

Love Stanislaus County

IMPACT REPORT

2025/2026



Love Stanislaus County

This year gave us so much to celebrate.

Year after year, you continue to say "yes" to this work. Whether you served as a volunteer, gave generously, or helped share our vision of loving our communities well, your support has created a ripple effect that reaches far beyond what any one of us could accomplish alone.

We are continually inspired by the everyday people across our county who choose to show up and make a difference. It's easy to see the challenges around us and wish things were different, but real change happens because of people who take action—those who step up when there's a need, who care for their neighbors, and who choose to love others well.

The stories in this annual report are more than numbers or accomplishments—they are a reflection of what happens when people choose generosity over indifference and action over apathy. Every project completed, every life impacted, every family encouraged, and every moment of hope began with someone willing to care.

Thank you for showing your community what love looks like.



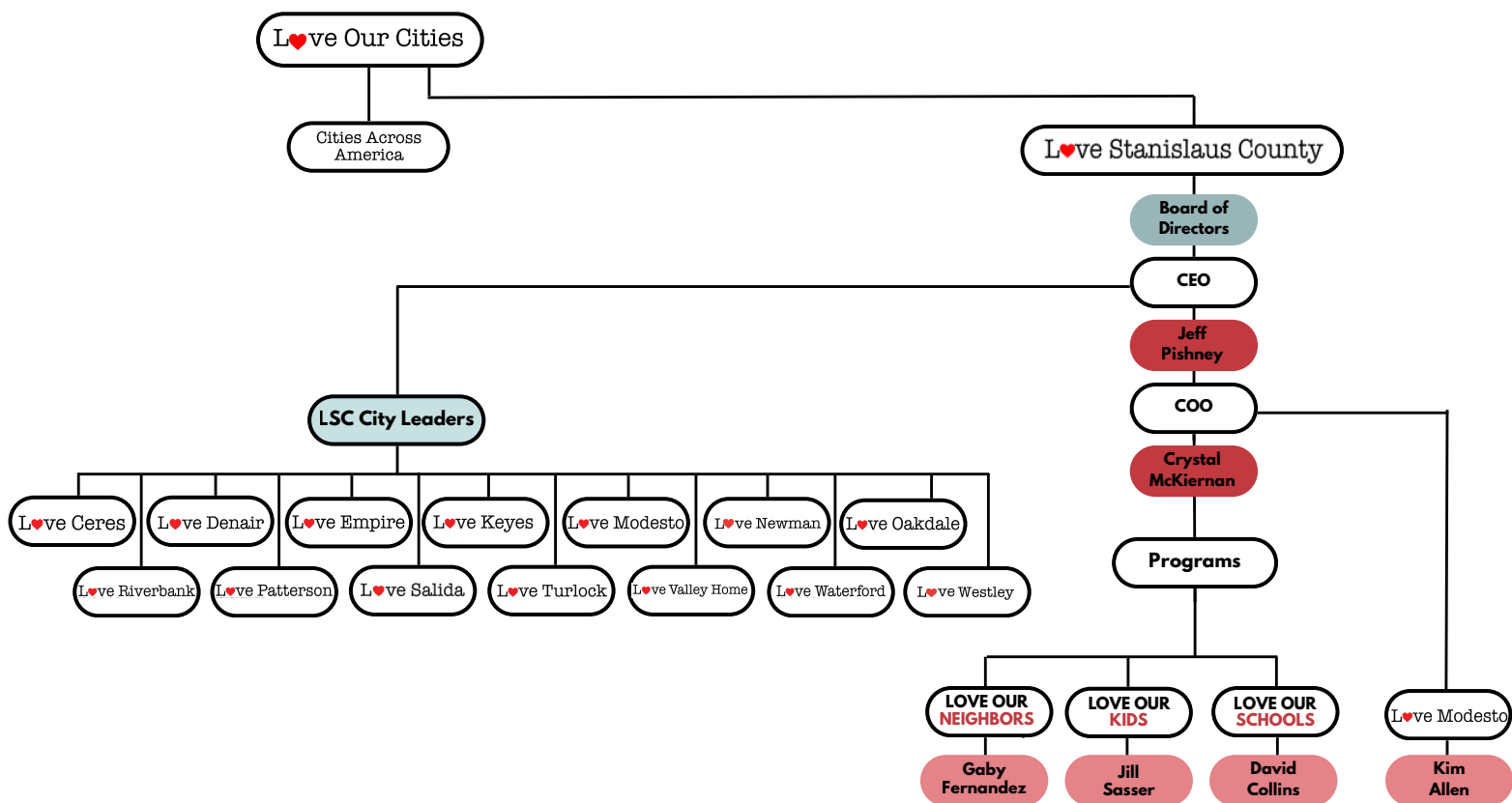
Jeff Pishney
CEO & Founder



How does our work fit together?

What started in Modesto in 2008 has now spread across the country!
Love Our Cities supports cities outside of Stanislaus County.

Love Stanislaus County was founded in 2014 to unify all the efforts of the cities in our local area. We are most known for our city wide volunteer days, but this one day event has inspired many cities to love their community throughout the year. In addition to these event days, Love Stanislaus County has three ongoing programs that meet the needs of kids in foster care, neighbors, and schools all throughout the year.



CITY-WIDE VOLUNTEER DAYS

Did you know that city wide volunteer days were always meant to inspire year round volunteerism?

Many of our cities offer volunteer opportunities all year long!

Go to LoveStanislausCounty.org to find out more!

14 Cities.

6,000+ Volunteers.

285+ projects.

You cleaned parks and handed out flowers to seniors.

You beautified schools and wrote thank you notes to veterans.

You donated pet food for local animal shelters and new pajamas and bedding for children in foster care.

You painted rocks with messages of hope and sewed rice packs to help ease the pain for those fighting cancer.

You picked up trash in your neighborhoods and loved on single moms.

You did home makeovers for deserving families and potted plants for teachers.

You decorated thank you posters for healthcare workers and social workers and made teddy bears for children experiencing trauma.

You painted benches and cleaned waterways.

You made blankets for those in hospice and assembled hygiene kits for those experiencing homelessness.

You washed emergency vehicles and planted community gardens.

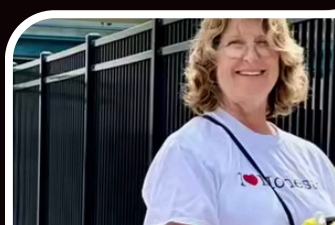
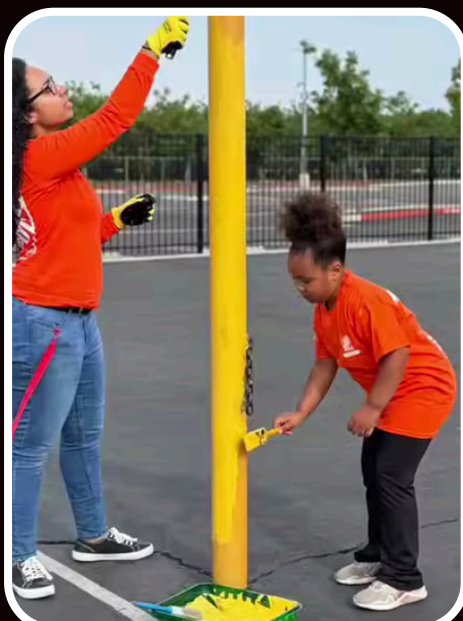
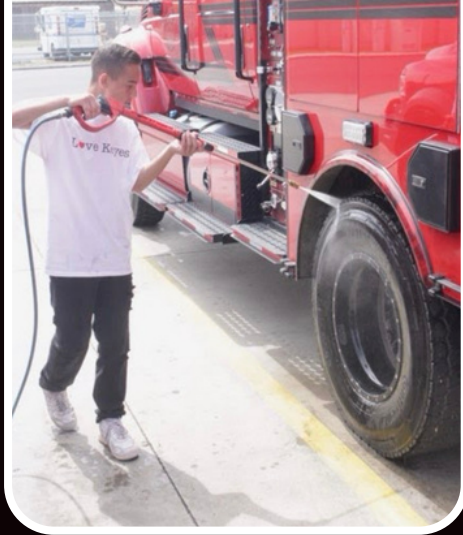
Stanislaus County,

We are so proud of you. For all the volunteers, project leaders, sponsors, congregations, and businesses who made these city wide volunteer days possible, we just want to say THANK YOU.

Thank you for inspiring others. For not being afraid to get your hands dirty.

For loving your neighbors.







LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS

A Program of Love Stanislaus County



Watch This!

In a world that seems more disconnected every day, Love Our Neighbors seeks to equip and inspire people to host neighborhood gatherings with the goal of forming deeper connections and a sense of belonging among neighbors.

We do this by offering toolkits, mini grants, and even helping to train groups in Family Strengthening or Neighborhood Circles for those that want to have deeper conversations.



Love Our Neighbors is connecting people all across the county!

75

mini grants were awarded last year

There have been so many great event ideas!

Here are just a few:

- Block parties
- Park and Plays
- Coffee and Dance Groups
- Backyard BBQs
- Paint Nights
- Senior Activities
- STEM Day at the Park
- Clothing Swaps
- Painting Rocks Event
- Exercise Groups

What has been the impact of these of neighborhood gatherings?

Living in community with others is about more than simply having people to spend time with.

We all need meaningful connection and a place where we feel we belong.

These relationships have a profound impact on our mental health and overall well-being, and the results of our surveys reflect just how important that sense of community truly is.

97%

"I feel more connected to my neighbors and community."

96%

"I feel an increased level of optimism towards my neighbors."

99%

"I feel community connection is important and decreases isolation and depression."

95%

"There are people who live near me I can trust."

16% of survey participants who attended a neighborhood gathering were from low to moderate income levels

Meet Dave.



Our neighbor Dave looks out for everyone on our cul-de-sac. He unloads heavy stuff, helps install new appliances, baseboards, shades, or gate wheels. He and his grandson make a lot of our lawns look great all year. He even offered to repair our sprinkler system. The Neighborhood Watch potluck is at his house. He shares fruit and dishes he's made with everyone. He has a whole workshop in his garage, and will fix whatever we need. When a family's away, he'll keep an eye on their house. If there's trouble in the cul-de-sac, he's right there to help.

We couldn't ask for a better neighbor.

He says, "What's a neighbor for, if not to help?" in response to every thank you.



Rock Painting Event

I didn't realize how lonely I was, until I quit my job and became a stay at home mom. I quickly realized I needed to make friends, and the easiest way to do that with a baby was to create connections with the people who were physically close to me, my neighbors!



Mom's Group

I'm meeting people with different backgrounds and culture from which I would not have thought I would have the courage to meet or interact with.



Kids Fishing Day

My son got to experience fishing for the first time! As a single parent, I appreciate community events where he can learn about things that I don't know anything about. "It takes a village"



**Do you have a good neighbor?
We want to know!**

Email us at:

gaby@lovestanislauscounty.org

LOVE OUR SCHOOLS

A Program of Love Stanislaus County

Love Our Schools is dedicated to building stronger, healthier school campuses for everyone by creating and nurturing strong, supportive bonds within the community. We meet with each school partner, identify needs, and then inspire congregations, businesses, and community members to get involved. Love Our Schools is currently partnering with 8 schools on an ongoing basis. An additional 11 schools had a Love Modesto project on their campus.



We helped with the Food distribution program at Empire Elementary that serves many families in Empire.



We participated in National Superhero Day at Fremont Elementary.



Donations were given to Capistrano Elementary Clothes Closet.



8th Grade Celebration Breakfast at Cardozo Middle School.



We led a creative expression, watercolor art activity for students at Cardozo Middle School.



We read books to students at La Rosa Elementary for their Read-In Day and then donated them to their library.



We participated in Woodrow Elementary's Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day.



Standiford Elementary hosted a Love Modesto painting project.



How many have been impacted by this program?

5,524 students (K-12) including Chalk the Walk, Literacy Nights, Fall Festivals, Career Day, learning days, student activities, and celebrations

4,500 families in Empire supported via food distribution

9,263 students (K-12) in Love Modesto projects

100 college students with classroom presentation

Chalk the Walk

Chalk the Walk is an engaging and uplifting event at which community members come together to decorate school sidewalks with inspiring messages written in chalk for students to experience on their first day of school. We want to encourage students and staff as they begin a new school year. This was our first year and it was a huge success! Six schools participated with many others expressing interest in joining next year!



100%

of volunteers said this event was a positive experience for them.



100%

of volunteers reported they felt more positively connected to my school or community as a result of this event.



“The families loved the amazing messages on the first day of school.”

-School Principal



100%

of our school partners are Title 1 schools.
More than 70% of their students qualify as coming from “low income” families.

LOVE OUR KIDS

A Program of L♥ve Stanislaus County

Love Our Kids seeks to help meet the needs of children and families within the foster care system by making it simple and easy for the community to donate and get involved. Partnering with Child Welfare, this year we received referrals requesting approximately 746 different items.

95%

of these requests were successfully found and delivered. The remaining 5% of items not delivered were due to the family finding the item, family not responding, us being unable to locate that item or the case closing.

44%

Of the 746 items requested, 44% went to families living in low to moderate income areas.



Recipient Family Locations

Modesto: 68
Turlock: 24
Ceres: 5
Newman: 2
Oakdale: 8
Denair: 1
Empire: 2
Waterford: 3
Atwater: 1

Berkeley: 1
Delhi: 1
Inglewood: 1
Napa: 1
Rancho
Cordova: 1
Ripon: 1
Sacramento: 1
Stockton: 2
Tracy: 1

124 Families Served

AB 12

1.6%

Family Reunification

26.6%

Court

5.6%

Resource Parent Mentor

0.8%

Permanent Placement

6.5%

Emergency Response

19.4%

Family Maintenance

39.5%

Full Item List



Common Requests

- Beds
- Dressers
- Toddler Beds
- Pack N Plays
- Bedding
- Pillows
- Cribs
- Couches
- High Chairs
- Strollers
- Shoes
- Clothes
- Diapers
- Kitchen Items
- Microwaves
- Kitchen Table and Chairs

We know that every bed, stroller, new pair of shoes, dish set or new comforter can help make a child feel cared for and safe in their home. We love to hear the impact these items have on children and their caregivers. Some of the feedback and stories we've heard this past year are:

Yes I did get the baby stuff, thank you so much! I love everything! That was super helpful. Thank you again for everything you guys have been doing for my boys.

I really appreciate your help and everything you do for my family. We are so thankful for the donations for special needs families like ours.

Thank you so much for the shoes. My son loves them!

Thank you so much (for the table and chairs)! We are excited to eat dinner as a family tonight and the future days as well. You are a blessing.

In the spring, we collected new pajamas and bedding as a Love Modesto project. Our goal? To ensure every child receiving a new bed would receive cozy bedding and new pajamas as well.

We received 49 pairs of pjs in all sizes, 29 sets of sheets, 17 twin comforters, 6 pillows and 9 blankets.

Senior Portraits

Every year we partner with local photographers who generously give their time and talent to offer free portrait sessions to graduating seniors who are experiencing foster care. Graduating high school is a milestone for any teen but even more so for those that have had to face all that comes with being in foster care. Helping these teens celebrate this accomplishment is such an inspiring thing.



Comfort Kit Drive


Watch This!

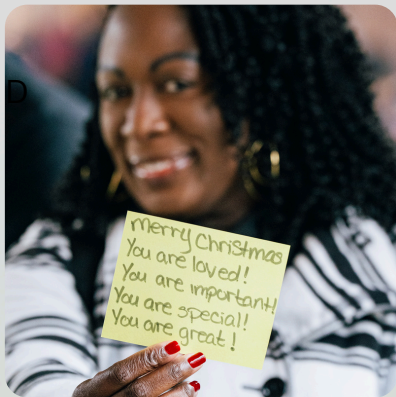


This year, we assembled, organized, and distributed 957 comfort kits at our 9th Annual Comfort Kit Drive! These kits will be given to children in transition within the foster care system during the next year. Our team is so incredibly grateful for all of you who believe in this work, believe in these kids, and have stepped up in big and small ways to help.

Did you know that since this program began, we have given 12,926 comfort kits (approximately \$969,450 in donated items and funds) to children in Stanislaus County and the surrounding areas? That's almost 13,000 kids who have received a blanket to warm up in, a stuffed animal to cuddle, or a flashlight to help bedtime not seem so scary. Sit for a minute and imagine what this many children looks like.



When this event started years ago, we never would have imagined we would be able to touch this many lives. When problems are so big it's easy to think there are just too many kids who are hurting and need help, but it all just started with one. One person who decided to come alongside us to help. Then another who donated money. Then a church who gathered blankets. Then a Girl Scout and her troop who decided to inspire their schools to collect coloring books. And on and on it went until we landed here.



This is because of you. Don't let anyone tell you a problem is too big and your contribution doesn't matter...because IT DOES.



Financials



Have you considered becoming a monthly or annual donor?

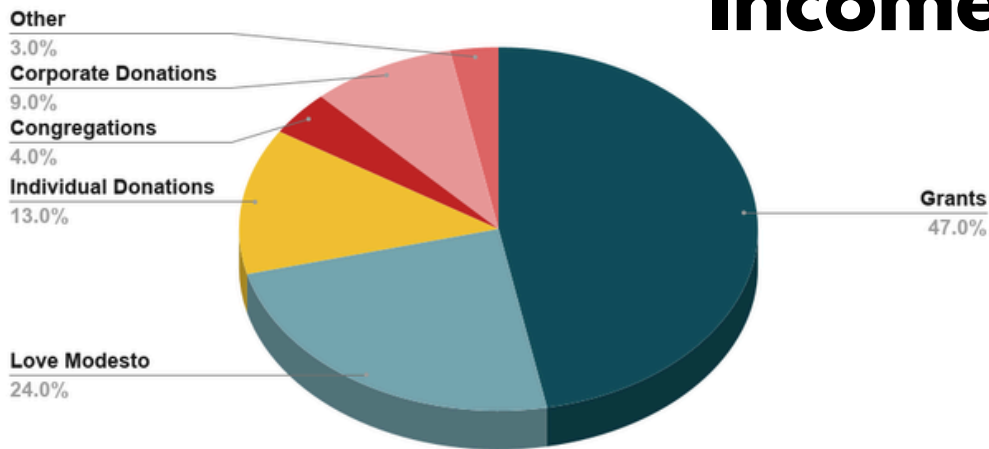
Every donation can make a difference! Here are some examples of how your donation can help:

- \$200 can provide a bed
- \$100 can provide a dresser, stroller, or crib
- \$50 can provide new bedding for a child in need
- \$40 can sponsor a Chalk the Walk event at a school site
- \$40 can provide a portrait session for a high school graduate in foster care
- \$20 can provide new shoes or a silverware set

No gift is too small. Consider giving today!



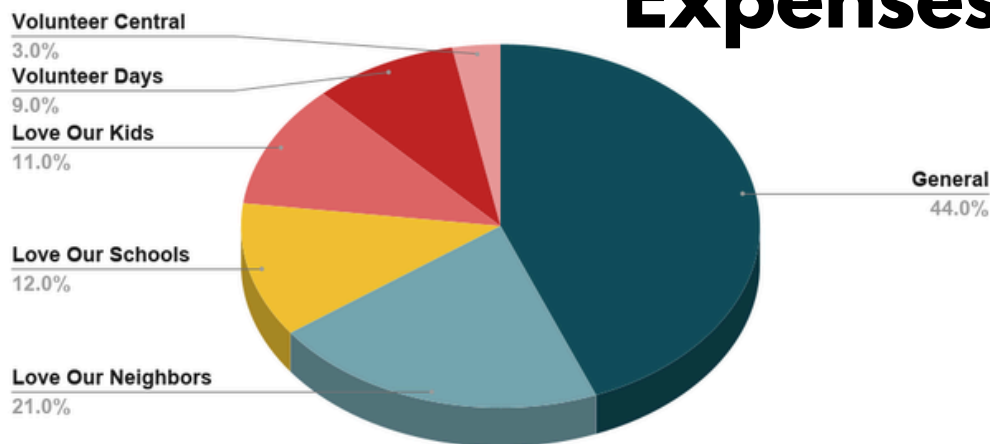
Income



Grants	\$324,255	47%
Love Modesto Sponsors	\$161,898	24%
Corporate Donations	\$65,118	9%
Individual Donations	\$91,037	13%
Other	\$17,324	3%
Congregations	\$29,158	4%

\$688,790

Expenses



General	\$309,008	44%
Love Our Neighbors	\$152,308	21%
Love Our Schools	\$82,285	12%
Love Our Kids	\$79,946	11%
Volunteer Days	\$60,244	9%
Love Modesto Year Round	\$23,618	3%

\$707,409

As costs continue to rise, we are committed to inspiring and engaging our community to help us sustain this important work—work that makes a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.





Thank you to our annual sponsors!



Interested in becoming one of
our annual sponsors?

Contact Jeff Pishney
jeff@lovestanislauscounty.org

