



Home Visit Stories

LeNora Carroll, President of St. John the Baptist Conference, told us about just a few of the stories she hears from the many families her Conference members meet as they do home visits with families in need. We wanted to share them here:

We helped a woman who had gone to a party and was shot 4 times by a man breaking into the party and shooting people with a shot gun.

The medical expenses and recuperating time took over two years, but this woman felt God had given her a second chance as no one expected her to live. During her recuperation time she managed to get a college degree and wants to work in community service to give back to all those who helped her such as SVDP. We kept her afloat with food once a month and a months rent.

Also, we had a couple come to us that needed help with rent. Both mother and father worked until their 15 year old son came down with cancer

in his leg and unfortunately his leg had to be removed. The mother had to quit her job to care for her son. He had had a promising career with the Golden State Warriors basketball team which were very interested in him. Going from two incomes down to one put them in hard times. We



helped them with rent and food.

A husband and wife and their two children lost their home in a fire on Christmas Day. They found another place but had no furniture, washer and dryer

and kitchen things as well as blankets and sheets.

In other words they had nothing. With the help of Our Lady of Grace we rounded up enough furniture to fill their house as well as everything else they needed. We still see them once a month to give them food. They are struggling a bit because the wife lost her job and has to go in for two complete knee replacements. So we continue with food and gift cards once a month to keep them afloat.





Upcoming Vincentian Meetings and Events

- Saturday, November 12th, **Regional Meetings**, various locations.
- Monday, November 14th, 6:00 pm. First night of our 2016-2017 **Winter Shelter Program**. Our supporters and volunteers are encouraged to set up a time to visit or to help out. Call us at 510-638-7600 to find out how you can help.
- Monday, November 14th, **Finance Committee**, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Ave, Oakland, 24:00 pm.
- Wednesday, November 16th, **Board of Trustees Meeting**: fellowship/meal at 5:30 pm followed by meeting at 6:00 pm, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Ave, Oakland. (3rd Wednesday of the month).
- Date/Time TBD, **Social Enterprise Committee**, District Council.
- Tuesday, November 22nd, 1:30 pm, **Special Works Committee**, Downtown Campus (4th Tuesday of month).
- Friday, December 2nd, 1:00 pm, **Spirituality/Extension Committee**, Nob Hill Market, Alameda (1st Friday of month).
- Monday, December 5th, 2:00 pm, **Development Committee**, Downtown Campus (1st Monday of the month).
- Tuesday, December 6th, 11:30 am, **Property Committee**, Conference Call (2nd Tuesday of the month).

News Briefs

- Donating a car or boat to SVdP is easy, through the National SVdP Vehicle Donation Program. Call 877-537-5277 or visit www.donatingiseasy.org
- Jackie's team in the Call Center now has a special email address: callcenter@svdp-alameda.org, to make it even easier to communicate with them.
- Your online purchases can benefit SVdP. Amazon.com will donate 1/2% of anything you spend on their site, once you sign up. Just visit smile.amazon.com, and choose "Society St Vincent De Paul Alameda" as your charity. Once you're set up, every purchase you make yields a donation to SVdP. Thanks for making St. Vincent de Paul your charity of choice!
- Our 2016-17 Winter Shelter begins Monday, November 14th.
- We're seeking new unwrapped toys for boys and girls 0-18 years old, for our Christmas Open House on December 17th. Please bring your gifts (or cash for us to purchase gifts) to our downtown campus by December 5th, or make arrangements with us to pick up gifts you've collected in a toy drive. Thanks!



■ The Phone Center will be reaching out to Conference Presidents to confirm contact information for all Vincentian members. Do you have new members in your Conference, or has someone moved away? Now's your chance to let us know about any changes. Hard copies of our current list of Vincentians will be distributed at the upcoming District Council meeting, and electronic copies will be emailed thereafter.

■ The Volunteer Team appreciates the deep engagement the community provides us during the holiday season. In fact, we have completely booked the dining room and kitchen with volunteers through the end of November! But there are other ways you can help support our work this Thanksgiving:

■ Turkeys: You can make a gift to SVdP specifically to purchase turkeys. A monetary donation will stretch further, as we are able to purchase turkeys at a bulk rate.

■ Grocery Cards: SVdP also distributes grocery cards in \$25 increments to clients and families during the holiday season. We take Lucky's or Safeway cards, which allow clients to purchase food from Lucky's, Safeway, Save Mart, FoodMaxx, or Pak-N-Save.



Kitchen of Champions Trainee Profile

Adrianna King, a trainee of KoC 50, says that she learned a lot through her training at SVdP. She was surprised to learn how important social skills are in the workplace. The kitchen can be a very stressful place, especially when you are helping cook over 500 meals a day for the community. She said, "I learned how to communicate, and that sometimes you just have to walk away and cool off", she joked. She said that she was eager to learn how to work the equipment in the kitchen, and that things like the industrial oven and the tilt skillet are no problem for her now. But her specialty is seasoning profiles and sauces.

When Chef Ryan was on vacation recently, Adrianna stepped up to help ensure that the food for the day was perfect. She said, "I don't want to stop. I want to please the people we feed everyday". It meant a lot to her that our clients got the best meal each day.

She started cooking at a very young age to take care of her brother and sisters. And as a mother of four boys, ranging from 15 to 1 years-old, she knows how to cook even better now for her toughest critics, her family. She commented, "I did not get my boy to be 6 feet tall by feeding him bad food."

She referred to the Kitchen of Champions as a second chance and a fresh start. She said that this is her time, and she is very excited about that.



Refugee Resettlement

This summer, the Alameda Deanery sponsored a young immigrant family who were fleeing Afghanistan. It was truly a community effort! At the request of Bishop Barber, SJ, and responding to Pope Francis's urging that Christians throughout the world offer refuge to "the stranger" in the Year of Mercy, the Alameda Deanery recruited all three Alameda parishes; Catholic Charities was the sponsoring group and provides main long-term support for the family; and Alameda parishioners and Vincentians sat on the various committees that do the things required when you agree to sponsor a refugee family.

With responsibilities divided between the parishes, the three Alameda SVdP Conferences and St. Barnabas parish provided furniture and basic household items, while other community members provided a crib, a TV & TV stand, and additional household necessities. Even the way in which the sponsored family received their new furniture was a joint effort: the family "shopped" at one of our stores, and SVdP



drivers delivered their selection to their new apartment, and helped set it up. Furthering the sense of community building, members of the welcoming team met with a local Imam to learn about Afghani culture, and some of the challenges the family might face in their adopted country. As Pope Francis's Year of Mercy comes to a close, SVdP is proud to have been a small part in the effort to make a refugee family feel welcomed and at home in a new community!

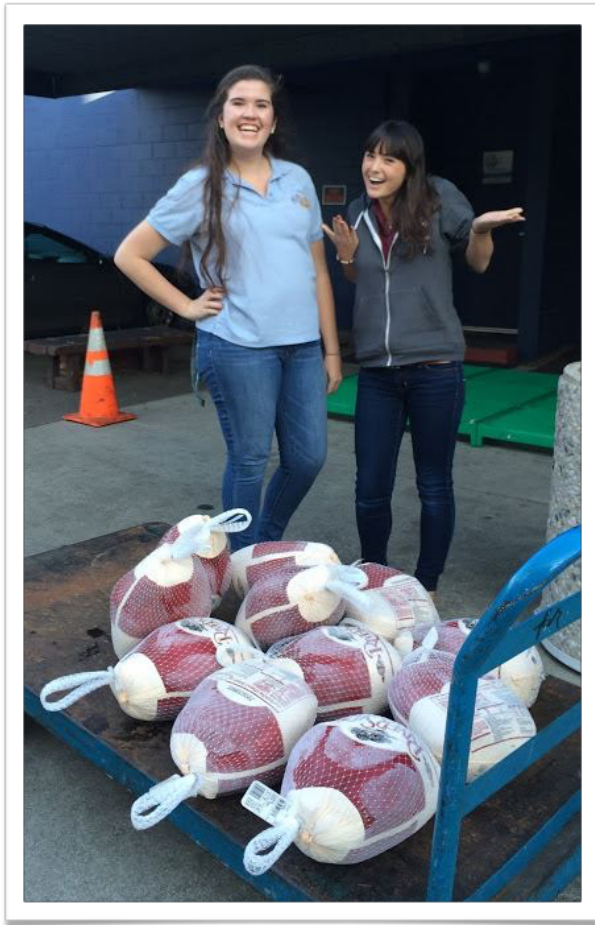


Knives Needed

Dull knives make for dull work in the kitchen! SVdP is seeking support to replace our very well-loved kitchen knives. These knives are used by our volunteers and Kitchen of Champions culinary trainees to prepare over 600 meals a day that are served to hungry folks daily from Tuesday through Saturday in our Free Dining Room. If you would like to help support this work, please consider making a contribution by visiting <http://www.svdP-alameda.org/donate> and select "Kitchen of Champions Training" in the drop-down menu, or send a contribution care of SVdP for the Kitchen to 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612. Thank you for your support!



Talking Turkeys



SVdP's Food Locker receives roughly 70,000 pounds per *month* of donated food from grocery stores, food distributors, and local bakeries. With this food and purchased food, our Food Locker helps Vincentians supplement food collected in their home parishes, allowing Conferences to provide groceries to neighbors in need. By being able to shop in bulk at big box stores, the Food Locker can stretch its food budget, a cost savings that is passed onto Conferences. Also, as a member of Feeding American, a nationwide network of member food banks, SVdP can purchase food in bulk from Alameda County Community Food Bank. Every week Ray Carney and Jesus Fernandez, our Food Locker workers, rocket around Alameda County picking up

donated food, bringing it back to our direct service campus, and making deliveries to Conferences. The perishable donations are sorted and used by our kitchen to prepare hot, nutritious meals in our Dining Room. The non-perishable donations are separated by size: the restaurant-sized items are used by our kitchen, and the smaller items are shared at no cost to our Conferences.

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, our Phone Center has been busy taking orders for turkeys from Conferences: we'll be purchasing 2,000 frozen turkeys this year for Thanksgiving and Christmas! The orders are in, and we will be ready to start distributing turkeys and trimmings starting on November 10th. Each Conference has its own way of providing Thanksgiving food boxes to their neighbors. Some deliver the groceries, and some encourage people to pick up the groceries. Some parishes, like St. Albert the Great of the Alameda Deanery, deliver a hot Thanksgiving meal to families (many of whom are shut-ins).

This year our Conferences are blessed to be able to use a generous legacy gift to purchase food from our Food Locker. As Jackie Mallory, our Vincentian Support coordinator said, "It is wonderful to be able to use the "legacy" money for the turkeys so the conferences can spend their funds on things like electricity, rent, or other needs that people from their community request." While this legacy gift is a great resource for now, our Community Engagement Team is actively reaching out to the community to ensure that SVdP can continue to be a part of the movement working towards food security in Alameda County for years to come.





Berkeley Bowl Field Trip

On October 20th, the 50th Kitchen of Champions Cohort took a field trip to Berkeley Bowl West with their instructor from Cooking Matters, Aarena Williams. Each Cohort gets to take this field trip, which is a popular one.

Aarena took the trainees all around the store and coached them about the misconceptions

of food labels, how much protein each person should have in a day, the importance of a well-balanced meal, and how to grocery shop for the number of people in the household without overspending. The most amusing part was when trainee Richard was so proud of himself for choosing the fruit juice with the least amount of sugar! The trainees then had to complete the "\$10 Challenge". Based on their needs at home, the trainees were instructed to purchase enough food, using only \$10, to prepare a meal for four people. The trainees had a wonderful time and it was fun to hear them discuss their own recipes and ideas for meals as we toured around the store.

Your Gift Transforms Lives

Your support for St. Vincent de Paul ensures that our critical services help those in greatest need. Our Free Dining Room provides hot, nutritious meals to thousands of individuals and families. Our Winter Shelter will give refuge from the cold and rainy weather to hundreds of men, women and children.

- For \$1,000 you can give 50 packages of diapers, formula and family hygiene products in our Women's Center.
- For \$500 you can provide 120 sets of new socks and underwear for people sleeping in the cold and rain.
- For \$250 you can serve 100 hot, nutritious meals in our Free Dining Room.
- For \$100 you can wash a week of bedding for our Winter Shelter.

Please consider a gift to St. Vincent de Paul. Contact Blase Bova or Muna Texier (see last page) to learn more. If you prefer to donate online, please visit www.svdp-alameda.org/donate.

We need your help

- Volunteers to help sort clothing donations at our downtown campus, to be given out in the clothing closet in our Community Center.
- Volunteers in the Fremont and Livermore thrift stores, to help process donations, assist customers, and arrange and price items for sale.



November Community Center Programs Calendar

| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|----------|
| | 2 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room) | 3 | 4 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) | 5 |
| 8 | 9 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room) | 10 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am) | 11 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) Community Center CLOSED after 11am | 12 |
| 15 2 nd Night of Winter Shelter | 16 Podiatry Clinic (8:30am) Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room) | 17 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am) Homeless & Caring Court Orientation (12:30pm) | 18 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) | 19 |
| 22 | 23 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room) | 24 Thanksgiving | 25 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am – 3:00pm) Community Center Closed | 26 |
| 29 | 30 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room) | | | |

Flu Clinic and Shots

Students from Cal State East Bay came to our Free Dining Room on October 16th, to offer flu shots to our guests, trainees, volunteers, and staff. The students and their faculty supervisor worked with SVdP clinic volunteers Janet Waring and Betty Wolverton.



Winter Shelter Opens

With generous support from the City of Oakland, SVdP reopens its Winter Shelter on Monday, November 14th. The seven-day-a-week shelter will be open for five months, and will have beds for 75 guests. A volunteer shift is available seven days a week from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Call our Phone Center for more information about the shelter!



For More Information Contact

| Name | Position | Phone | Email |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| District Council | Main Phone Number | (510) 638-7600 | |
| Blase Bova | Executive Director | (510) 435-2625 | bbova@svdp-alameda.org |
| Carmen Jones-Weeks | Human Resources Manager | (510) 435-1576 | cjonesweeks@svdp-alameda.org |
| Julia Catania | Administration Manager | (510) 692-0460 | jcatania@svdp-alameda.org |
| Muna Texier | Community Engagement Manager | (510) 719-0774 | mtexier@svdp-alameda.org |
| Patty Breslin | Social Enterprise (Retail) Manager | (510) 289-3891 | pbreslin@svdp-alameda.org |
| Ryan Uyehara | Special Works (Programs) Manager | (510) 593-4120 | ruyehara@svdp-alameda.org |
| Wesley Palmquist | Facilities/Tenant Services Manager | (650) 796-7349 | wpalmquist@svdp-alameda.org |

Nativity Collection Display and Sale



Over 200 nativity scenes, handmade or collectible, from the collection of Ed Frakes of

Niles, have been donated to St. Vincent de Paul and will be on exhibit from November 15th through November 23rd at the Fremont Thrift Store. After this date the nativity scenes can be sold individually at great prices to raise money for St. Vincent de Paul's Free Dining Room, job training programs, and other services we offer to those in need.

Stop by the thrift store at 3777 Decoto Rd, any day between 10am and 5:30pm, to see this one of a kind exhibit, and to find a unique gift or start a new family tradition for your home.

Thank you!

Thanks for your interest, and thanks for the work that you do for St. Vincent de Paul! Once you've read this, please think of someone you know who might like to learn more about us, and forward it to them.

We appreciate all the ways that you make St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County a part of your life. If you'd like to learn more about our Society or its work, or if you have questions, ideas, or concerns, I'd love to hear from you. Please contact me at any time at the phone number or email listed above.

Thanks to Muna Texier, Sacha Kawaichi, and Natalya Ferdinandi for their contributions to this issue!

In service,

Blase Bova
Executive Director
St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County

