

## **Breathe California of the Bay Area**

*1) How has the current economy affected the need of services that you give to the community?*

More people need our free services, but we have had to reduce staffing, so we can serve fewer individuals. Even with a larger volunteer base, services will be reduced due to lack of staff coordination time and staff expertise. If we do not increase funding soon, these trained staff (with up to eight years of experience) will be lost to our employment sector.

*2) How has the current economy affected the donations of goods and services that your organization receives?*

Almost every funding stream that we have is shrinking. In addition, since we are grassroots and partner with so many other agencies and schools, their shrinking funding is also affecting us. We are having good success with volunteer recruitment, but most of these are not fundraising volunteers. And we have less money to advertise our services.

*3) How have the services that your organization provides to the community affected our local economy?*

Our services to clients are free, so when we provide services, they are a gift to our local community equal to their value. For example, when we offer lung testing through our volunteer medical professionals, it is valued at \$150 per individual tested. When we provide respiratory rehabilitation classes or smoking cessation or host a child at summer asthma camp, that equals \$500 per individual for the 6-week classes or one-week camp. We have over 500 volunteers who donate from \$100,000-\$150,000 of service each year. When we run successful advocacy campaigns that change community norms, such as those that result in policies protecting us from air pollution or secondhand smoke, the payback can be in the millions of dollars over time through a reduction in death and disability and increase in employee productivity. In addition, of course, we run a business that contributes to employment, training our new workforce (through interns and volunteers), and local taxes (for our building).