October 31, 1983
The Pajaro Valley Shelter for Women and Children opens at 27 Sudden Street. This house is now the Pajaro Valley Arts Council.

Summer 1988
PVSS purchases the duplex at 26 Sudden Street for Transitional Housing - marking the first of this type of program in the country.

October 1989
The Loma Prieta Earthquake occurs in Northern California.

Fall 1997 - September 2001
PVSS successfully completes a $1 million Endowment campaign. Dick and Mary Solari, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Frank & Zoe Ann Orr Trust make challenge grants to inspire PVSS’ community of supporters.

April 1984
The Shelter moves to 115 Brennan Street, thanks to George Wagner and the Cowell Foundation.

May 1984
The 1st Mother’s Day Run for Shelter raises $8,000.

Summer 1990 - Spring 1991
PVSS acquires seven units of Transitional Housing with earthquake recovery funds to house earthquake survivors and manages five other homes for survivors. Habitat for Humanity completes a third unit at 26 Sudden Street, bringing the total number of Transitional Housing units to 15.

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October 1989
The Loma Prieta Earthquake occurs in Northern California.

May 2002
The 18th Annual Mother’s Day Run/Walk for Shelter raises a record $57,000.
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September 2010
The Long-term Affordable Housing Program for families begins in four housing units.

January 2005
Program alumni families from the Transitional Housing Program and Emergency Shelter have purchased their own homes.

November 2, 2017
PVSS holds the inaugural Shelter to Home Fall Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction and you raise $37,500 for sustainability!

May 13, 2018
Because of you, Mother’s Day Run/Walk for Shelter raises a record $75,000.

May 24, 2018
PVSS purchases two Long-term Affordable Housing units in Pajaro, Monterey County, with a grant from the Borina Foundation.

2008
Diane Cooley and Mary Solari lead PVSS in building the Circles Family with an aim to support the sustainability of PVSS’ services through three-year pledge commitments.

December 2017
For the first time ever, PVSS participates in both Santa Cruz Gives! and Monterey County Gives! online holiday campaigns. 80 to 90% of our clients are from Santa Cruz County and 5 to 10% are from Monterey County. Support PVSS in these two campaigns this holiday season!

BUILDING BRIDGES TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY
BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE
BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN COUNTIES

Emergency Shelter x1
1- to 2-year Transitional Housing x 15
Long-term Housing x 6

38 program alumni have purchased their own homes
22 housing units
7,500 program alumni
136 beds
A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step!
Let’s Continue Our Journey Together...

“We care about the environment and we care about people, too. People should have the opportunity to grow, thrive and enjoy life, just as a Sequoia.”
- Diane & Don Cooley for the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County

Looking to the Future!
Strategic Planning is underway! Stay tuned for the final plan in late spring 2019.

New Passion & Vision in Board Leadership
Benná Dimig is the Director of Admissions at Mount Madonna School, where she leads a team of faculty and parent volunteers to meet the enrollment and admission needs of the school. She has served MMS for 19 years in various capacities with the last five being in the Advancement Office. Benná has called Watsonville “home” for over 30 years and spends her free time riding or hiking local trails with her family.

“I’ve volunteered with PVSS on the Mother’s Day Run for the last several years and have been witness to the transformational impact it has had in the lives of children. The personal approach with each client and the subsequent accountability is helping families break the cycle of homelessness. It’s because of this key piece of the program that I wanted to get involved. The case management approach is the key to ending homelessness one family at a time.”
- Benná Dimig, Board Director

Rejuvenating Our Emergency Shelter
Room Renovation, October 2018

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Jimmy Dutra, President
Watsonville City Council Member & Mayor Pro Tempore
Jordan Thorpe, Vice President/Secretary
Broker Associate, Aldina Real Estate
Shirley Ow, Treasurer
Vice President of Human Resources, Graniterock
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Benná Dimig, Director
Director of Admissions, Mount Madonna School

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Emergency Shelter Manager
Ana Mendoza
PVSS Property Manager / SSVF Case Manager
Noeli Perez
Administrative Assistant
Perla Villegas
Emergency Shelter Coordinator
Jamie Serrano
Office / Property / SSVF Assistant
Joyce Rodriguez
Temporary Case Manager
Veronica Ramirez
Temporary Emergency Shelter Assistant
You Are the Difference!
Thank you for empowering the families at Pajaro Valley Shelter Services to achieve balance by peace, order, and motivation.

Hello Dear Friend,

I do not know how, or in what condition this letter will find you, but what’s important is that when you finish reading it, it will serve you some.

Because life continues in all its reality.
It “CONTINUES.”

Like me, you are a beautiful flower with beauty, color, and perfume.
That due to circumstances of family, work, school or friends, has lost its fragrance little by little.

When we do not find any support from the people we love or know, we feel alone and cornered. We lose that bright color that distinguishes us from each other.

And when we look for support in agencies – we are without roots and wither.

Courage! Thank GOD there are wonderful places like PVSS’ Shelter.
Here I found safe and stable shelter for my family after we handed over the apartment, because there no longer was a way to pay rent or utilities.

I learned to count on the patience, smile, and generosity of the supportive women at the Shelter. They are also beautiful flowers who, with warmth and healing embrace, emit that pleasant fragrance.

For all of us who arrive “here in a state of crisis,” they strive day after day; so that we here in the Shelter achieve balance by peace, order, and motivation.

So persevere, continue so that you reach your goal, YOU beautiful FLOWER!

~ Mom in PVSS’ Emergency Shelter, 2018

Translated by Oana Alexan

¡Tú haces la diferencia!
Gracias por apoyar a las familias de Pajaro Valley Shelter Services para que logren “equilibrio en paz, orden y motivación.”

¡Hola! Querida Amiga,

No sé cómo, o en que condición te encontrarás cuando leas esta carta, pero lo importante es que al terminar de leerla te sea en algo de ayuda.

Porque la vida sigue en toda su realidad. “SIGUE.”

Tú eres una flor hermosa como yo, con su belleza, color, y perfume.
Pero que con las situaciones de la familia, el trabajo, la escuela o amigos, ha perdido poco a poco su perfume.

Cuando no encontramos apoyo de ninguna forma con las personas que amamos o conocemos, nos sentimos solas y acorraladas. Vamos perdiendo ese color tan vivo que nos distingue unas de otras.

Y cuando buscamos ayuda en agencias — no hay lugar por el momento y nos marchitamos.

¡Ánimo! Gracias a DIOS hay lugares maravillosos como el Shelter “PVSS.”
Aquí encontré el refugio seguro y estable para mi familia después de que entregamos el apartamento, porque ya no había forma de cómo pagar el alquiler y los servicios.

Además de conocer y de contar con la paciencia, sonrisa y caridad de este grupo de apoyo con el que cuenta el Shelter. Todas ellas son flores también bellas, que con su mirada, saludo y trato despiden ese perfume grato.

Para todas las que llegamos “aquí en estado de crisis,” ellas se esfuerzan día a día; para que nosotras las que vivimos aquí en el Shelter logremos ese equilibrio en paz, orden y motivación.

Así que TÚ, persevera, continúa para que alcances tu meta, hermosa ¡FLOR!

~ Mamá en el Albergue de Emergencia de PVSS, 2018
PVSS Counts on All of Us: We Have an Opportunity to Help PVSS Plan for the Future!

“For many years, my husband and I made small contributions to Pajaro Valley Shelter Services. I knew about their philosophy, I knew there was a need and I believed they were doing good things. Two years ago at a luncheon, PVSS’ Executive Director Kimberly Ferm made the connection between overcrowding, homelessness and the support PVSS can provide to families in need, families in crisis, and families who, with a helping hand and a path, can emerge strong and on a path to stability. She also spoke about the need for an organization to be able to plan, knowing they could count on people like us. That was it! I signed up for the Circle of Giving and now know that I contribute in a meaningful way.” - Cory Ray, Circle of Giving Family Member

Join a Circle of Giving

Members of our Circle of Giving Family are committed to creating positive change in these areas:

- Improving housing affordability for all families, at all income levels
- Creating generational transformations
- Maintaining PVSS as the housing and supportive service provider for families in the Pajaro Valley
- Enabling PVSS to look to a future where we can house more families

DOING THE MATH

For example...

$500/12 mo. = $41.67/mo.
That's $1.34/day!

$500/year Ruby Circle
$1,000/year Silver Circle
$2,500/year Gold Circle
$5,000/year Sisters Marie & Susan Circle

Forever Impact

Your three-year pledge will change lives for future generations.

Become a Monthly Donor

Monthly donors provide a stable source of funding to support families on their path to self-sufficiency.

$15/MONTH
1 day of nutritious food for a family of 4

$50/MONTH
2 nights of Emergency Shelter for a single mom and her child

$25/MONTH
1 case management meeting for a family

$100/MONTH
2 hours of counseling for domestic violence for a single mom

What is case management?

A collaborative process between a family and a Case Manager for achieving family wellbeing and autonomy through advocacy, communication, education, identification of service resources and service facilitation.

To self-sufficiency
WHEN FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY THRIVE, WE ALL THRIVE!
Thank you for standing with families!

**SANTA CRUZ GIVES**

**Big Idea: Tenant Education**
Funds from Santa Cruz Gives! will support our tenant education, which empowers families to be responsible and informed tenants and builds bridges between tenants and landlords. Donate online at www.santacruzgives.org.

**MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!**
Joining Together for Big Ideas

**Big Idea: Bridging the Divide**
We will build partnerships with five trusted messengers from Pajaro to provide accurate information and referrals to families in need of housing. Donate online at www.montereycountygives.com.

Registration for Mother’s Day Run / Walk for Shelter Is OPEN!

In its 35th year...

Sunday, May 12th, 2019

Register Now for Early Bird Rates!
www.pvshelter.org