

Food Locker Update

by Jerry Ratti, Food Locker Manager

Over 750 Turkeys were distributed to the poor for Thanksgiving by the SVdP Food Locker working hand-in-hand with 22 District Council Parish Conferences. St. Benedict, St. Lawrence O'Toole both gave away over 100 each. St. Leanders, St. Columba, St. Joseph the Worker, and St. Louis Bertrand each gave over 50. The other conferences gave away the rest. The Food Locker would like to request that our members and/or their families and friends support some of the businesses that donate to the Food Locker. They include: Safeway Green House Market, Safeway Downtown Livermore, Tree of Life products at Safeway, Svenhards Bakery, Berkeley Farms, Dyers Ice Cream, St. Michael and the Alameda County Food Bank. May we be reminded that they help us help others.

Thrift Stores Update

by Philip Arca, Executive Director

SVdP now has five stores in Alameda County. As part of our reorganization effort, we decided to close and sell our Berkeley Store. Its doors closed on November 27th. We wish to thank all those dedicated staff that worked at this store over its 45 years in operation (1958 – 2003). Many thanks to Patricia Courtney and Sylvia Caballero, longstanding manager and assistant manager. Currently, the Society is pursuing a new property in the Dublin/Pleasanton or in the San Leandro/Castro Valley area. If you want to help our efforts, we are seeking warehouse/retail space of approximately 20,000 sq. ft. Please do give us a call with any leads! Note below our current space to lease in our Oakland warehouse.

Warehouse flyer: <http://www.svdp-alameda.org/NewsADWarehouseFlyer.htm>

Donation Acknowledgements

(\$1,000 and above, September through November 2003)

Wayne and Gladys Valley Fdn.	\$25,000
The McKesson Foundation	\$ 5,000
The Lowell Berry Foundation	\$ 4,000
Estate of Matthew Gibbons	\$ 4,265
Thomas J. Kroetch	\$ 2,100
Charitable Gift Fund	\$ 2,000
James & Arleen M. Russi	\$ 1,500
Kenneth Reid	\$ 1,500
L.N. Curtis & Sons	\$ 1,500
Parish of Saint Albert	\$ 1,500
St. Isidores Conference	\$ 1,500
Alma R. Rose	\$ 1,300
Jack P. Marinkovich	\$ 1,200
Juliana Irene Skaramuca	\$ 1,000
Herman L. Carmassi	\$ 1,000
The O'Shea Foundation	\$ 1,000



The Berkeley St. Vincent thrift store closed this year after 45 years.

Saint Vincent de Paul stores

Alameda
2315 Lincoln Ave.
(510) 865-1109
Manager: Aida

Fremont
3777 Decoto Road
(510) 792-3711
Manager: Beth

Livermore
1817 W. 2nd St.
(925) 455-1104
Manager: Margaret

Oakland (East)
9235 San Leandro St.
(510) 636-4252
Manager: Leah

Oakland (Downtown)
2272 San Pablo Ave
(510) 834-4647
Manager: Mary

Plan A Gift – Leave a Legacy

Over the years, SVdP has received wonderful support from donors through wills and bequests. And like many wonderful things in life, the gifts have appeared unexpectedly. We would like that support to continue and to receive more surprise gifts. We also want to honor and support those who have planned a SVdP gift, right here and now.

On an annual basis, we would like to recognize and gather together those individuals who have taken the time, made the effort, and have the vision to leave a legacy to SVdP – to support its work to serve the poor. In order to do so, we need to know who you are. So, please contact Philip Arca, Executive Director, at (510) 636-4246 or parca@svdp-alameda.org. He wishes to assemble an invitation list for a special event to be scheduled in 2004.

How to Reach Us

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(510) 636-4255 • mmattson@svdp-alameda.org

Food Donations: Jerry Ratti (510) 636-4250

Auto Donations: Charles McGlothen (510) 636-4245

Dining Room: Sr. Mark Sandy (510) 451-7676

Visitation Center: Sr. Marion Bill (510) 444-3790

Men's Center: Stephen Krank (510) 444-0269

Info: info@svdp-alameda.org

THE VINCENTIAN QUARTERLY

News from the St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County

VOL. XXVI NO. 4 • Winter 2003 – 2004

Executive Director's Message

by Philip Arca, Executive Director

As 2004 begins, I join many others reflecting upon the past year and envisioning the possibilities for the coming year. This is especially timely for me personally as I just joined the Society as the Executive Director in September 2003.



To frame my first few months and to share some thoughts about the future, I will first note that I do enjoy theater and its ability to convey our human stories. I believe that it highlights our human interest in the narrative and in communal experiences.

The Society, historically over the past 170 years, has a tremendous and storied tradition of service. And the commitment of service to the poor, fellowship and spiritual development are key principles that I am deeply committed to maintaining as the underlying themes of all our work going forward.

I have mentioned several times at district meetings, I do feel as I have come home. This position is a wonderful match for my values, history and interests. With deep spiritual roots in the Catholic educational experience: Assumption, O'Dowd, Santa Clara University; career roots in direct service; and an array of management experiences in the nonprofit sector, I am very grateful for the opportunity to be part of SVdP. I have assisted with the turnaround of a large cultural facility; the startup of a new U.S. fair trade coffee initiative; and the leadership of a children's advocacy organization. The position of Executive Director for the Society feels like a challenging role with a wonderful cast of characters to work with. I am excited to see how our story unfolds.

My focus these past few months has been building upon the work of Board, staff and conference members to adjust the organization to the current economic conditions. Such painful work will be part of our tale for the next year or so, but as with any meaningful story, growth does come through meeting challenges head-on and organizationally, we will be the stronger for it.

Currently, we are in the midst of some creative tension as we shape and refine our special projects in Downtown Oakland, explore other projects in Southern Alameda County, and set new goals for our retail services. I hope to recruit new actors in our work – from young adults to corporate volunteers. Sharing our story and including new voices sustains our tradition. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.



The Oakland St. Vincent de Paul NURSE RUN CLINIC

by Janet Waring, R.N.

From a small seed, a large tree with many branches can grow. That is the story of the Oakland St. Vincent de Paul Nurse Run Clinic. The clinic started in March 2001, in the room next to the Chapel off the Courtyard of the Dining Room; a busy and exciting place to be. It is operated by a small, dedicated volunteer staff which includes: public health nurses Kathy Ahoy and Rose Luey; nurses Fr. Tim Gedfrey and Janet Waring; ancillary volunteers Ying Li and Ryan; and Samuel Merritt College Nursing Instructor Joan Bard and her students. Sr. Mark, Dining Room Manager, and her staff have given great support to the operation and expansion of the Clinic program. The Clinic is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. The services provided include: blood pressure testing, medication review, counseling, nutritional information, general health education, flu shots, sexually transmitted disease, AIDS testing and counseling, blood sugar testing, wound evaluation and care. Tuberculosis skin tests are given on Tuesday and on Thursday, they are read and referred for x-rays, if needed. Infant and childhood immunizations are given, including: Hepatitis B, pneumovac, Tetanus, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio, Hib and Pertussis, and Tetanus/Diphtheria for adults. Counseling and referral is a major role for the nurses. All services are confidential and available free. Once a month, a Women's Clinic is held by appointment at this site and staffed by the Berkeley Free Clinic. Twice a month, the Alameda County Homeless Van staff provides services at the clinic.

Clients from the downtown Oakland St. Vincent de Paul facilities call the clinic their 'own.' However, clients come from all over Alameda

...continued on page 2



president's message

by Vaughn Donahue, President

Since our SVdP District Council Conferences just forwarded their Annual Reports to the National Council in St. Louis and reported highlights for the year 2003, I will take this opportunity to provide you, our donors, staff and supporters with highlights of our combined efforts to help the needy of Alameda County during 2003.

Currently, we have forty-four Conferences affiliated with the District Council. Twenty-seven of these have an active spiritual advisor, and we have 804 members in Alameda County. We are working with fifteen active committees and still welcome additional volunteers.

The District Council sponsors five major programs which include the Dining Room, which fed over 400,000 free hot meals to the poor last year; Casa Maria affordable housing units; the newly expanded Visitation Center now serves approximately 2,000 women and children a month; the re-opened Champion Guidance Center for Men has 1,003 men

registered for services; and the Central Warehouse Food Locker which distributed over \$2 million in free food contributed by over 20 local food corporations to Conferences in Alameda County and other non-profits during 2003.

During these difficult times, SVdP of Alameda County is still operating its Central Warehouse and retail thrift stores. It did have to close the Berkeley Store due to loss of revenues, as well as layoff seven employees and cutback salaries. However, in spite of the challenging financial situation, it has been able to continue all programs and even expand some.

At this critical time in our history, we have a new Executive Director, Philip Arca, whose leadership in the non-profit sector in the East Bay will guide us to a brighter more prosperous future. We are appealing to you, our committed supporters to aid us through your prayers, ideas, financial support or volunteering efforts. To give of your time, talent and treasure and make a difference in the lives of others less fortunate, please call me or our new Executive Director, Philip Arca at (510) 636-4246 or parca@svdp-alameda.org.

Summary of Conference Activities, 2003

Total Cases Handled	\$47,841
Total Service Hours	\$54,751
Distribution	\$700,812
Total In-Kind Help Given	\$442,096

Internet Technology News

by Melanie Anguay, IT Manager

As of January 2004, the District Council will no longer mail District Council Meeting Minutes to your conference in order to reduce the amount of paper used in our offices. All meeting minutes will be available online at www.svdp-alameda.org – just click on “enter” in the Vincentian corner to access our private Vincentian website. Contact your conference president or Melanie Anguay at (510) 636-4248 or manguay@svdp-alameda.org with questions.

CHAMPION DAY 2003: A Tribute to Jenard Johnson

by Stephen Krank, Manager, Champion Guidance Center for Men

On Wednesday, November 12, 2003, the SVdP Champion Guidance Center for Men in downtown Oakland hosted our first Champion Day – a tribute to Jenard Johnson, its first Intern to Volunteer. It included a Training Workshop facilitated by volunteers, Bro. Roger Dougherty and Jenard; an Intern to volunteer ceremony; roast; and barbecue celebration.

Champion Day is a recognition of the effort that is involved when a Homeless man will come into the Champion Guidance Center, set aside his own homelessness then champion and serve those who are less fortunate. The day's program also included a history of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Frederic Ozanam, Louise de Marillac, the legacy of the Daughters of Charity and the Society's ongoing work for the poor presented by Sr. Kathleen Powers, the Dining Room Volunteer Coordinator.



Our first step as the Homeless men come in off the streets is to support them to rebuild their sense of self-worth and purpose. We do this by asking them to participate as interns to run their center. This process begins when they help guide the other homeless men to our various social services. It is the men that help themselves rise out of hopelessness through service to and for their fellow men.

Since opening our doors in June, we have had over 5,000 visits; of these, 1,003 men have registered for repeat services. On an average day, 65 men utilize the Center. We want to build additional showers for the guys; one is not enough! The current estimate is roughly \$160,000 with \$20,000 already allocated as seed funding. Volunteers are needed Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday work shifts from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For volunteer information contact Stephen at (510) 444-0269.

Another way to join the team is to buy some tickets to the Warriors SVdP Fundraiser Game on March 5th. Details are included in the flyer insert, share it with your family and friends. Together we can build an even stronger Society to meet the needs of the poor in 2004

Find Men's center articles online at www.svdp-alameda.org/LatestNews.htm. All articles are posted on our News page.

Visitation Center Activities

by Sister Marion Bill, D.C., Visitation Center Manager

Life is rarely dull at the Visitation Center! In addition to our regular client services, several successful projects have begun. Last March, a two-hour class of English as a Second Language (ESL) began two days a week by Ann Hamilton, an Oakland Adult School instructor. The class was increased to three times weekly in September and now has over 20 women enrolled. During class time, staff members and volunteers supervise a play group for the infants and toddlers of the women attending class. Much progress is being made! Women are encouraged to sign up for the ongoing classes.

On Wednesday, December 3, over 40 women and children attended a 2-hour Health Fair at the Center, sponsored by Samuel Merritt College Nursing Students. Information was provided on vital health issues, such as nutrition and dental care and blood pressure and blood sugar level checks were offered. Alameda County Public Health representatives attended to sign up mothers and children for two programs: CHDP, a Children's Health Disability Prevention Program which provides health care for uninsured children and IPOP, Improving Pregnancy Outcomes Program for pregnant women. One attendee Denika Lane, a mother of three, said: “After I deliver the baby, a nurse will come into my home to check on me and the baby. They also gave me referral numbers for dental care for my two older kids.”

In November and December, much time was devoted to preparing for the children's annual Christmas gift distribution. A total of 320 families were registered during a two-week period in November. Staff and volunteers worked hard to organize the donations of clothing and toys for distribution. We are very grateful to our generous benefactors who make this program possible and bring joy to many families.

Volunteer Opportunities

by Amber Martinez, Volunteer Coordinator

We are actively looking for volunteers to assist at our Visitation Center for women and children, located at 2260 San Pablo Avenue at 23rd Street in downtown Oakland (near the 19th Street BART Station). A variety of duties include: researching for resources; creating hygiene bags; cleaning toys; writing thank-you notes; organizing files; supervising the children's play area; sorting and washing donated clothing. The Visitation Center is just one of the many volunteer opportunities available at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County. Contact Amber Martinez, Volunteer Coordinator, at (510) 636-4253 or amartinez@svdp-alameda.org.

SVdP Volunteer links:
Opportunity Listings: www.svdp-alameda.org/Volunteer.htm
Volunteer Application: www.svdp-alameda.org/VolunteerApplication.htm.

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

“Nurse Run Clinic” continued from front page...

County; and foreign countries including: Mongolia, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Mexico, Korea, China, and Canada. Often, this is the only place a new mother can find to begin her baby's immunizations or where children can get their shots to get into school. Jim came to the clinic room and asked for a flu shot; he was 24, a large fellow, tall with sad eyes; he said he was homeless on the street and had many colds. We gave him the flu shot. He responded, “God Bless you all for being here and helping us, I wish I could pay you – but sometime I will.”

Volunteers with medical backgrounds are especially needed but anyone interested in volunteering can call Janet Waring, RN at (510) 522-3406. There is an ongoing need for clinic supplies. The Clinic Wish List includes: cough drops, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, towelettes, baby scale, adult scale, bandages, gauze, paper tape and band-aids.



THE VINCENTIAN QUARTERLY

The Vincentian Quarterly is published four times a year by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County. We are a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to helping the hungry, the needy and others less fortunate than ourselves. We do this by helping them with food, temporary lodging, clothing, furniture and providing employment in our facilities, to make their lives a little easier. We carefully protect the dignity of every person we encounter through our work. Our funding comes from donations of used clothing, and household goods, furniture, food and financial contributions.

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SPECIAL PROJECTS