You Bring Family Dreams to Life!

“I felt frustrated, sad, hopeless, and exhausted.” Devin was struggling to retain custody of her children due to homelessness and joblessness suffered for nearly a year. Though she had reached out for help from every possible resource, none was available until she found PVSS.

In our Family Emergency Shelter, Devin received the support, guidance, and education she needed to get her life back on track. She is now employed at a plastic fabrication company and has regained custody of all 5 of her children. As a result, her mental health and self-esteem have improved greatly.

“It is great to feel complete!”

Devin enjoys the structure at PVSS and having a daily routine with her children, spending as much time as possible with them. They share family meals together, which they had not done before.

“I am grateful for my children and for everyone who contributed to my success. I strive to maintain my independence and stability, and I continue to strengthen my relationships with my children. I dream that they are mentally and physically healthy and that they always feel loved and safe.”

2019-2020 Program Outcomes

We provide shelter & safety.
We transform lives.
We offer hope & home.

You Are Miracles!

Through perseverance and sheer determination, Jessica is employed and renting an apartment in Salinas with her 7-month-old son, Eric. He was born the day after Christmas, while she was residing in our Emergency Shelter. She had arrived last November, 7 months pregnant, unemployed with poor credit, and a recent graduate of Janus’s perinatal residential treatment. Jessica had struggled with drug addiction, so she had little hope of finding a landlord who would rent to her.

Jessica relished her time spent at PVSS: “I loved it!” She enjoyed learning how to budget and felt motivated to save money. Her favorite workshop series helped her strengthen her resilience skills to overcome Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). She liked the comradery and support of fellow participants.

Jessica is employed as a paralegal. “Life is good. It’s normal.” She is hopeful that her life will continue to be peaceful and stable. Jessica encourages others in similar situations to know their rights and reach out for help. She is grateful for PVSS’ family of supporters. “It’s nice to know that people care. They are miracles, and we are miracles!”
Let’s Sustain PVSS’ Efforts into the Future!

This past year has been equally joyful and challenging. We’ve seen successes and setbacks. Through it all, I’ve been amazed and inspired by the strength and resilience of our families, as well as the generosity and commitment of our community. Together, we’ve kept PVSS strong and healthy and even managed to serve 20% more people and helped 87% of them to find permanent homes.

Going forward, we’re mindful of the continuing challenges posed by the pandemic and its disproportionate health and economic impacts on the families we serve. We will be launching a Coordinated Economic Development program (CED). CED focuses more resources on helping our families to gain stable employment, build financial management and saving skills, and access job training for less pandemic-vulnerable employment. To help sustain our current success and launch these new efforts, we are seeking to grow our sustainable funding. Our Monthly Giving Family helps us do that. A monthly gift provides our programs with stability and sustainable funds during these uncertain and challenging times.

I am a Monthly Giver, as are Aurelio and Elsa. Please consider joining us! Thanks for all you do to care for our families in need! – ED Mike

Champions of Families Every Month

We have family members who have gone through difficult times which led to homelessness. We have seen how challenging this situation can be.

PVSS helps not only those who are struggling to find a home, but also those who need to find themselves and their strength. At PVSS, families learn about the importance of planning for tomorrow. This, in turn, creates a solid foundation for a future in which they are in control of their wellbeing.

We did not want to give once and walk away on an organization that provides support year around, so we became sustainable givers. Families need assistance in the long haul to be successful. By giving monthly, we are better able to adjust our limited finances in hopes that it helps those struggling with homelessness. Monthly giving helps PVSS better manage monthly cash flow, so they can maintain services and staffing needed to deliver their programs and services. - Aurelio and Elsa Gonzalez, Monthly Givers
Blanca returns to serving on PVSS’ Board of Directors. Her previous term spanned 6 years. She has engaged her colleagues at Granite in a Mother’s Day Run & Walk fundraising effort for 9 years. This year, to help PVSS families meet essential needs during the pandemic, Blanca also coordinated donations of cleaning supplies, toiletries, baby products, canned foods, and water.

“I am dedicated to supporting families who are working their way out of homelessness, and I enjoy making our community a better place to live for everyone. As a Granite employee, I am proud of the company’s commitment to improving the quality of life in the communities in which we live and work.”

“I believe in PVSS' mission of helping families in need of housing and supportive services. I want to contribute in service of the community, so I look forward to offering my time, expertise, and dedication on the PVSS Board!”

Nicole Pullman
Retired, Santa Clara County Environmental Health

Ashlyn Wenger
Mining Engineer, Graniterock

Rogelio Ponce was born and raised in Watsonville and attended local schools. He has an educational background in business management and finance. Rogelio plays a key role in achieving PVSS’ strategic systems improvement goals.

“I am most passionate about PVSS’ mission: providing families with the support and fundamentals they need for a stable future where lack of shelter does not have to be a constant fear. I aspire to leave my positive mark on families by serving on the PVSS Board.”

“While farming is my passion, I want to support the work of local nonprofits. I am delighted to share my finance expertise with PVSS.”

Addy Rodriguez
Family Emergency Shelter Manager

Addy was raised in the Central Valley and moved to Santa Cruz County 7 years ago with her two children. She has a passion for helping others and making a difference.

“I am most passionate about PVSS' mission: providing families with the support and fundamentals they need for a stable future where lack of shelter does not have to be a constant fear. I aspire to leave my positive mark on families by serving on the PVSS Board.”

“As a single mother, I know the struggles and challenges we can face - constantly feeling like giving up, losing hope, and feeling worthless. And that is what PVSS offers: HOPE to those in need, and FAITH to those who have lost it. It has been a dream come true to be part of an amazing organization where I am able to empower women to become their best version for themselves and their families.” Addy is making a difference in our community, transforming one family at a time.

Ashlyn was born and raised in Watsonville and attended K–12 within the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. She went on to receive a degree in Geological Engineering from Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. She loves working at Graniterock. She is passionate about servant leadership and has been actively involved in this community through various organizations over the years. She looks forward to implementing what she has learned to help propel PVSS into the future.
Together, we help families thrive, not just survive, in permanent housing.

Shelter to Home
Pajaro Valley Shelter Services’ 4th Annual Virtual Event

SAVE THE DATE!
October 14th, 2020
7:00 - 8:00 P.M.
Join us for the one hour on Zoom that will leave you feeling inspired, invigorated, and impactful!

Legacy Family for Generational Impact
If you have made an estate provision for Pajaro Valley Shelter Services, or a planned or deferred gift, please let us know so we can welcome you into our Legacy Family and ensure your gift intentions are carried out.