Mission
Bill Wilson Center supports and strengthens the community by serving youth and families through counseling, housing, education, and advocacy.

Vision
We are working to prevent poverty in the next generation by connecting youth to education, employment, housing and positive relationships.

The History of Bill Wilson Center
The origins of Bill Wilson Center go back to 1973 when a prominent Santa Clara citizen, Bill Wilson, Jr., worked with troubled youth in addition to owning Wilson’s Jewel Bakery and serving as a Santa Clara City Councilman (1963-1971), with a term as mayor in 1965.

Bill collaborated with faculty at Santa Clara University on a proposal for a counseling center which would combine counseling of students in the local secondary schools with a family therapy program.

Wilson’s credibility with both the counseling professionals and Santa Clara political and business leaders was an important factor in creating this community-based service.

Webster Center, as it was then called, opened its doors in the fall of 1973. Bill Wilson continued to be involved as an active member of its Board of Directors.
Later, he helped secure a building for our first runaway program and the building is still in use today.

In May 1977, after a brief illness, Bill died at the age of forty-one. The staff and the Board of Directors made the unanimous decision to change the name of Webster Center to Bill Wilson Center in memory of this very special person and one of the founders of Bill Wilson Center.
A Message from the CEO

The latter half of Fiscal Year 2020 exploded with new challenges for Bill Wilson Center’s programs and services. COVID-19 created a pandemic that magnified an already heightened risk for our homeless youth, young adults and families. With the death of George Floyd, race inequity outrage played out on streets throughout our country. While Bill Wilson Center has always looked at our services and clients through a race equity lens, we can do better. We know Black and Latino clients are marginalized and over represented in justice systems and homelessness systems; we need to continue our advocacy efforts, with new partners, to move away from detention and police involvement when addressing inequities. Housing is the first step.

Through these challenging times, Bill Wilson Center has remained open, never missing a day of providing service and care for the region’s most vulnerable people. I am proud of my staff, who adapted their services to safely continue providing safe havens for our clients. We never stopped housing or sheltering our homeless populations. Counseling and grief support groups were moved online. Case managers made extra efforts to ensure clients were not isolated due to the pandemic. Our Drop-In Center added new preventive measures to check homeless, street youth so that essential aid could continue to be given to people with nowhere else to turn. Zoom interactions became the new norm for us all.

We also responded to the changing needs of families and individuals who lost their jobs due to shelter-in-place and desperately needed help paying for rent to stay housed. Through collaborations with San Jose Strong, cities, and the County we screened, processed and distributed hundreds of checks to keep families housed.

Lastly, thank you to our donors who stepped up and supported our virtual “Building Dreams” event that was canceled in May due to COVID-19. You helped keep our funding going so we could help even more clients. It has been heart-warming to see people who are still working donate funds to help those who are less fortunate. As a community, we will get through these challenging times together.

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LEADERSHIP

100-Day Success
BWC’s 100-Day Challenge resulted in 134 homeless college students being housed in 100 days. By working with Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, SJSU, West Valley-Mission Community College District and other stakeholders, college students were able to focus on their academics, not on having to find some place for them to sleep.

Airbnb Partnership
Together with the office of San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, BWC established a first-of-its-kind pilot program utilizing Airbnb’s platform to provide short-term housing to homeless college students. This program kept students from being forced into short-term homelessness due to not having a place to live when dorms were closed or when they lost their housing.

Adopt-A-Family Record
More than 3,000 local children and their support families, an increase of nearly 50% from the previous year, received holiday presents through BWC’s Adopt-A-Family program. Each donor was matched to youth and families identified by social workers as the neediest children for this program.

Black Lives Matter
While Santa Clara County has no “majority” ethnicity, our population is not balanced when it comes to who is disproportionately impacted by homelessness. Blacks are 15.4% of BWC’s clients, but only 3.4% of the county’s population. BWC is committed to providing opportunities for these young Black lives.

Coronavirus Pandemic
BWC surveyed clients about the impact COVID-19 had on their lives:
- 79% reported increased stress levels
- 59% had difficulty in securing food
- 38% changed their living situations
- Two-thirds of BWC’s clients who were working prior to the shelter-in-place had either lost their jobs or had their hours cut back.
- 22% did not have easy access to clean water and soap to wash their hands.
OUTCOMES

By the numbers:

• **86%** of the 206 youth housed at BWC’s Safety Net Shelter were reunited with family or exited to a stable placement.

• **1,339** young adults and their children received housing services from BWC, thereby avoiding homelessness.

• **23,263** counseling sessions were provided by BWC to individuals and families, ensuring those in need learn the skills needed to cope with past and present crises.

• **439** students and their family members, on the verge of homelessness, received services enabling them to improve their housing stability through our Family Advocacy Services program, resulting in **55%** of the students improving their grade point averages.

• **17,421** meals were served at BWC’s Drop-In Center in downtown San Jose for homeless youth.

Thank you community partners! Together we can end youth and family homelessness.

1. EVHS students raise funds to help peers
2. SJ Barracudas’ Teddy Bear Toss for BWC AAF
3. BWC Christmas in the Park Parade Float
4. Santana Row Wine Stroll
5. Light of Lights 2019
6. City of San Jose honors BWC’s homeless efforts
7. County Supes support BWC 100-Day Challenge
8. Air System’s annual shelter holiday fest
9. BWC and Earthquakes celebrate Pride
10. Drop-In Center Open House welcomes guests
11. The HUB grads are celebrated by 49ers
BWC serves a variety of clients in its 14 housing programs at 21 sites ranging from permanent to short-term housing. We house more than 950 people on any given night.

Due to the pandemic, BWC provided emergency housing funds to families and young adults. Nearly $830,000 in rental payments were issued to help more than 300 households.

BWC’s HYRR Survey found that the majority of young people became homeless after being kicked out, asked to leave or running away from a family or relatives’ home. Family homelessness was the second most common reason. Other reasons for homelessness included the death of a parent, exiting a relationship, losing a home in a fire, being terminated from a housing program, or exiting foster care or the justice system.
Bill Wilson Center is working to prevent poverty in the next generation by connecting youth with employment, education, housing, and adult mentors and role models.
### OUR DONORS (Gifts & Pledges)

#### $100,000 +
- Sobrato Family Foundation

#### $50,000 - $99,999.99
- Kathryn Edwards
- Kaiser Permanente Northern Calif. South Bay
- Sunlight Giving

#### $25,000 - $49,999.99
- Jay and Cynthia Cohan
- El Camino Hospital
- Power Business
- San Jose Mercury News
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Valle Monte League

#### $10,000 - $24,999.99
- Bank of America
- Mark and Barbara Beck
- Michelle Codding
- Arnold Goldberg
- Macduff Hughes
- Nicole Rae
- RISE 49
- Deborah Stanley
- Star One Credit Union

#### $5,000 - $9,999.99
- Adobe Foundation
- Apple Matching Gift Program
- Baker and McKenzie
- Marilyn and Brian Beck
- Brownstone Foundation
- Dan Caputo, Jr.
- Cisco Foundation
- Closet Ball
- Junior League of San Jose, Inc.
- Rebecca Moon
- Mohsen Mortazavi
- Cynthia and Michael O'Leary
- Lynn and Thomas Robinson
- Santa Clara County Realtors Foundation
- Russell and Laura Smith
- Loretta Stagnitto and Ron Ricci
- Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
- Valley Presbyterian Church
- Walmart Foundation
- Werner Family Fund
- Wild Basil Fund
- Wild Thyme Fund

#### $2,500 - $4,999.99
- Elsa Bejarin Amboy
- Maria Amundson
- Anonymous
- Federal Realty Investment Trust
- Clive Fuller
- Leslie Gallagher
- Mitch and Lisa Gevelber
- Shannon Govednik
- Tracy Hanson
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- Michael Lesyna
- Eric Malmqquist
- Rebecca McCathern
- Ted Meeker and Anita Wotiz
- Paypal Gives Employee Engagement Fund
- Michael and Emma Rock
- SUHR Risk Services
- Sutherland Family Foundation
- TOSA Foundation
- University Electric Company

#### $1,000 - $2,499.99 (continued)
- Heaven's Helping Hand Foundation
- Bob Heihn
- Peggy Heiman
- Richard and Heidi Herz
- Patricia Johnson
- Susan Johnson
- Tom and Sharon Kelley
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- Leslie Kornblum
- Lata Krishnan and Ajay Shah
- Wayne Levenfield
- Rebecca Lewis
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- Richard Wood and Deborah Darnick
- James Woodbury
- Patricia Anne Yates and David Smith

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*Gifts of all levels are critical to the success of our work and we thank all our donors for their generous support. Due to space limitations, this list includes donors who contributed at the level of $1,000 or more between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Every attempt has been made to assure the accuracy of this list and we apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions.*

*Contact Vanessa Caustrita at (408) 850-6139 or vcaustrita@billwilsoncenter.org for any changes.*
Your gift of a tax-deductible donation to Bill Wilson Center is one way you can join our fight to prevent homelessness in Santa Clara County. Help us support and strengthen the community by serving youth and families through counseling, housing, education, and advocacy.

Bill Wilson Center depends on the support, generosity and commitment of the community, individual donors, as well as public and private funds. There are many ways you can show your support and help us ensure that youth and families receive the services they need.

Donate Online and on Your Smartphone
Make a secure online donation through MobileCause. The safety and security of your payment information is our highest priority. Every piece of user data held by MobileCause is guarded by 100% Payment Card Industry compliant systems. www.billwilsoncenter.org

Donate by Mail (checks only please)
Bill Wilson Center, 3490 The Alameda, Santa Clara, CA 95050

Donate Person-to-Person
Call (408) 850-6129 to make a credit card donation.

Donate Appreciated Stock
Check with your financial advisor about the benefits you can receive when you give appreciated stock. Contact Pilar Furlong at (408) 850-6132 or pfurlong@billwilsoncenter.org to discuss donating stock.

Give Through Your Will or Other Estate Planning Method
Create a lasting legacy that supports BWC’s services for families and youth, while setting an example for your children and grandchildren about the importance of giving. Contact Pilar Furlong at (408) 850-6132.

Join our Annual Holiday Giving Program
Our annual Adopt-A-Family Holiday Giving Program helps to make the holiday season a joyful one for children in the Santa Clara County foster care system. We served more than 3,000 deserving youth and families last year. Contact Heather Furuta at hfuruta@billwilsoncenter.org to sign up.

Bill Wilson Center’s Tax ID number is 94-2221849