Bill Wilson Center Joins in Community Effort to Alleviate Poverty by Frank Benaderet

Frank Benaderet is a well-respected San Francisco Bay Area business leader who heads RES Investment Group, LLC, a real estate development firm, as well as GreenQuest Builders. As president of GreenQuest, Frank Benaderet provides the nonprofit Bill Wilson Center with building services and financial support. The [Bill Wilson Center](http://www.billwilsoncenter.org/%E2%80%8E) offers education, counseling, and housing options to Santa Clara County homeless and runaway youth when they have nowhere else to turn.

In early 2013, the Bill Wilson Center joined in a significant community effort to assist 1,000 families in overcoming poverty and gaining self-sufficiency over the course of one year. Sponsored by the Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, the Step Up Silicon Valley project collaborates with 16 local charitable agencies, with seed funding provided by Cisco Systems. As a pilot undertaking, this collaborative effort seeks to better define the barriers that people living in poverty face every day and to improve strategies for serving their specific needs. On a quarterly basis, participants in the program rate their ability to get by in the critical areas of health, education, housing, income, and food. These assessments are tracked through the existing Help Management Information System and are used to fine-tune approaches that the partnering organizations utilize to support low income families.