

Neighbors Helping Neighbors News: July 2017



The Nancy Effect



Nancy Hollister has been a regular volunteer since December of 2014. You can find Nancy, clad in her SVdP apron, serving beverages in the Dining Room on Thursdays and sorting and organizing donated clothes on Fridays. She's become a beloved presence on our direct service campus, charming new volunteers and influencing the SVdP family for the better. Nancy recently shared a story that highlights the power of her positivity:

"I went out to pick up my car from the dealership and the service adviser saw me wearing my apron

so he asked me about SVdP. I told him about the Clothing Closet and donations. Now he's been bringing me all his old clothes. He calls me periodically and I go out and pick them up. So yesterday I was out to pick some up and the sales adviser who was helping me about leasing a new car heard about it so he's going to bring me his clothes! I think the word is

getting out and we'll have a lot more donations. And they just love doing it!"

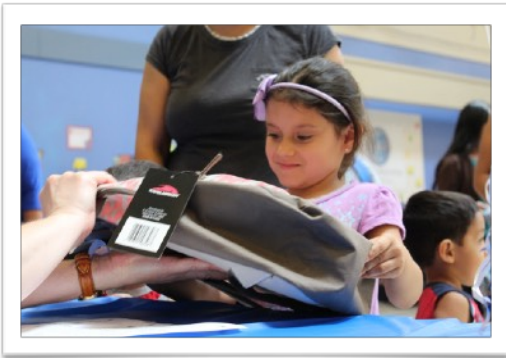
It's clear Nancy's enthusiastic attitude and infectious smile draw the best out of the people she meets and we are so fortunate to have her as part of our SVdP family.



Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Saturday, July 8th, 9:30 am, **District Council Meeting**, All Saint's Church (Mass at 8:30 am) 22824 2nd Street, Hayward.
- Monday, July 17th, **Finance Committee**, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Ave, Oakland, 4:00 pm (Monday before Board Meeting).
- Wednesday, July 19th, **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).
- Tuesday, July 25th, 1:30 pm, **Special Works Committee**, Downtown Campus (4th Tuesday of month).
- Monday, August 7th, 1:00 pm, **Development Committee**, Downtown Campus (1st Monday of the month).
- Saturday, August 12th, On the Road: **Regional Meetings** - various locations.

Back to School Supply Drive



SVdP is collecting new backpacks and school supplies for our Back to School Open House, to be held on Saturday, August 12th. This backpack distribution is so important to the families we serve - families that

would be otherwise hard-pressed to provide adequate school supplies for their children. It is also the most expensive distribution we host. We did the math: each backpack costs between \$20 - \$60 to fill, and we will be filling 250 backpacks!

Please consider donating new school supplies or cash gifts to ensure that we are able serve our most vulnerable neighbors. Visit our website to see our supply list and go shopping for us, or make a cash donation by going online to www.svdP-alameda.org/donate. Or send a check to us at the address on the last page. Backpacks and school supplies are needed by Saturday, August 5th at our Community Center in West Oakland.

News Briefs

- Thanks for being a part of St. Vincent de Paul's mission of neighbors helping neighbors, serving those in need.
- Volunteers are needed in our Phone Center, taking calls from families in need of help with food, rent, utilities or household items, and referring them to the correct local St. Vincent de Paul volunteer group or Conference.
- We need volunteers in our Community Center at our Help Desk and in our Clothing Closet, on any morning or afternoon Tuesdays through Fridays, for 3 hour shifts between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm.
- Our Fremont Thrift Store needs volunteers to hang clothing, sort donations, straighten items on shelves, bring donations into the store, and greet donors and customers.
- 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!



Oakland A's Thanksgiving in June

Oakland A's players Daniel Gossett, Adam Rosales, and Liam Hendricks brought Thanksgiving in June to the SVdP direct service campus. The team's generosity was on full display as they served beverages and trays in the SVdP dining room and gave away boxes of green and yellow baseball caps to guests. The Oakland team funded the delicious and very popular meal, which allowed Chef William to design a delectable menu of slow-cooked brisket, jalapeno polenta, and pumpkin pie. The players and their colleagues brought joyful smiles to guests, volunteers and staff alike and left an indelible mark in the heart of our community. Special thanks to Christine Kroeckel of the Oakland Athletics for letting us use her wonderful photographs.



Welcome Brandon

Brandon Turner is our new Workforce Training Coordinator and we are thrilled to welcome him as the newest member of the SVdP Special Works Team. Brandon brings a great deal of experience in every aspect of workforce development.

Brandon has worked as a Job Developer, a Senior Work Experience Counselor and Case Manager. He has built great relationships with employers and programs that are very valuable in the workforce training milieu of Alameda County and his experience will be beneficial towards redesigning our TE and KOC programs. If you happen to see Brandon on our direct service campus, don't hesitate to introduce yourself and welcome him aboard!



Job Readiness Workshop

In early June, SVdP and the Kitchen of Champions program hosted a Job Readiness Workshop. Dedicated volunteer and Berkeley Food Institute Fellowship recipient Carmen Brick gave a thorough presentation on the job search process from résumé and cover letter writing to filling out job applications.



Students from previous KoC cohorts were also in attendance, taking advantage of Carmen's one-on-one sessions. We celebrate the dedicated KoC staff and volunteers who bring so much passion to our direct service campus. Thank you!



Summer of Service

CSM student volunteers from all over the country served in the SVdP dining room and kitchen throughout the month of June.

SVdP Volunteer Coordinator and master presenter of the daily orientation, Brianna Glanzman witnessed the impact first-hand of hosting a steady stream of student groups each week: "Having CSM here in the summer reinvigorates our regular volunteers. Everyone gets to connect with people from across the country.

By the end of their service day, it's satisfying to hear students share profound reflections from their experience. They leave here no longer afraid of seeing the "other" as not that different from themselves and this shift in perspective is inspiring to all of us."

Though from different states, the group stories shared a theme: SVdP created space for engagement with people outside their usual reality.

Paige, a high school sophomore from Eugene, OR took advantage of the opportunity to chat with our guests: "I got to hear people's stories which gave me perspective. You wouldn't get these

stories walking through downtown. You get a chance to see the good side of people here and that's not always the case when walking the streets of a city you're visiting."

This sentiment was shared by Akice, one of CSM's Bay Area hosts and a Florida State University sophomore, who's led several groups this month: "I really enjoy that there is never a shortage of



people to talk to at SVdP - it builds community. It's more about being with others than doing and that's important on these short-term missions."

Service remains a key motivation for the CSM volunteers, as noted by Taleen, a group leader: "We come from First United Methodist in Gilbert, AZ and to prepare for this trip we read Bible verses about serving. I felt really moved because I truly felt like a servant today."



Ramadan

Despite having relatives who were childhood friends in Ottawa, Canada, Shan and Zuhaib only met a few months ago. Both reside in San Ramon



and when Shan decided to get a team of family and friends together to make sandwich bags for the needy during Ramadan, Zuhaib was eager to help. This was a team effort: the kids wrote artful notes and the adults filled the large zip-lock bags with sandwiches, fruit, sweet and salty snacks, toiletries and bottled water.

Shan's wife researched distribution centers in the east bay and called SVdP, where Chef William's pragmatic enthusiasm over the phone sold her on bringing the bags to SVdP.

Ramadan began on the evening of May 26th and ended on June 24th.

Zuhaib explained the Muslim tradition of fasting for Ramadan: "Fasting gives us a chance to cleanse our bodies and focus on the non-material

things in life. It's easier to sympathize with the hunger of others. This is just one month of our lives while there are people in the world who don't have food to eat every day."

Shan highlighted the role of giving during this period: "Charity is a big aspect of Ramadan. Giving back is a pillar of our faith. It is not a major sacrifice to get your family together and spend a few bucks to make these bags. We are fortunate to be able to give and not everyone is fortunate."

"And it's a great way to get the kids in your life to be more aware of their privilege and their surroundings."

Thank You

SVdP enjoys generous financial contributions from thousands of donors every year. These donations address the pressing needs of those we serve, providing shelter, food, clothing, job training and medical care to individuals and families seeking a hand up during difficult times. SVdP staff and volunteers dedicate their time and talents to fulfill our donors' desire to help those in greatest need with all the resources we have available.

So, thank you to our donors, volunteers and friends for the world of difference you make.



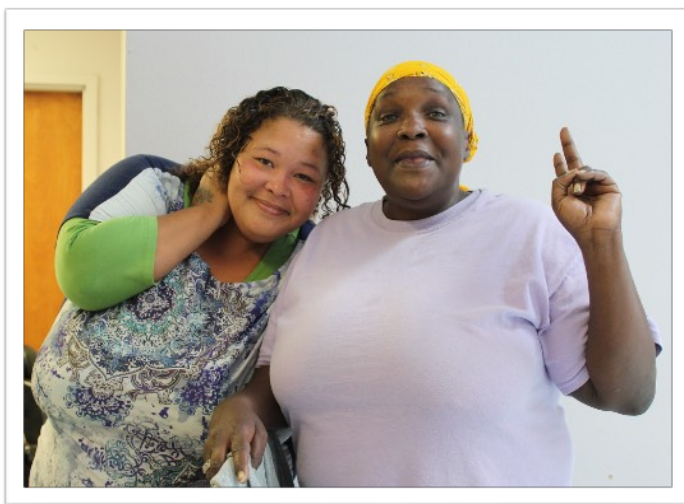
Parishes in Action Come and See Event

On June 13th, St. Vincent de Paul hosted a "Come and See" event on behalf of Parishes in Action (PIA) in the hopes of animating parishioners to put their faith into action. Parish leaders from the Diocese came to hear about the Parish Solidarity Initiative, which was designed to help parishioners energize a deeper involvement in direct service and to provide leadership training and helpful resources to budding leaders, particularly among young adults and immigrants.



The event was a success with parish leaders touring the SVdP campus and learning about the different volunteer opportunities available on-site. The attendees ate in our dining room in fellowship with our clients and staff. SVdP looks forward to continued collaboration with PIA.

Mother Daughter Duo Save the Day



Mother daughter duo Patricia and Lisa helped another guest in the Women's Center when she began to suffer a seizure. They knew to keep the woman's head secure and to call 911. We celebrate Patricia and Lisa for being quick on their feet and humble to boot: "We treated her the way we'd like to be treated if the same thing were to happen to us." You will find neighbors helping neighbors in every corner of SVdP's direct service campus. Here's to taking care of each other in the moments we need it the most.



For More Information Contact

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Volunteer Team	Volunteer Coordinator	(510) 877-9252	volunteer@svdp-alameda.org

Golden State Warriors Win Again



sweatshirts and sweatpants to our Clothing Closet. On two separate visits, Warriors representatives, alongside SVdP staff, volunteers, and KoC trainees worked together to unload and transport the generous donations from trucks to their proper places. Amazing community partners like the Warriors support and enable SVdP to clothe and care for our neighbors in need. We also want to

We offer our sincere gratitude to the Golden State Warriors for donating over one hundred pairs of shoes to our Podiatry Clinic along with boxes upon boxes of new t-shirts, workout pants,

extend a BIG thank you to Janet Waring, our dedicated Podiatry Clinic lead volunteer, for orchestrating the two smooth donation drop-offs at our direct service campus!

