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[SGVCOG] Valley Voice - December 2023 Issue

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Fri, Dec 1, 2023 at 8:59 AM



# Valley Voice

*The official newsletter of the  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*

December 2023

## *Governing Board Honors Second Cohort of SGV Works Graduates*



At last month's Governing Board Meeting of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), there was a special moment of celebration. The focus was on honoring the achievements of eight outstanding graduates from the



SGVCOG's workforce development initiative, SGV Works. This occasion - marked the successful completion of the program's second cohort, a significant milestone for these dedicated young adults.



Each participant in this cohort has shown remarkable dedication and effort. They have not only completed their job training hours at God's Pantry but have also actively engaged in various support activities. This included receiving guidance from program navigators and participating in workshops and support groups, which were integral to their learning journey.



The SGVCOG takes immense pride in acknowledging the following graduates for their hard work and perseverance: *Edwin M., Joseph S., Cristain J., Esperanza P., Austin E., Isaiah M., Isaac B., Dinora R., Desiree A., and Sophia L.* Their accomplishments are a testament to their resilience and commitment to personal growth, and SGVCOG is excited to see the paths they carve out in their future endeavors.

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### ***SGVRHT Showcases at SCANPH Annual Conference***



The San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) participated as an exhibitor at the Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing's (SCANPH) Annual Conference on November 1st. This event brought together a diverse group of professionals from the affordable housing sector, including developers, architects, consultants, lenders, investors, public agencies, advocates, construction companies, and solar/environmental organizations.

Through this conference, SCANPH continued its mission to promote the development of affordable homes in Southern California. Their focus on public policies, sustainable resources, strong organizations, and beneficial partnerships aligns with our goals at SGVRHT, as we jointly recognize housing as a fundamental human necessity.

Our booth saw engaging interactions with various stakeholders, emphasizing the collaborative nature of addressing affordable housing challenges. We thank all participants and visitors for their involvement and insightful discussions.

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***Happening Today: 2023 San Gabriel Valley Merry Mingle!***





2023 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

# Merry Mingle

DECEMBER 1, 2023  
4 PM - 6 PM  
LOCATION:  
IRWINDALE BREW YARD  
15801 1st St  
IRWINDALE, CA 91706

This year, support the  
**ywca**  
San Gabriel Valley  
WINGS Domestic  
Violence Program  
with gift cards.  
Details: [sgvpartnership.org/events](http://sgvpartnership.org/events)

***SGV CARE Program Participates in Harvard Kennedy School Summit***



Earlier this month, the San Gabriel Valley Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement Program (SGV CARE) had the honor of being invited to the first annual summit at the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab (GPL). The focus of the event was alternative emergency response programs.

During the summit, our SGV CARE team learned about best practices and networked with other agencies. We returned home with inspiration to enhance our regional services, putting SGV CARE in the spotlight as a potential model for other agencies.

The GPL has committed to providing pro bono technical assistance to our program through FY 2024. Additionally, SGV CARE will be featured in an upcoming GPL publication, showcasing our innovative approach to emergency response.

## ***Exploring Public Affairs: The Coro Fellows Program Visits the SGVCOG***



On Tuesday, November 28th, the 2023-24 Coro Southern California Fellows class hosted an informational interview with San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust's Manager Brielle Salazar. As part of their week centered on Housing, Land Use, and Development, the group engaged in an enlightening informational discussion with our staff. During this session, the Fellows dug into interim and permanent housing solutions, gaining valuable insights into the distinctive role and contributions of the SGVRHT in the region.

The Coro Fellows Program is renowned for its commitment to fostering the next generation of leaders, preparing them to navigate and influence various sectors effectively. By providing an extensive understanding, practical skills, and a robust network, the program aims to fast-track the impact these emerging leaders can have in driving positive societal changes.

## ***SGVCOG Showcases Sustainability Programs at Azusa's Health and Wellness Resource Fair***



On November 4th, the City of Azusa's Community Resources Department and the LA County Public Health Department held a Health and Wellness Resource Fair at Gladstone Park. The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) Sustainability Staff was on hand to highlight the many valuable resources and programs we offer residents.

Highlights included the Fire Prep SGV initiative, eSGV home energy reviews, and insightful information on Broadband Planning Needs Assessment through surveys and focus groups. Additionally, SGVCOG staff shed light on the Neighborhood Coyote Program, a project in which the City of Azusa actively participates. The community showed keen interest in our programs, particularly appreciating their benefits and the resources they bring to the local area.



If you're interested in having our Sustainability and Natural Resources team present at your local event to share similar insights and resources, please contact Paulina Mejia at [pmejia@sgvcog.org](mailto:pmejia@sgvcog.org). We're always eager to engage with the community and spread knowledge on these vital topics.

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### ***Food Recovery Meets Workforce Development: Touring God's Pantry***



Earlier this month, our team visited God's Pantry in Pomona as a part of the Regional Food Recovery Program. We had the privilege of touring one of the three Regional Food Recovery Hubs in the San Gabriel Valley. During our visit, we learned about the operations of the food recovery program. God's Pantry retrieves and redistributes between 300,000 to 400,000 pounds of food each month to residents in need across the SGV.

Apart from its food recovery efforts, God's Pantry also collaborates with the SGV Works workforce development program. This partnership aims to help transition-age youth gain valuable skills and experience as they enter the workforce. The tour was insightful in understanding the scale and impact of food recovery. It also emphasized the importance of community support and workforce development in our region.

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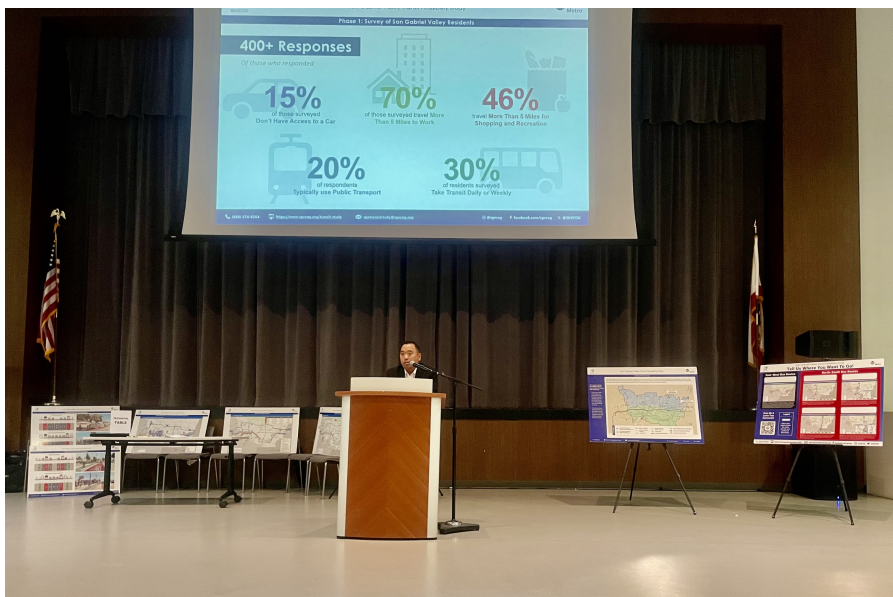
### ***SGVCOG Hosts Heartwarming Thanksgiving Lunch at Operation Stay Safe***



On Wednesday, November 22nd, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, SGVCOG staff brought joy and warmth to the residents and staff at Operation Stay Safe (OSS) in Montebello. The event was marked by a sumptuous lunch, delightful desserts, and an entertaining game of bingo. OSS, a collaborative project between SGVRHT, SGVCOG, and the City of Montebello, is a 30-unit Tiny Home site dedicated to supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and is currently managed by the Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LA CADA).

This Thanksgiving gathering was more than just a meal; it was an opportunity for us to show our appreciation and support for both the residents and the hardworking staff.

### ***SGV Transit Feasibility Study Holds In-person and Virtual Community Workshops***



The SGVCOG staff recently hosted two community workshops spread over two consecutive days aimed to update residents on the San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study and actively solicit their feedback on the proposed bus routes.

The first meeting, an in-person community workshop, was held on Tuesday, November 28, at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. This interactive session allowed residents to engage directly with the Transit Study Team. Key partners attended the event, including representatives from Supervisor Hilda Solis's office and Los Angeles Metro (Metro), enhancing the dialogue with their insights.





Following this, a virtual community workshop occurred on Wednesday, November 29. This session witnessed an even greater participation, with residents joining online to voice their opinions and learn more about the Study. The discussions delved into evaluating short- and long-term transit solutions, focusing on enhancing community connectivity and the quality of life for residents, commuters, and visitors alike. A particular emphasis was placed on understanding the needs of transit-dependent populations and equity-focused communities, particularly those currently underserved by existing transportation systems.

We are thankful to all those who participated in these meetings. Your valuable input is crucial as we conclude the Study at the end of this month.

***SGVCOG Staff Member Spotlight:  
Natalie Arreaga, Management Aide***



**What are you looking forward to working on at the SGVCOG?**

Working at the COG, I am looking forward to becoming more familiar with the San Gabriel Valley, helping residents become more energy efficient, and expanding my knowledge of regional planning in Southern California.

**What is a fun fact about you?**

I enjoy camping, kayaking, and learning geology.

**December Committee Meeting Schedule**

Please be advised that the Governing Board will convene in person at the SGVCOG's office in Monrovia. Livestreams of the meetings can be found on the

**SGVCOG website [here](#). The live streams of San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust Board of Directors meetings are [here](#).**

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**Executive Committee** - Monday, December 4, 2023, at 10:00 AM

**Homelessness Committee** - Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 8:30 AM

**City Managers' Steering Committee** - Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 12:00 PM

**Public Works Working Group** - Monday, December 18, 2023, at 12:00 PM

**Capital Projects and Construction Committee** - Cancelled

**EENR Committee** - Cancelled

**Governing Board** - Cancelled

**Mental Health AD HOC Committee** - Cancelled

**Planning Directors Working Group** - Cancelled

**Regional Housing Trust Board** - Cancelled

**Transportation Committee** - Cancelled

**Water Committee** - Cancelled

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