OUR VISION

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

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

✓ Completed 5 portable dwelling units and perfected design of the affordable housing model.
✓ Charter School consolidated to one campus, improving sense of community and collaboration.
✓ New contract with FireSafe Council to help mitigate the danger of wildfires.
✓ Improved graduation rate to 65% of eligible students, 25% increase over 2 years.

BY THE NUMBERS

144 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

41% FEMALE

59% MALE

96% STUDENTS OF COLOR

94% BETWEEN 18 AND 24 YEARS OLD

$168,694 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED BY 101 AMERICORPS MEMBERS

92,539 HOURS WORKED BY CORPSMEMBERS IN JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

174 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN LANDSCAPE AND FORESTRY TRAINING

25 COMMUNITY PARTNERS UTILIZED OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SERVICES

1,596 HOURS FOR PARADISE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT

445,500 POUNDS OF MIXED CRV RECYCLABLES

232,641 POUNDS OF E-WASTE MATERIALS COLLECTED

Sophia J. was one of 144 graduates from the Charter School this year. As a young mother, her dedication and hard work at SJCC+CS was recognized by Teen Success, which awarded her a college scholarship. In the future, she plans to attend college to study sociology and criminal justice.
OUR MODEL

IMPROVED STUDENT OUTCOMES AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

2019 has been one of the charter school’s most successful years in terms of student outcomes and the school’s ability to support students’ social emotional needs as well as academic needs. The overall graduation rate has nearly doubled in the last two years, and the graduation rate of grad-eligible students (those projected to be able to graduate in a year or less) has risen to 65%, from 52% in 16–17; suspensions and expulsions have dropped to near 0%.

Part of this success is due to an effort to offer professional development for teachers and staff to improve their ability to understand and relate to the challenges our students face. Trainings have included motivational interviewing, trauma-informed practices, and restorative justice; teachers are working to integrate restorative justice practices into the classroom and the disciplinary procedures. In addition, the school has adopted a new online learning platform, Edgenuity, in order to expand our curriculum offerings and enable teachers to improve their ability to differentiate instruction. In the Winter of 2019, SJCCCS consolidated to a single school site at the Senter Road campus, closing charter school operations at the Berger campus. This change, however, has brought a heightened sense of community, which has ultimately improved the success of our students. Adding to the supportive nature of the campus, a new outdoor eating area was completed in the Spring of 2019.

SJCC+CS services create a comprehensive safety net designed to untap the true potential of San Jose’s vulnerable youth and to prepare them for opportunities in higher education and a living wage career.
Throughout the 2018–19 fiscal year, SJCC+CS leveraged its extensive experience in building affordable housing and in construction training to move the needle on establishing Housing Solutions Enterprise: Youth Housing Promise as a viable solution to the homeless crisis that affects nearly 30% of SJCC+CS students. An innovative housing solution that creates a new class of housing, Housing Solutions Enterprise (HSE) quickly and affordably addresses the critical housing needs of our students.

Through this project we will house unstable students in portable dwellings units (PDU) (a.k.a. tiny homes on wheels). We will train students to build the units, lease backyards in which to place the units, and rent the units to our students at below market rates, while the host family receives monthly rental income. This unique housing model stacks many community benefits: job training in a high demand field; housing that can be built quickly, inexpensively and in an environmentally sustainable way; an immediate solution for chronic homelessness of young adults; the addition of affordable units to the housing stock; and passive income to low-income homeowners and seniors on a fixed income.

We were proud to showcase the portable living units at two events — the “Tiny Home Media Day” and the Annual Spring Luncheon. At these events, community partners, donors, and elected officials were able to tour the units, meet the staff and students working on them, and hear about the vision of Housing Solutions Enterprise.

The successes of this year have created a strong foundation upon which to grow this new social enterprise, with the ultimate goal of building 30 portable dwelling units, in which homeless students and corpsmembers could live, and creating a model that can be replicated in other communities.
PAOLA FLORES
THE CORPS NETWORK
CM OF THE YEAR

Paola Flores, recent SJCC+CS graduate and current Recruitment Specialist attending Evergreen Community College, was named one of six corpsmembers of the year by The Corps Network in the Fall of 2018, from among over 25,000 corpsmembers engaged annually by The Corps Network.

TRAIL SAFETY TEAM

Through a multi-agency partnership launched in the Spring of 2019, SJCC’s new Trail Safety Team will improve the safety of trail users and keep San Jose’s urban trails in optimal physical shape. Patrolling on mountain bikes, team members will report illegal or inappropriate activities to the proper authorities, fix trail hazards, and provide information to the public (directions, etc). This collaborative program, funded by CalTrans Alternative Transportation Program through SB1, has brought together partners including West Valley College Park Management Program; the San Jose Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; the Guadalupe River Parks Conservancy; and the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition.

With her strong work ethic and a positive attitude, Paola has achieved a great deal during her time with SJCC+CS. She has completed four AmeriCorps terms of service, obtained her high school diploma, and gained hands-on job experience in the Corps’ Environmental Projects and Recycling Departments. She achieved these accomplishments while also taking college classes and managing the responsibilities of being a single mother.

Before joining SJCC+CS, Paola had cycled through three high schools, reaching a point where she did not believe obtaining a diploma was a realistic goal. Disappointed in her choices, Paola’s family did not want her at home, giving her few other options but to live out of her car or with friends. As Paola says, however, “homelessness” was not new to her. Brought to the U.S. illegally at a young age, Paola had been deported back to Mexico three times. Despite this, Paola had been determined to go back to school. Pregnant with her daughter, she knew she wanted to set a good example for her child and teach her the value of education. In the future, Paola hopes to pursue a career in social work, hoping to work with teenagers who are dealing with life issues and to advocate for families in need of services.
PARADISE EMERGENCY RESPONSE
OUTSTANDING SERVICE PROJECT OF THE YEAR
In the aftermath of the unprecedented devastation from the Paradise fires, SJCC+CS became a key partner in recovery and clean-up efforts through a partnership with the California State Office of Emergency Services. During the winter of 2018–19, four (4) small crews and supervisors provided key emergency assistance in helping with displaced animals, feeding, cleaning, and assisting in the rehabilitation of more than 100,000 animals were held across two shelters. The situation had overwhelmed officials who feared many animals could perish without more help. The animals included pets that were orphaned by the fire to wildlife in need of shelter and assistance. Volunteer work was spread across 3 animal shelters — Del Oro Animal Shelter; Red Cross Animal Shelter in the Chico Fairgrounds; and the Gridley Animal Shelter. Corpsmembers also helped at the Lion’s Club distribution center. These efforts have allowed groups like the National Guard, who had been helping with animal assistance, to focus on more specialized clean-up efforts and working directly with people displaced by the fire.

ZERO WASTE
LEVERAGING PROP 68 TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE
In the spring of 2019, SJCC+CS was allocated over $400,000 from the Prop 68 statewide natural resources conservation bond measure, which passed in June 2018. The bond allocates funds to support statewide conservation efforts, particularly in disadvantaged communities. SJCC+CS applied to use these funds for purchasing recycling equipment to support organics recycling in the East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD). Efforts to date have helped the district move from a 6% diversion rate in June 2017 to a 64% diversion rate in June 2019. To further the goal of zero waste, SJCC+CS has helped ESUHSD pilot a food scraps recycling program.

The Recycling Department staff was particularly thrilled about the delivery of the front end load commercial compaction truck, which will be added to the SJCC+CS fleet. The addition of this truck will not only support current recycling efforts but allow services to grow in the future.
FIRESAFE COUNCIL
CAlFIRE PROJECT
In the winter of 2019, SJCC+CS began sending multiple crews into the Santa Cruz Mountains through a new contract with the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council. Crews are assisting with fuel load reduction and building infrastructure to create defensible space against forest fires. Because of the great work by the first crews, the FireSafe Council has increased the contract by 70% and extended the work through the end of the year.

Jim Young, Operations Deputy from the Fire Safe Council says, “The San Jose Conservation Corps is our boots on the ground. They are providing that physical labor that’s going to get the job done. There’s a lot of planning going on, but it’s really the physical labor that’s going to mitigate the hazard. SJCC has been a great partner in this whole project.”

JOSE — YB SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD FROM AMERICORPS
Jose Luis Hernandez Gomez, a recent SJCC+CS graduate and the first in his family to earn a high school diploma, was nationally recognized for his outstanding leadership through service. Selected among thousands of members across the country for the Outstanding Member Spirit of Service Award, Jose was honored at the YouthBuild AmeriCorps Management Conference held in August 2019 in Boston. Jose was selected based on the nearly 300 hours of service to help the recovery efforts after the Paradise fires last winter. He primarily worked at animal shelters, caring for pets and other animals injured or lost during the chaos. He also volunteered with the American Red Cross to relocate families to different recovery sites.

The trip to Boston was the first time he had flown on a plane and visited another part of the country. At the conference, Jose addressed an audience that included AmeriCorps program staff from over 60 programs across the country. He talked about his life, his experience at SJCC+CS, and his service.
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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