, mentoring, financial literacy workshops, tax preparation, job search, and assistance with employment placement.

OUR EVENTS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Our Annual Back-to-School Event helps hundreds of TK through college students of low-income families prepare for the upcoming school year, providing them with haircuts, clothes, backpacks, shoe vouchers and essential supplies for the upcoming school year.

 **595**
CHILDREN SERVED FOR
BACK TO SCHOOL



PET CLINIC & FOOD BANK

Local pet shelters are overflowing because people struggling to survive cannot afford to feed or take care of their pets' healthcare needs. Our Pet Food Bank helps hundreds of families feed their beloved pets, and we would like to thank all of our partners who make this possible. Our vet clinics with the Pasadena Humane Society are offered several times every quarter.

 **11,676**
PET FOOD BAGS & VET
CLINIC SERVICES



THANKSGIVING & HOLIDAY DISTRIBUTIONS

Our Annual Thanksgiving and Holiday Distributions help make the Holiday season brighter for local children and families in need. Families receive large food boxes with holiday staples for both events, as well as new toys, clothing and gift cards for their children at our holiday event.

 **4,399**
THANKSGIVING & HOLIDAY
FOOD BOXES

 **881**
HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS
(WITH GIFT CARDS, TOYS &
CLOTHING)



MORE EVENTS

ANNUAL GALA

In 2025, our “Together We Rise” gala was held at the Athenaeum in light of the recent wildfires, and all funds directly helped to support our neighbors who were impacted.



STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

The NALC's (National Association of Letter Carriers) Stamp Out Hunger Food & Donor Drive is the largest food drive of the year. We coordinate with local post offices and many amazing volunteers to collect and sort the food donations.



VISION CLINIC

Our annual Vision Clinic in partnership with the Anugraha Drishtidaan organization run by Dr. Alka Kumar, provides over one hundred pre-registered low-income and under insured children and adults with comprehensive eye exams and eyeglasses.



OPERATION WARM

Every year in partnership with Sierra Subaru through their Subaru Loves to Help initiative, we host Operation Warm to provide children with winter essentials. Our community of children are empowered to choose their own coats, jackets, shoes and socks—all made possible with the support of volunteers.



**THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR DONORS, SUPPORTERS,
PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS & STAFF**

**THANK YOU
TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS



\$250,000+

- California Community Foundation
- State of California
- South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
- Bank of America
- Pasadena Community Foundation

\$100,000+

- The Rose Hills Foundation
- City of Monrovia
- First Citizens Bank
- The Change Reaction

\$50,000+

- Anthem Blue Cross
- Bank of Montreal
- Citizens Business Bank
- Georgina-Frederick Children Foundation
- Share our Strength

\$10,000-\$40,000+

- San Gabriel Valley Council Of Governments
- Morgan Stanley
- Universal Bank-Mr. Frank Chang

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\$5,000-\$9,000

- Starbucks Foundation

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www.foothillunitycenter.org

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