

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors News: October 2017



## Chevron Corporate Caring Week

Each September, the Contra Costa Crisis Center, with presenting sponsor Chevron, offers Corporate Caring Volunteer Week, the largest corporate volunteer program in the Bay Area. This week-long event brings employees from local companies together to volunteer at nonprofit organizations throughout the East Bay. This year marks the fourth consecutive year that Chevron has chosen SVdP as



one of their main service sites. Chevron employees from the greater Northern California area gathered and volunteered in the kitchen and dining room, many of whom had never met in person. Corporate Caring Volunteer Week provides an easy way for Chevron employees to get involved in community



service while allowing them to foster stronger work ties and team building skills. Thank you to the Chevron teams for participating. SVdP was happy to have an abundance of volunteers during what turned out to be a busy week in September!



# Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Saturday, October 14th, **District Council Meeting**, Mass at 8:30 am, meeting at 9:30 am, All Saints Church in Hayward.
- Monday, October 16th, **Finance Committee**, 4:00 pm, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland (Monday before Board Meeting).
- Wednesday, October 18th, **Board of Trustees Meeting:** fellowship/meal at 5:30 pm followed by meeting at 6:00 pm, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland (3rd Wednesday of the month).
- Wednesday, October 18th, **Podiatry Clinic**, 9:00 am to 11:30 am, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland (3rd Wednesday of the month).
- Tuesday, October 24th, **Special Works Committee**, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland (4th Tuesday of the month).
- Monday, November 6th, **Development Committee**, 1:00 pm, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland (1st Monday of the month).

## CLOTHING DONATIONS AT OUR MAIN CAMPUS

Our Direct Service campus is a busy hub for volunteers, guests and community partners. All the helpful commotion means that sometimes it's hard for our staff to properly greet each person who drops off donations. To better accommodate SVdP's needs and those of our generous donors, we've decided to provide a window of time each day to make it easier for everyone. We encourage people to drop off donations on our campus from 10 am to 2 pm Tuesday through Saturday. We no longer accept furniture and household appliances or knick knacks. Please make sure all donated clothes are gently worn, free of stains, holes, or pet hair. Unused toiletries are always welcome, as are clean towels and blankets. Thank you for helping us better serve our neighbors in need.



## News Briefs

- Our Women's Center needs an infusion of gently worn children's clothes in all sizes for both girls and boys. We're also in need of baby wipes and feminine hygiene products. Thanks for thinking of the families we serve.
- Your leftover shampoo bottles and soap from a hotel stay can be turned into a small blessing for one of our clients here at SVdP. We always need toiletries to distribute to the women, children and men we serve. So the next time you think about tossing these items, please remember our clients and donate to us instead.
- The Clothing Closet at our main West Oakland campus provides women and men with clothing, shoes and accessories. For more information about making a clothing donation and/or volunteering to help collect, sort and display Clothing Closet donations, contact John Sterns our Community Engagement Manager. (See back page for contact information.)

## An Update

Troy and his mother Carol came to St. Vincent de Paul for shelter and received assistance in finding permanent housing. This update is from Troy.

“This place is sent by God. It saved our lives. Without this place we might have ended up dead. I was much more concerned about my mom than for me. She would not have been able to make it on the streets. I have my own place now for the first time. A dream come true. I am 49 years old. St Vincent was the beginning of it all. If anyone mentions St. Vincent my face lights up. If I see their truck on the street I wave to them. God bless them. All hope is not lost if you are on the streets. I want



people to know that. There are a lot of success stories around here. I cannot say it enough: with places like this there is hope. Thank you so much for helping us.”

## Pandora Finds Still More Ways to Give



During the first week of October, Pandora donated four large boxes of supplies as a part of their “Pandora Gives” program. The boxes are filled with canned goods, dry foods, socks, snacks, and individual care packages with handwritten notes inside. The generous and thoughtful donations will be distributed to our guests in our dining room and community center.

Since 2015, Pandora has contributed 305 volunteer hours and conducted multiple drives for men’s clothing and hygiene kits. Volunteering in our dining room and kitchen, along with donating food and clothing, are just a few ways that Pandora has become a steady and generous partner for SVdP.

This Fall, SVdP will be reaching out to other local businesses in hopes of conducting similar drives. We always appreciate such help from our business neighbors.





# Socks Bring Awareness



At the start of October, we asked a member of the Finance Committee, Marianne Schenone, if she could conduct a sock drive at St. Philip Neri and St. Albert parishes in

Alameda. Marianne agreed, and spread the word to her fellow conference members, priests, and parishioners. Children of St. Philip Neri school even announced it at their children's mass. Marianne has dropped off the first wave of donations, and plans to bring more. Organizing members realized that when they sorted the donated socks, they got a glimpse into what SVdP does. "This is the first time that, in a small way, the connection was made [to how SVdP works with donations every day]. We need more of that; it is really easy to do," said Julia Catania, our Admin Manager. If you would like more information on how Marianne conducted this socks drive, email [marianne-s@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marianne-s@sbcglobal.net).

As the holidays approach, SVdP reaches out to our community to host drives for warm coats and toys. Through the One Warm Coat program, last year SVdP's community partners donated more than 100 coats to be distributed through our clothing closet.

Community partners also host toy drives to benefit kids who visit our Christmas open house, which will be held on 12/16. New, unwrapped toys are collected by our partners and then distributed to children and their families. Last year, we gave gifts to 67 families and 159 children.

If you are interested in hosting a drive for SVdP, please contact John Sterns, Community Engagement Manager (see back page for information).

# YapStone Joins the SVdP Family

YapStone, a Walnut Creek-based company, came in force to the SVdP dining room on a busy end-of-the-month Friday as part of Corporate Caring Volunteer Week. This group of enthusiastic volunteers brought positivity and flexibility while working in the kitchen and serving our guests. It's a pleasure to host first-time volunteers who hit the ground running and embrace being as helpful as needed on our direct service campus. It's clear our service site was a successful match for YapStone and we hope to have them back soon.



# BuildOn Returns to SVdP



September brought the return of BuildOn volunteer groups to SVdP. BuildOn's service learning programs mobilize high school students in under-resourced urban areas to help their communities through direct service. Through



facilitating community service projects in the Bay Area, BuildOn is an agent of great influence in the lives of many students in our area. Service is the core of BuildOn's mission,

which works well with the needs of SVdP. A new school year means SVdP gets to host regular monthly groups of student volunteers with the BuildOn program. These groups range from 5 to 15 students and they are versatile as kitchen prep aides, food servers and dish room attendants. At the end of each shift, the group leaders steer the wrap-up conversation to empower students to share their observations and feelings with one another. This is a powerful opportunity for students to address problems in their community and for them to exceed their own expectations of what it means to serve those in need.



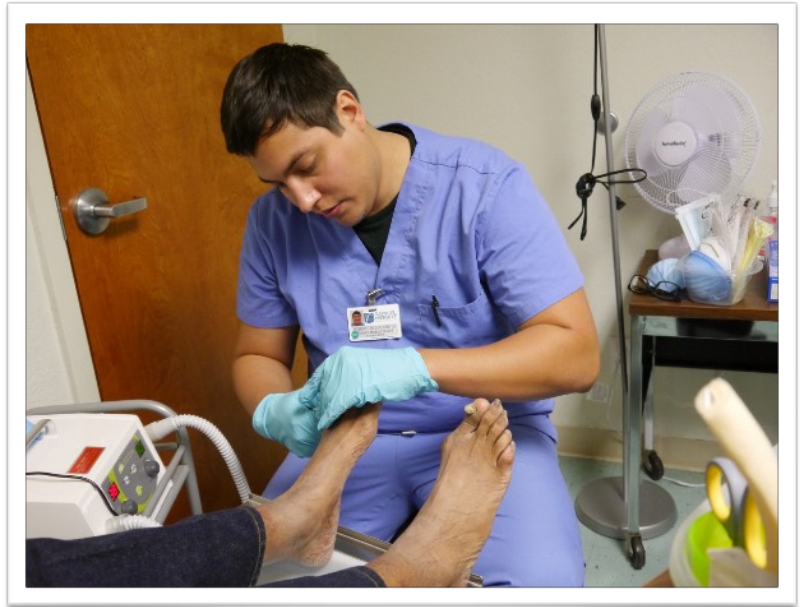
As one student so aptly shared: "I see now how much food I have and how lucky I am, but also how much is wasted in my house and I will take that back home with me."



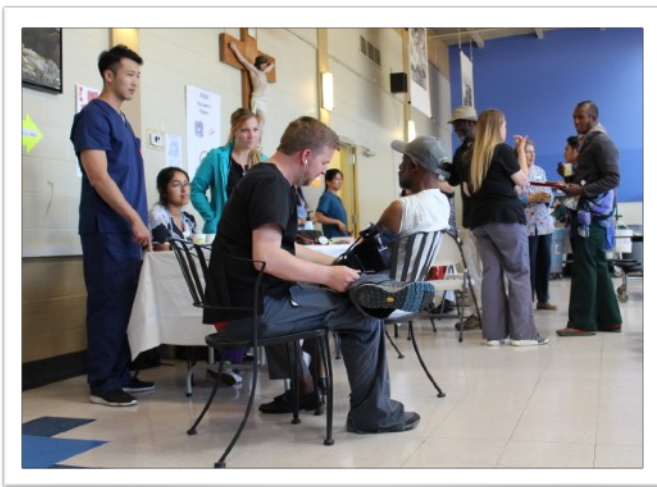


# Order of Malta Podiatry Clinic Reunites Volunteers

On Wednesday, September 20th, the Order of Malta/St. Vincent de Paul Podiatry clinic served 32 clients in less than three hours. Our clinic continues to provide our guests with kind and efficient care as doctors, nurses, and volunteers wash feet, give exams, fill out medical referrals, and distribute fresh socks and shoes as needed. We are fortunate and proud to host the Order of Malta as they provide our community with this incredibly important service each month.



The podiatry clinic has also served as an unexpected reunion site for some of our most loyal volunteers. Nancy Hollister, Janet Waring, and Betty Wolverton shared stomping ground for years as nursing professionals, and met once again at SVdP, with Janet and Betty volunteering in the podiatry clinic and Nancy volunteering in the dining room and clothing closet, where she organizes shoe donations for the clinic. These warm connections fostered between clients, staff and volunteers keep SVdP operational and we are grateful to partner with the Order of Malta to provide these much-needed and practical services to our underserved neighbors.



## Cal State East Bay Back on SVdP Campus

The last Wednesday of September marked CSUEB Nursing Program's first day back on our direct service campus. During their fall semester students will get to hone their nursing skills every Wednesday at SVdP while administering flu shots, checking blood pressure and answering questions that arise on a per client basis. SVdP provides the perfect site for these students to give culturally sensitive care to

people of all backgrounds and socioeconomic means and our guests benefit from the students' knowledge and attention that are often missing for the most underserved members of our community. We are grateful for this rich partnership that continues to shine a light on the essential need for better health services in our neighborhood.



# 'Come and See' Fall Event

As a part of the diocese's Parish Solidarity Initiative, a "Come and See" open house was held on Wednesday, September 13th at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Walnut Creek. The successful event hosted forty people from local parishes and religious organizations. Two young adult speakers presented on their immersion experience in El Salvador and on their jobs as young adult ministry coordinators. Headsets were available to provide live Spanish translations so presentations could be understood by all.



Parish representatives from the Diocese of Oakland gathered to learn about youth engagement. For more information about the the Parish Solidarity Initiative, please contact Roberto DeLeon, Parish Solidarity Ambassador, at [mrdeleon@cceb.org](mailto:mrdeleon@cceb.org) or 510-768-3150.

## Assisting Fire Victims in Sonoma County

If you'd like to help the fire victims in Sonoma County, you can make a gift to the St. Vincent de Paul Council there, which is providing food for those staying in emergency shelters and keeping their dining room open extra hours. They are also mobilizing Vincentians to assist fire victims in filing their insurance claims and are issuing gift cards to local merchants. The

Sonoma Council is also setting up the *House In A Box* program developed by our National office, which offers furniture and household goods to disaster victims to help a new apartment feel like home again. The Sonoma Council needs our financial support to accomplish all of this. Please consider sending a check to SVdP of Sonoma County at P.O. Box 1095, Rohnert Park, CA94928, or giving online at [www.svdP-sonoma.org/make-a-donation-to-svdP-sonoma.html](http://www.svdP-sonoma.org/make-a-donation-to-svdP-sonoma.html). Thank you.



# For More Information Contact

Name	Position	Phone	Email
St. Vincent de Paul 2272 San Pablo Ave Oakland, CA 94612	Main Phone Number/Call Center	(510) 638-7600	callcenter@svdp-alameda.org
Blase Bova	Executive Director	(510) 435-2625	bbova@svdp-alameda.org
Carmen Jones-Weeks	Human Resources Manager	(510) 385-8934	cjonesweeks@svdp-alameda.org
John Sterns	Community Engagement Manager	(510) 719-0774	jsterns@svdp-alameda.org
Julia Catania	Administration Manager	(510) 692-0460	jcatania@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
Volunteer Team	Volunteer Coordinator	(510) 877-9252	volunteer@svdp-alameda.org

## Thank You for the Toiletries!



Throughout September volunteers of all stripes brought toothpaste and deodorant, toothbrushes and hotel toiletries with them to

Every so often SVdP runs completely out of necessary items that serve our clients every day in the Women’s and Men’s Centers. Last month a severe shortage of basic hygiene products and toiletries inspired the Volunteer team to let regular volunteers put the word out among their networks that SVdP needed toiletry donations.

our campus. These small gestures allow us to stock up and we are so lucky to have such an actively engaged volunteer family to call on for help. Coincidentally, a group of high school students from St. Mary’s in Berkeley brought over fifty pounds of hotel toiletries to us during this time. Thank you to all who donated.

