

Neighbors Helping Neighbors News: April 2018



80
YEARS

City Service Mission: Spokane



Once again, City Service Mission made a meaningful impact on the SVdP dining room. A group of over 20 participants traveled from Spokane, Washington, to the Bay Area during their spring break to do service and learn more about our community. Each day, the students split up between, hospitals, senior centers, community centers, food banks, and more, to

participate in service with the hope of deepening their faith and seeing God in others. Eleven of the students and leaders were able to come to St. Vincent de Paul, while their peers were serving at a senior center on the same day. This allows for the group to share their experiences with each other when they all reconvene in the evenings.

The group leader, Bizzy, proclaimed the group's motto for the trip to be "Participate, don't anticipate." That way, the students can learn their schedule fresh each day, without thinking of or worrying about their future tasks. This helps the group stay focused on each service destination equally, so they can do their best work. Some students were living in the moment so much, they broke out in song with some of our guests. We thank the students and leaders for their engagement with our dining room guests and for their great teamwork.

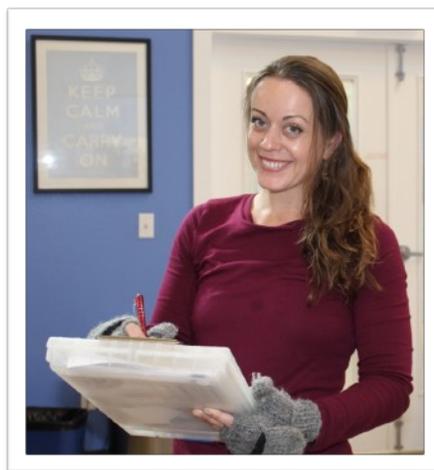


Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Tuesday, April 3rd, **Development Committee**, 1:30 p.m., Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland. (1st Tuesday).
- Thursday, April 5th, 1:30 p.m., **Spirituality Committee**, Nob Hill Market in Alameda. (1st Thursday).
- Monday, April 16th, **Finance Committee**, 4:00 p.m., Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.
- Wednesday, April 18th, **Podiatry Clinic**, 9:00 am to 11:30 a.m., Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland (3rd Wednesday of the month).
- Wednesday, April 18th, **Board of Trustees meeting** – fellowship/meal at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:00 p.m. Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland (3rd Wednesday).
- Tuesday, April 24th, 1:30 p.m., **Special Works Committee**, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland (4th Tuesday).

A Special Volunteer Issue

This month we bring you a collection of previously published stories about our volunteers. You can get a sense of the breadth and depth of support we're blessed to have. And if you haven't met her yet, we'd love to introduce you to Katie Troy, our Volunteer Coordinator. Katie has a wealth of service experience from multiple international and domestic relief efforts over the past ten years in Peru, Philippines, Nepal, Dominica, and Texas through an organization called All Hands. Upon her return to Oakland, her hometown, Katie saw how the city's homeless population had grown, creating a more visible gap between the poor and the wealthy, and knew she wanted to do something about it. "I didn't feel correct not doing something to help out. And this organization has the capacity to bring people together in an amazing way," she said. Katie is also a certified yoga teacher, and hopes to eventually teach classes at SVdP. Thanks for joining us, Katie.



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
- Want to show the love you feel for SVdP? Come volunteer with us! Play the piano for clients in our Community Center, chop vegetables with Elvis in our kitchen, or help run a craft demo in our Fremont or Livermore stores. We'd love to train you in a new, rewarding volunteer opportunity. Contact our volunteer team for more details. (See back page)
- Legacy gifts, also known as planned gifts, have made a tremendous difference for SVdP and those we serve. Legacy gifts let your charitable giving have a long-term impact reflecting your beliefs, priorities and values. "From general support to job training to our Dining Room and Women's Center, these gifts have literally transformed lives", said Blase Bova, SVdP's Executive Director. For more information about legacy gifts, contact Blase Bova or John Sterns.
- The Clothing Closet at our main West Oakland campus provides women and men with clothing, shoes and accessories. To learn about donating clothing and/or volunteering to help collect, sort and display Clothing Closet donations, contact John Sterns.

Boy Scouts Spruce up Community Center

Boy Scout troop 73 showed up to SVdP on a Monday in early April ready to work. Thanks to their teamwork and enthusiasm, we now have a janitor's closet, a freshly painted wait area, and some very clean chairs and walls in our busy Community Center. Come back anytime and keep up the excellent work, troop 73!



Check Centers Returns

Check Centers returned to volunteer in the SVdP kitchen and dining room. Two groups of five volunteers visited our campus on two consecutive days, showing off their flexibility as they helped where they were needed most. We look forward to their twice-yearly visits and hope this tradition continues. Thank you, Check Centers!



Claire

A long-time Vincentian and parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes, Claire is SVdP's lead volunteer for our open houses. This role keeps her very busy making sure we have all the right give-away items at our Easter, Back-to-School and Christmas events. Claire puts together backpacks with school supplies, Christmas gifts for children, and snacks and clothing at Easter. Claire, we couldn't do it without you!



Cost Plus World Market

Three cheers for our Cost Plus World Market volunteers who, in addition to helping out in the Dining Room, also filled bags of school supplies for our Back to School open house. That's dedication for you!





Hillcrest Elementary Diaper Drive

Miles and his mom Cara led a diaper drive at Hillcrest Elementary School to replenish the Women's Center's supply. Miles dropped off the collected items at SVdP's West Oakland campus. Thank you to Miles and Cara for acknowledging a need and creating the drive to respond.



Greg and Greg Jr.

Board member Greg Govan and son Greg Jr. posing with a recent large White Elephant Sale donation of women's and men's clothing. Greg Senior sifts through White Elephant Sale surplus clothing for quality warm clothes and brings them to SVdP on a regular basis. Thanks, Gregs!

Pledge to Humanity

A huge thank you to Beth McKnight and her team from the Pledge to Humanity Club of San Ramon Valley High School for collecting donations for our Easter Open House. The decorations, treats, crafts, toys, and games put a smile on the faces of over 100 children at our Easter event. We're so fortunate to have Pledge to Humanity be a part of the SVdP community!



Pandora Streams Back

After two visits in January, Pandora returned to the SVdP Kitchen and Dining Room ready to work. Michael, one of the Pandora team, said: "We heard a lot about our coworkers' visit last month and since they had a great time, we decided to continue the service. We walked over here." Neighbors helping neighbors, indeed.



CSUEB Nurses Gain Experience at SVdP

A new cohort from the California State University, East Bay nursing program has begun their service at SVdP. Each quarter, we are fortunate to have these students and registered nurses to conduct health screenings in our dining room, administer vaccinations, and assist in our monthly podiatry clinic with volunteer nurses from the Order of Malta. The current group is comprised of six registered nurses and one student, who will be working with our guests until the end of their school year in May. Students are also spending time serving at St. Mary's Center, and are enjoying their work so far. "St.



Vincent is a good place to do volunteering. If I have spare time, I'd like to come back and help [after the school year is over]," said nurse Srijana Magar. SVdP is proud to offer health resources and examinations to our guests and couldn't do it without the help of our volunteer nurses.

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 campus. Here's to taking care of each other in the moments we need it the most.

Oakland A's Return

In mid-November Marcus Semien was just another volunteer on the line, serving trays of food with the best of 'em at SVdP. The Oakland Athletics star, along with members of the team's front office staff, joined SVdP for a day of service in the kitchen and dining room. Our KoC trainees were so busy prepping for the day's meal, they didn't realize one of their favorite players was on campus until the end of service. Mr. Semien and his group were great sports. Thanks to local partners like the Oakland A's, SVdP continues to shine as a hub where folks find fellowship in serving others.



Kaiser Bay Area Recruitment Team



The end of November brought a new Kaiser team to our direct service campus. Kaiser's Bay Area Recruitment team was 14 strong and two volunteers shared their thoughts on how the day of service broadened their perspectives about the community we serve:

"I think I was surprised at seeing people from different backgrounds. Some people look as though they have a home, but maybe they couldn't afford food for the day. Seeing the diversity in the population SVdP serves is eye-opening."

"We're all here trying to do the same things. There's not that much difference between us and the people we served today."

Kaiser Buy to Pay Returns to Dining Room

Serving at SVdP has become a tradition for Kaiser's Buy to Pay Supply Chain crew. For the past four years, these Kaiser employees have joined us in the kitchen and dining room on an annual basis. Most noteworthy was the distance traveled by some of the Kaiser team members. Joyce and Krisel came all the way from Pasadena, CA for a work meeting and stayed in town to volunteer. Staying in Oakland was an easy choice for Joyce: "The trip was worth it. It's a very humbling experience to do this and it feels great to be able to do something for the community here. I would travel again!"

Joe, one of the team's newcomers, was pleasantly surprised to learn of SVdP's food reclamation program: "I think it's cool that all these businesses contribute all the good food that is prepared here that would otherwise go to waste. It's a great program and it just makes good sense." The group of six were enthusiastic and ready to work, making them a great addition to our volunteer family.





Meet Joyce the New Barber on Campus

"I'm here at SVdP because I want to help and be a blessing to someone. I'm a novice barber and was having a hard time finding a job at other shops, but now I see that I am more needed here. God sent me where I was needed. I am glad to be here and every Tuesday I look forward to getting up and gathering all my tools to come down to SVdP.

I have many conversations with people here and the staff is beautiful as well. So I'm getting my experience this way in trying to become a very skilled and good barber. This is a second career for me after a long career as an AC Transit bus driver and I think I'm going to stick with this one. I love barbering and this is what I want to do."

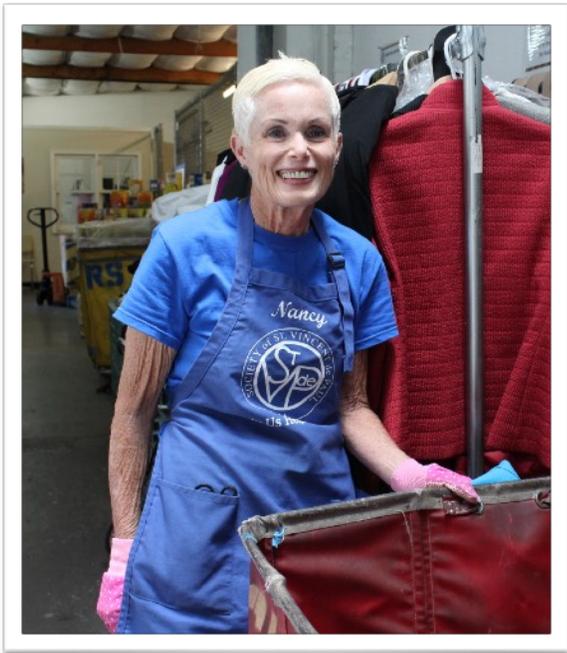
Wings Flies Again

Members of the Women In God's Spirit (WINGS) ministry from St. Theresa's Church in Oakland made a much-needed donation to our West Oakland direct service site. The group, which is a longtime donor to SVdP, brought handmade blankets, scarves and baby clothes to distribute to our clients. These gifts were especially welcome because of the recent period of cold weather.

"WINGS is a wonderful example of how local groups can make a real contribution to those we serve," says Blasé Bova, SVdP's executive director. "We depend on these types of partnership and really appreciate what groups like WINGS can do for our clients."

In addition to dropping off their donation, WINGS members stayed for a tour of our West Oakland campus and saw where and how their items will be distributed. Thank you WINGS for all you do for those we serve!





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.

Junior Varsity Boys Basketball

After a successful visit from Alameda High School's frosh boys' basketball team in early December, the much taller boys' junior varsity team arrived to SVdP on the first Saturday of 2018. Coaches Quinn Evans and Kris Duncan provided leadership off the court, checking in on students who were chopping, cleaning, and organizing throughout the kitchen, prep room, and dining room. 15 players in uniform warm-ups made for an impressive sight as volunteers across the dining room floor were taken with the players' height and zest for completing the tasks at hand. Coach Quinn Evans declared the day a success by end of service: "I've already got some of the students asking me when they can come back! Thank you so much for the opportunity to help out here. It's been a great day."



Wells Fargo Does its Due Diligence



Lenka Leon and her Wells Fargo's Due Diligence team spent a day in the SVdP Dining Room as volunteers. For close to a decade, Lenka has organized her colleagues to volunteer at SF-based food banks and service organizations. Since relocating to Oakland for a new role with Wells Fargo, Lenka was eager to find a new local organization to support. As expected from a Due Diligence expert, Lenka researched thoroughly to find SVdP and quickly inquired

to learn more about volunteer opportunities for her team.

Lenka spoke of their busy day of service: "Everyone enjoyed this experience. Acknowledging people's stories and history is a powerful way to connect with others. We all have our stories in this life."

Guillermo Sanchez, a Wells Fargo employee also spoke of the power of connection: "We saw first-hand today how far a smile and eye-contact can go to connect with people we may never talk to on a given day. Brianna told us about this in the morning orientation and I appreciate the advice she gave us to sit down and have a chat with someone who may have some things to say." Lenka chimed in, "The dining room is so well-run and everyone is dedicated and passionate about the work they're doing. We all enjoyed the experience and I know that we'll be back again!"

Corporate Caring Week Brings Chevron to SVdP

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 is the fourth 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!



Podiatry Clinic Reunites Volunteers

Our podiatry 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.

Clif Bar in DR

For the first time in two years, representatives from Clif Bar returned to the free dining room for a day of service. This time, an all-new group of employees came to work in the prep room, serve the meal, clean tables, and more. The group was arranged by Jill Hammond, who chose SVdP because they had previously worked at the SVdP warehouses in San Francisco, and our Oakland location is close to their Emeryville offices. SVdP aligns with their company values, which include giving back to their community



and to the planet. Jill hopes to bring Clif Bar groups here again, and sees the value in direct service and "Knowing that we're participating positively in People's lives." SVdP is glad to continue to foster a relationship with a meaningful community partner.



SATELLITE VOLUNTEERING



Oakland Raiders Gifts

Diehard Raider fan Lu Cuevas took a short trip to Alameda to collect donated goods from the Oakland Raiders. When asked if she enjoyed every second of meeting the Raiders' representatives, Lu gave her usual rejoinder: "It is what we do for one another." Lu took the opportunity and invited the Raiders to SVdP's Dining Room before the team's big move to Las Vegas. Thank you, Oakland Raiders for your generous donation and for making Lu's day a great one!

Gift Drive a Big Success

Thank you to everyone who donated to our annual gift drive and coat drive. With your consistent support, SVdP wrapped up 2017 with some impressive numbers. We collected more than 300 coats with 21 bin locations throughout Alameda County. More than 400 toy donations were collected in time for our Christmas Open House in December. All of the new toys came from conferences and community partners throughout the East Bay. We are thrilled with the outpouring of support and hope 2018 continues with an abundance of generosity in spirit.



Golden State Warriors Win Again

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, 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 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!



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-Weaks	Human Resources Manager	(510) 385-8934	cjonesweaks@svdp-alameda.org
John Sterns	Community Engagement Manager	(925) 323-5848	jsterns@svdp-alameda.org
Julia Hancock	Administration Manager	(510) 692-0460	jhancock@svdp-alameda.org
Leslie Thomas	Homeless Services Manager	(510) 719-1000	lthomas@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

BuildOn Returns

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."

