

2013 SSP Report



**Youth building faith
and strengthening
communities through
service to others.**

[mission]



Thank you for supporting SSP.

This report highlights the many ways that young lives were transformed this year through **Sierra Service Project.**

Lives Transformed



Lauren and a Nicaraguan volunteer sift gravel to separate the fine sand needed for mixing mortar. SSP sent their first team to Nicaragua in 2013.

“SSP has truly been life changing. Coming into this I was very shy and did not know if I wanted to come, but this has helped me come out of my shell and come closer to God.”

Youth from St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Tucson, Arizona



Youth with her homeowner, Phyllis,
in Smith River, California.

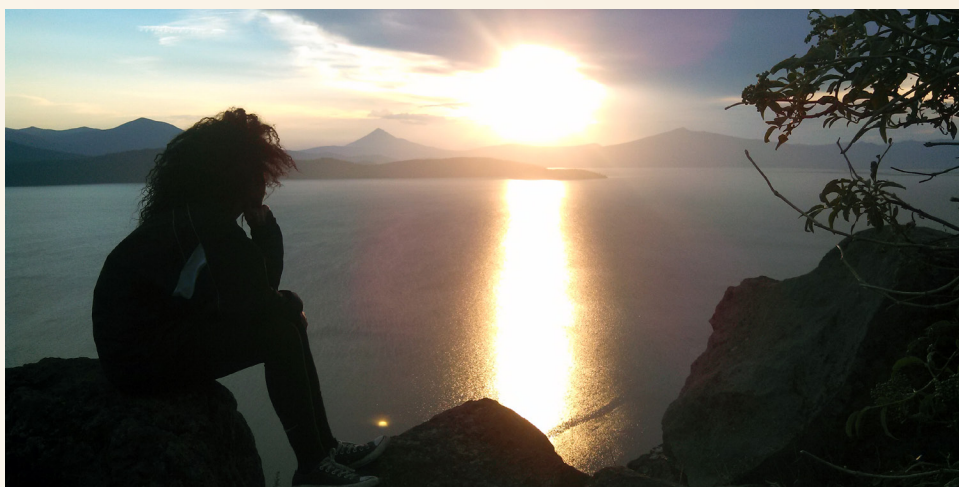


Hugs of gratitude from Dorothy in
Tsaile, Arizona.

It's simple. **Sierra Service Project transforms lives.** A teen learns that she can build a wheelchair ramp. A new wheelchair ramp frees a Navajo elder from the confines of his house, allowing him to watch the sunset from under a nearby tree and to visit his grandchildren. With a new appreciation of her ability to complete complex tasks and learn new skills, the teen starts to see the world differently.

Transformation: challenges and obstacles change from being feared to being embraced. Transformation: the elder's presence blesses the lives of his family and his community.

Multiply this scenario 2,000 times, and you've described SSP's impact on our volunteers' lives during the past year. Multiply the elder's experience 100 times, and you've described the changes in the lives of those who receive our services.



Watching the sunset over the Upper Klamath Lake near the end of a spirit-filled week in Chiloquin, Oregon.

Stronger Communities

People don't live in isolation. They live in communities. Healthy communities are places where children can live without fear; where teenagers attend welcoming, exciting schools; and where parents can find wholesome, affordable food for their families. Strong communities depend on people having safe, attractive places to live.

Sierra Service Project strengthens communities in many ways. By repairing roofs and building wheelchair ramps, SSP helps keep homes safe and dry. A freshly painted house will not only last longer but becomes a source of pride rather than shame for its owner.

By assisting youth programs like Compton Junior Posse, and other community-improvement programs, SSP helps a community provide healthy choices for its young people. Through our work with Puentes' Boggs Tract Community Farm, SSP volunteers are making fresh, healthy food available in Stockton's food deserts. Multiply these efforts across six communities and 2,000 volunteers every summer, and the impact of SSP becomes very significant.



Team builds a garden bed for vegetables at Boggs Tract Community Farm in Stockton.

“The atmosphere at SSP is just amazing. I can feel God’s presence in each and every youth, counselor, and staff member. This week really opened my eyes to Stockton and ‘just serving’ in my community.”

Youth from Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
Cupertino, California



Work team removes old concrete at Essence of Light, a nonprofit in South Los Angeles which provides post-addiction transitional housing.

Just Love, Just Serve



Youth roof a wood shed outside of Chiloquin, Oregon for a community member.

“What a great week! I feel that SSP was a really wholesome experience. It helped me see Christian values in a very relevant way, and I’m so glad I learned how to use a power drill. I really want to come back!”

Youth from Ladera Community Church
Portola Valley, California



Homeowner, Ben, walks down his new wheelchair ramp that is protected by a new awning in Tsaille, Arizona.



Youth paints facade of Crossroads Ministries on Main Street in Susanville, California.

The theme of the 2013 summer was **“Just Love, Just Serve.”** At SSP, the way we share our love for others, and reflect the love that God has for us, is through service. We serve others in small and large ways, and we serve our communities. At SSP, we show both teenage and adult volunteers that they can be forces for positive change in the lives of others – their actions are important and can make a profound difference in the life of another person.

Whether it was through painting a building, planting a garden or making a new friend, the actions of our volunteers this summer will bear fruit for years to come.

Over 130 Repair Projects
100 Homeowners
30 Community Organizations
2,000 Youth & 400 Adult Leaders
45 Young Adult Staff



Junior high youth repair a wheelchair ramp in Coarsegold, California.

Donate to Support Youth

Donations make up 18 percent of Sierra Service Project's annual budget. We rely on these donations to provide scholarships to youth, leadership opportunities for young adults, and to invest in new tools and kitchen equipment.

SSP is a well-run, thirty-eight-year-old nonprofit. Annual financial reports can be found on our website. If you are already a financial supporter of Sierra Service Project, we thank you. We hope that you can see your donation at work within this report.

285 Donors = \$134,657 in Donations
\$26,553 Youth & Church Scholarships in 2013
\$36,000 Scholarship Fund for 2014

If you are not currently a financial supporter of SSP, please consider becoming one now. Your donation of \$10, \$100, \$1,000 or \$10,000 will be put to excellent use. Donations enable us to offer scholarships and discounts to low-income youth. They allow us to invest in training our young adult staff, the future leaders of our churches and communities. Donations help us expand our programs and serve more communities.

Some of the ways you can contribute are listed on the opposite page. **By giving, you will help young people grow their faith through service to others.**

How can I contribute to the success of SSP?

Donate using the enclosed envelope

A check is still the most cost effective way to donate.

Become a 12xSSP Monthly Donor

Choosing to give automatically each month online is a smart way to make a significant donation over the year. Click on the 'Support' tab on our website.

Ask your employer to match your donation

Many employers will match your donation or donate for your volunteer hours.

Donate online

PayPal securely processes our donations online. Click on the 'Support' tab on our website.

Donate a vehicle

We need vehicles for our fleet. Minivans, trucks, and cargo vans are preferred. Since we do not resell your vehicle, you are entitled to a much larger tax deduction.

Make a legacy gift to the SSP Endowment Fund

Contributing to the Endowment Fund will ensure that SSP remains strong and vital for generations to come. Add SSP as the beneficiary of a tax-free gift from your estate. Contact Rick Eaton, the Executive Director, for more information.

Volunteer

Call our office to talk about how to volunteer for SSP in your region, or at the SSP office in Sacramento.

2013 Donor Acknowledgements

All donations from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

Endowment

Vista United Methodist Church has supported SSP for many decades. We are very grateful for their **\$20,000** gift to the Endowment Fund which will **seed SSP's future** for years to come.

Foundation & Business Donations

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Board of Directors

A special thank you to our 2013 Board of Directors who have dedicated their **time, finances and vision** to support the Sierra Service Project and its continual growth. Together they contributed over **\$21,500** to SSP.

Brent Alspach
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12xSSP Monthly Donors

Thank you to the **46 12xSSP Donors** who contributed **\$7,005** last year, **sustaining** SSP's programs year-round by making **monthly donations**.

Dylan Ackerman
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Goal for 2014: 54 New 12xSSP Donors, 100 total

Become a 12xSSP Monthly Donor by signing up on the 'Support' tab on our website.



Volunteers of Time & Energy

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Donors to the Scholarship Fund

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Donors of Facilities & Services

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Sierra Service Project Throughout the Year

Although most people volunteer during the summer, SSP offers programs for teens, young adults and adults throughout the year.

Weekend of Service programs take place in Portland, Sacramento and South Los Angeles. We will also schedule special weekend sessions by request.

Alternative Break programs are designed for high school, college and intergenerational teams to learn and serve in South Los Angeles and Portland. These sessions are scheduled on demand and are customized to fit your group's dates and interests. Call our office to discuss scheduling a session for your group.

Stay Connected

SSP is active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Follow us for the latest news, and to share your group's activities with the wider SSP family. **#SSPchallenge**

Look for announcements about **2014 Summer Kick-off Celebrations** to take place at a variety of locations throughout the West Coast in May.

Challenge the World



Youth picks citrus with Harvest Sacramento during a Weekend of Service. Fruit is gleaned from backyards and donated to food banks and neighbors.

“One of my favorite things about SSP is the spiritual program. We were pushed out of our comfort zones, encouraged to explore and deepen our faith and exposed to incredibly inspirational individuals.”

Counselor from Fremont United Methodist Church
Portland, Oregon



Students from Washington State University spend spring break installing drywall at Dignity Village, a city-sanctioned homeless community in Portland, Oregon.



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