Santa Clara’s Bill Wilson Center has been helping kids and young adults in need since 1973. Thanks to a rooftop solar array installed in late 2010, the award-winning non-profit is able to save thousands of dollars in power bills and divert that money to funding the center’s critical services, such as reuniting families, navigating crises and enabling futures.

And it couldn’t come at a better time, with Bill Wilson Center CEO Sparky Harlan recently telling the San Jose Mercury News, “There’s a growing danger that this could become a lost generation.” Last year alone, the non-profit served 792 homeless youth between the ages of 13 and 24 at its drop-in center, supplied 705 youth with transitional housing, provided 1,082 individuals with professional counseling services and answered 24,231 crisis line phone calls.

Funded by Silicon Valley Power’s Neighborhood Solar Program and Santa Clara Green Power, the 50-module rooftop system has a generating capacity of 11.5 kW. In addition to saving the center over $2,000 in annual energy costs, the solar electric system avoids the equivalent of nearly 10 tons of CO₂ a year.