


# IMPACT REPORT 2021

SAN JOSE  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS + CHARTER  
SCHOOL



Corpsmembers work together boxing food for distribution to the community at a Second Harvest of Silicon Valley warehouse



# OUR VISION

SJCC+CS envisions a community where all young adults are able to fulfill their potential and achieve personal and professional success.



"In reflecting on the past year, I'm most proud of our corpsmembers who have embodied our motto of Service to Self, Service to Community, Service to Environment. More of them than ever have joined SJCC+CS to meet the moment for our community and to respond to the climate crisis while developing their skills and bringing their innate talent to the world. As an organization we aspire to serve them with the same drive and determination that they show us every day."

**DORSEY MOORE**  
*Executive Director/CEO*

## LETTER FROM THE CORPSMEMBER COUNCIL

I'm Jasmine Herrera, I serve as the Vice President for SJCC+CS' Corpsmember Council that was created in 2021. In the Council I get to build relationships with fellow corpsmembers, research education and career opportunities to share, identify the needs of the corpsmembers, and plan cultural activities to create a supportive, positive, and diverse environment for the organization. From being on the Corpsmember Council I learned how to be a leader, make connections, be imaginative, and get creative. My experience on the Council has been overwhelmingly meaningful and I am excited for what the Council is planning for the future!

# THE CORPSMEMBER JOURNEY

## ENTRY

Young adults enter the program looking for the skills and knowledge they need to level up their careers.

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Whether corpsmembers are enrolled in our workforce development program or our Charter School, they all receive personal efficacy training and individualized support to overcome obstacles.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In our workforce development program, corpsmembers receive on-the-job training and industry-recognized certifications that will get them recognized as they move up in their careers.

## ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our Charter School provides personalized instruction to students in order to earn their high school diploma and prepare them for post-secondary education.

## GRADUATION

Corpsmembers take the next step in their career path with a network of connections they created at the Corps and increased confidence in themselves due to the growth they experienced in the program.

Our program is designed to accelerate personal, professional, and academic growth through one-on-one guidance.

"I feel like every day that I showed up I was becoming a better person."

**JONATHAN**  
corpsmember

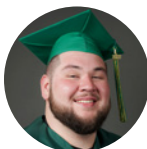


"The Corps is the only job that has allowed me to go to school as well as have a job and be financially stable."

**MARILEE**  
corpsmember

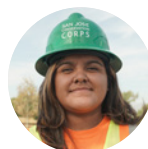
"Coming here gave me the confidence that I didn't have a long time ago. It's such a friendly place here and such a motivating place. I just think it's such an incredible opportunity that I took and I'm glad I took it."

**NICHOLAS**  
student



"I didn't come in really knowing what I wanted, but now I'm gaining job experience, I'm learning how to use tools, how to build strong friendships and communicate better."

**VALERIA**  
corpsmember



"I'm here at the Corps because I'm thinking of the opportunity to connect with employers. Also getting the trainings and certifications help me get looked at more when I'm applying for different jobs. Now I can get the dream job that I want."

**TRISTAN**  
corpsmember

**176** CORPSMEMBERS  
RECEIVED SUPPORT SERVICES



**141**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATES

EDUCATION AWARDS  
EARNED BY  
170 AMERICORPS  
MEMBERS  
**\$351,445**

**8,229**  
HOURS  
OF TRAINING  
PROVIDED FOR  
CORPSMEMBERS

Corpsmembers created better futures for themselves last year by earning a diploma in our Charter School and learning technical and professional skills in our workforce development program. At the Charter School, in-person learning resumed while we were able to provide some of the flexibility from virtual learning with the creation of an independent studies program. Corpsmembers in need of housing were placed in our tiny homes where they learn independent living skills and are supported in finding long-term housing. Expanded case management helped corpsmembers overcome the obstacles they face during our program that could otherwise knock them off track.

**2,614** NIGHTS SPENT IN TINY  
HOME TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

**SERVICE  
TO SELF**



# SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Corpsmembers created a more resilient and vibrant community by responding to the ongoing pandemic and improving public spaces. The operation of emergency shelters continued 24/7 throughout the year, providing dignified and safe shelter for anyone in need. Corpsmembers also contributed to feeding 400,000 people every month by boxing and distributing food to our community. Our Trail Safety Team patrolled urban trails on bicycles and removed trail hazards so that users can safely recreate or commute. Area parks in need of maintenance were improved by our corpsmembers as well as trails in El Dorado National Forest and adjacent to Yosemite National Park.

376

CORPSMEMBERS  
RESPONDED TO  
THE CORONAVIRUS  
PANDEMIC

204,942

HOURS SPENT  
BOXING FOOD  
AND OPERATING  
EMERGENCY SHELTERS

REGIONAL PARKS  
MAINTAINED

58



"If I can help others it makes me happy in life, that I know I did something."

**MARILEE**  
corpsmember



"I saw one family in a minivan, they looked exactly like my family 10 years ago when we didn't have enough food, when we were struggling to get food on the table. It almost made me tear up and I'm thankful that we're not in that position and I'm in the position of helping others."

**CRISTIAN**  
corpsmember

"Giving back to the community, our community, that's what makes me come to work."

**BRISEIDA**  
corpsmember



"I'm so grateful to have the Conservation Corps in our community. The young women and men inspire me every day by the incredible work they're doing and the obstacles they're overcoming. This is a moment of opportunity in this crisis to provide pathways for our young men and women. It's also an incredible opportunity for all of us to rediscover something that unites us in this country and that is service."

**SAM LICCARDO**  
Mayor of San José





"Huge thanks to the San Jose Conservation Corps and the very innovative Resilience Corps. You all are not only getting it done in the greater San Jose area building environmental sustainability, expanding equitable access, and building climate resilience, but you're providing a model for the rest of us across California and the country."

#### WADE CROWFOOT

*California Secretary for Natural Resources*

"I have two kids of my own so one day I want to take them and show them how I cut fire fuel from the entire perimeter of Happy Hollow Park. It makes me proud that I can inspire my kids and also create a better future."

**EMANUEL**  
corpsmember



"I'm glad I'm doing conservation work. There's a lot of biodiversity here as well as some endangered and protected species that are really one of a kind. You know at the end of the day we're doing something great and helping the environment."

**JUSTIN**  
corpsmember

"It's fun to help people and see people so excited that we're doing an event that allows us to get their E-waste from them that they wouldn't be able to get rid of easily. Also, when we take that from them we can recycle it properly and make new electronics out of that waste."

**ERIC**  
corpsmember



1,181  
TONS OF  
WASTE DIVERTED  
FROM LANDFILLS

NATURAL RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
PROJECTS COMPLETED  
82

36,576  
LBS.  
OF EDIBLE FOOD  
RESCUED AND  
DISTRIBUTED TO THE  
CORPS COMMUNITY

Corpsmembers created a more sustainable environment by restoring habitats, conserving natural resources and diverting waste. Difficult to manage and toxic waste like used electronics, old tires and mattresses were collected from businesses, residents and public spaces and recycled or even reused when possible. Zero Waste Silicon Valley helped the City of Sunnyvale create high-quality compost from their waste by collecting bottles separately from other trash, reducing contamination. Food was also diverted from landfills by collecting organic waste at East Side Union schools and rescuing food from local grocery stores to distribute to our community. This reduces methane emissions, one of the most harmful greenhouse gases.

# SERVICE TO ENVIRONMENT



# FROM EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO RECOVERY

In 2021, one of the most exciting developments at SJCC+CS was the launch of Resilience Corps, a program envisioned by San José Mayor Sam Liccardo and implemented in partnership with the City of San José and work2future. Resilience Corps was developed with a triple bottom line of giving young adults the opportunity to earn and learn, improving the public spaces of San José and addressing the climate crisis. 106 young adults were recruited from communities in San José which have not experienced the same income growth as others in Silicon Valley, especially during the pandemic. The program pays these young people a living wage to develop the skills they'll need to launch a fulfilling and family-sustaining career.



During the six-month program, corpsmembers work in critical infrastructure and landscape management projects such as park and trail maintenance, habitat restoration, or tree planting with a special focus on wildfire fuel reduction and water conservation projects. Corpsmembers have worked in local and regional parks on fire mitigation work, clearing overgrown, dead shrubs or trees, widening trail paths, and ensuring the health of native species. Restoring and constructing bioretention sites has been another Resilience Corps project which recharges aquifers and restores habitats. These projects will help to mitigate the effects of or even prevent wildfires as well as keep more usable water within our local watershed.



Learn more about the Resilience Corps  
and its impact on our community.





Another key project area is maintaining public spaces, especially urban trails. Crews on bicycles remove overgrown vegetation to improve sight lines and clear out debris and trash from different trail systems in the area, in particular the Guadalupe River Park Trail and Coyote Creek Trail systems. Additionally, corpsmembers patrol the trails to keep users safe and interact with the public to answer any questions or address any concerns they have. Making these trails safer results in increased use of our public spaces and encourages active modes of transportation.



As skill development is a key component of the program, corpsmembers have been trained and certified in areas related to safety, emergency response, technical skills, and environmental awareness as well as life skills like financial literacy and leadership ability. Staff have worked with corpsmembers on career exploration from the beginning of their time in the program and have assisted with resumes and college applications and prepared them for interviews. At the program's end, corpsmembers will leverage their new skills and the career support they've received to obtain a meaningful job or enroll in an educational program.

Resilience corpsmembers have already noted the impact of the program in their lives. They report increased confidence in themselves and have learned how to succeed in a professional environment from their supervisors and from each other. They are proud of their work and the difference it's made in their community, both on a social and environmental level. By paying these corpsmembers a living wage and encouraging career development and educational enrollment, our community is experiencing an economic boost in the short and long term. Corpsmembers are able to provide for their families right now while setting themselves up for a career-track job. By treating corpsmembers as whole, diverse people and working to break down all of the obstacles they face, we hope that corpsmembers can look back at Resilience Corps as the impetus for their life success. ■



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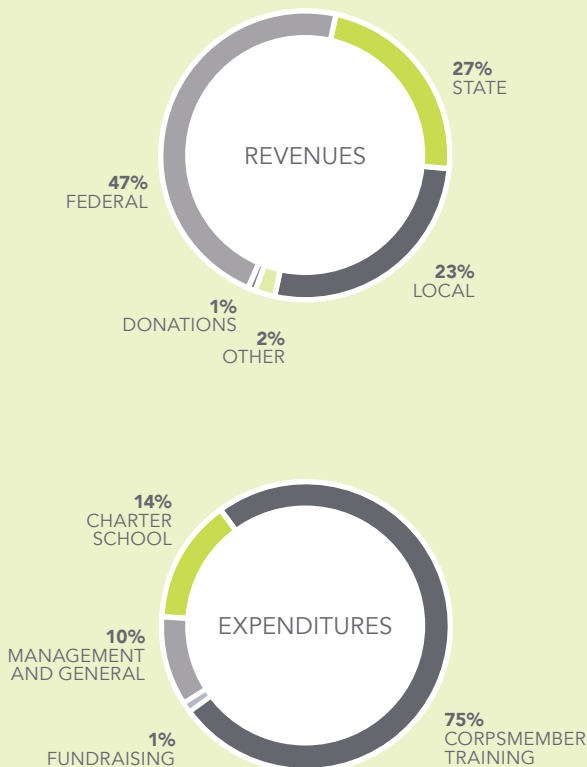
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## FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2020/21

TOTAL BUDGET  
**\$17,519,377**



## CONTACT

### SAN JOSE CONSERVATION CORPS + CHARTER SCHOOL

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SAN JOSE, CA 95112

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**SJCCCS.ORG**

The work accomplished by SJCC+CS is made possible by the generous support and collaboration from our community partners and donors. We are thankful for your commitment to improving the lives of San Jose's opportunity youth. Together, we can create a community where all young people's talents are realized.

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