

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors News: May 2018



# Scott's Story

"I am currently at the emergency shelter down the street at Casa Maria. I come here as regularly as I can to eat because I don't have extra money to buy food. I also really enjoy some of the homeless people that I meet here and the staff and the people who volunteer are exceptional. It really helps me to have contact with people.

"I am schizophrenic. I am on medication. I have had suicidal ideation and had to have several interventions. I have been institutionalized many times. I have a case manager who helps and it is really important that I not sleep on the streets because my medication is stolen and then I become unstable and end up in the hospital again.

"I am in the walker chair because I have neuropathy. It took an hour to go a block. It is sometimes very painful. The nurse Betty in the podiatry clinic found a walker with a seat for me. So now I can sit down when it is too painful. I don't go out at night. You are a target as a person with a disability.



"I am an artist and it helps me deal with what is going on in my head. I make collages. I make art boxes as well. It is a de-stressor for me. I like sharing my work with people. I had never heard of St. Vincent de Paul before I came here. The food is really good. I am really lucky to live close by because I get migraines if I don't eat. I am grateful to be able to come here. It is a really good place with really good people."



# Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thursday, May 3rd, 1:30 p.m., **Spirituality Committee**, Nob Hill Market in Alameda. (1st Thursday).
- Monday, May 7th, **Development Committee**, 1:30 p.m., Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.
- Monday, May 14th, **Finance Committee**, 4:00 p.m., Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.
- Wednesday, May 16th, **Podiatry Clinic**, 9:00 am to 11:30 a.m., Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland (3rd Wednesday of the month).
- Wednesday, May 16th, **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).
- Friday, May 18th, **Mixer** - Fellowship and Refreshments, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Transfiguration Parish, Castro Valley.
- Tuesday, May 22nd, 1:30 p.m., **Special Works Committee**, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland (4th Tuesday).

## Conference Update

The St. Joseph/Mission San Jose Conference in Fremont was awarded \$2,500 through our SVdP National Council, on behalf of an anonymous donor. The donor's intention was to provide nutritional alternative for those in need through urban gardening nutrition programs and SVdP operations that provide produce for food pantries. Richard Sekar, conference president, and conference members recognized the need for fresh/nutritional food such as fruits and vegetables and acknowledged that at this time the pantry did not have the capability or land to grow fresh food items. Presented with this need before them, they decided that SaveMart Grocery was the best alternative for our neighbors



to shop for those vegetables and fruits. Gift cards will be distributed to those in need to help to offset the costs of groceries.

## 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](http://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. There's so much happening here, and most of it goes better with more hands involved. We'd love to train you in a new, rewarding volunteer opportunity. Contact John Sterns for more details. (See back page for contact information.) Your free time can make such a difference in the life of someone in need!

■ 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. (See back page for contact.)

# Salesian Students Find Connection to Home

A group of 16 students and teachers from Salesian College Prep High School in Richmond volunteered in the dining room in late April as a part of their school-wide day of service. Though it was a new batch of students, the Salesian staff knew SVdP well, having served at our downtown campus last August. The high school students selected SVdP as their designated service site after the testimonies of the teachers drew them to our mission. Students and staff from Salesian, a small, private Catholic school, travel to the campus each day from all over the Bay Area. For the volunteers that live in Oakland, the service in the dining room connected them to their hometown community. Andrew Harris, a Salesian teacher, said "I drive under these freeways on my way home from work every day and think, 'Who is taking care of the people in the camps?' Now I see that you are." SVdP is happy to serve our community each day, and live out our motto: Neighbors Helping Neighbors.



## The Impact You Make

St. Vincent de Paul depends on the generosity of our donors to meet the needs of those we serve. We see ourselves doing work that fulfills our donors' - your - passions and interests. We try to match your giving preferences with practical methods for achieving your vision of how your gift works to help others. One way is to ask for small, monthly donations on an ongoing basis. For as little as \$10 a month - the price of two venti drinks at Starbucks - you can support 60 meals a year in our Free Dining Room. To make a contribution, go to [www.svdp-alameda.org/donate](http://www.svdp-alameda.org/donate) and make a gift to help our neighbors in need. Thank you.



# 80 Ways to Get Involved

*As we celebrate 80 years of service throughout Alameda County, we are excited to be able to offer 80 ways to volunteer and get involved with St. Vincent de Paul. To view the full list of opportunities, please visit [www.svdp-alameda.org/blog](http://www.svdp-alameda.org/blog). If you are interested in doing one or more of these activities please reach out to Katie Troy, volunteer coordinator, at 510-877-9252 or at [volunteer@svdp-alameda.org](mailto:volunteer@svdp-alameda.org), or visit our website at [www.svdp-alameda.org](http://www.svdp-alameda.org).*

**Help us feed 80 children for a month**- More than 31 million U.S. children received a free or reduced lunch at school, help us organize a fundraiser to raise \$3,520 to feed 80 children for one month.

**"Sharing is caring"**- Share/Donate time share, season tickets, rewards points, miles for us to raise funds for the organization.

**Change It** - Start a competition between classes, families or individuals by giving them each a coin jar to collect change for a designated amount of time. The one with the most collected wins a prize.

**Skip a Meal** - Join with your peers to commit to giving up a meal together and give the money saved to St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP).



**Provide course materials** and supplies for 3 workforce trainees - \$250.

**Birthday Pledge** - Ask for donations to SVdP instead of birthday gifts.

**Give it Up** - Commit to give up a regular activity, e.g. buying a latte at Starbucks, a bagel from Noah's, for a month and donate the money you save to SVdP.

**Donate your gently-used furniture** or household goods to any of our thrift stores.

**Hygiene kit drive** - Collect hygiene kits or raise funds to purchase hygiene products for our drop in centers include: shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant etc.



**Make it official** - Provide ServSafe Certification Prep and tests for 4 Kitchen of Champions culinary training students - \$500.

**Lions, tigers, and BOOKS, oh my!** - Volunteer to sort books in our thrift stores. Our thrift stores are full of interesting books that need to be sorted so we can effectively resell them. Come with friends, or make a new one as you find fascinating books.

**Do what you do best** - Have HR experience, an MBA, photography skills, carpentry, etc.? Lend your professional expertise to SVdP.

**Stipend for a trainee** - Provide the stipends for 5 of our workforce trainees for a week - \$250.

**Hablas Español** - Lead English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to our clients.

**Pray for us** - Set an intention based on our mission and pray for it as much as you can. We appreciate the support of all who think of us and our guests.

**Computer Love** - Do you have any groovy computer skills? Join us and hold basic computer classes for our students, transitional employees, and alumni.

**Happy feet** - Donate a new pair of shoes or raise money to purchase new shoes to be given out at our podiatry clinic and clothing closet. Our goal is to collect 80 pairs of shoes.

**Attend our Evening Mixer** - Join us for an evening of fellowship and fundraising and



bring a few guests! Friday, May 18th, 5:30-7:00 PM at Transfiguration Catholic Church – 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley. RSVP to John Sterns: [jsterns@svdp-alameda.org](mailto:jsterns@svdp-alameda.org).





Guests and staff thank Mayor Schaaf for her visit to the winter shelter and time spent at SVdP.

## Winter Shelter Extended to June 11

The North County Winter Shelter has been granted an eight-week extension by the City of Oakland. The shelter will close its doors on June 11, after eight months of service. Besides providing beds for up to 100 guests on any given night, the shelter has hosted art stations, movie nights, and a notable February visit from Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf.

Schaaf sat down with some winter shelter guests at a "listening session," to hear their concerns, hopes, and fears. She spent a full hour seated with guests and staff in conversation, and even posed for a few pictures. By the end, she walked around the entire room to visit with people who were not involved in the initial meeting.

"Mayor Schaaf being here was important because it let our guests know that anything they want to know or need, she's here for them" said Leslie Thomas, homeless services manager. The shelter will reopen in winter 2018.

## SVdP Midyear Meeting

Executive Director Blase Bova attended the SVdP National Midyear Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. This is one opportunity for executive directors and council presidents to connect and collaborate. Bova left the conference inspired by the hard work and vision of the organizational leaders. "What I came away with is how strong and unique our organization is. The board presidents and executive directors from all over the country really impressed me with how dedicated they are and what good ideas they have, and what a great future they want for SVdP," said Bova.

Bova was impressed with the new SVdP National President, Ralph Middlecamp, and sat in workshops on topics that will help influence our local chapter in the future. "A highlight for me was the national extension committee, which focuses on growth. They had great ideas on how we can continue to create new conferences, grow our existing conferences, develop leaders within the organization, and welcome supporters from all walks of life to join our work," Bova said. We look forward to the growth of our organization, and future opportunities to learn from our fellow Vincentians and peers.



Ralph Middlecamp, SVdP national president, gives a presentation at the Midyear Meeting in St. Louis.



## Donor Spotlight: Wells Fargo

Thank you to Wells Fargo for their gift designated for operating support. The foundation supports organizations involved with education, job creation and job training, housing, financial literacy, human services, and community economic development. Wells Fargo has consistently volunteered their time and resources to SVdP, whether it is working in the Free Dining Room, or completing a regional diaper drive for our Women's Center.



This grant was also made possible by two Saint Mary's College students, who volunteered with our development department as a part of a community engagement course. It was their first grant application ever, and it was a success! Thank you, Hunter and Oscar, for effectively communicating the mission and need of St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you to all involved in the grant writing process, and to Wells Fargo for their continued support for SVdP. We are always grateful for the support of all of our donors, who help us live our mission each day.

## Women's Center Receives Diaper Delivery

Committed SVdP dining room volunteer and National Charity League member, Anne Woods, was quick to act when asked for help. Our Women's Center was running very low on diapers, so Anne sent out a message to her National Charity League chapter to bring packs of diapers with them to their next group event. Soon after, Anne's daughter arrived at our downtown campus to deliver around 300 diapers. This



quick diaper drive helped fill the need of our Women's Center, and we are happy to have our cabinets restocked with supplies.

We are grateful for the generosity of Anne and the local National Charity League mothers and daughters, who creatively incorporated a diaper drive into their busy agendas. If you'd like to donate diapers and baby supplies to our Women's Center, please contact our main office to schedule a delivery.



# 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	(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	ruehara@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

## Denise's Story

"I have been coming to St. Vincent's since my kids were toddlers. I would have been lost without it. I have breast cancer now but I found it early and I am blessed. I am now having radiation but do not need chemo. I am so happy about that.

"I really need this help. I use the podiatry clinic and do the wash here and I eat here. Since I had stroke I can hardly see. I have Graves disease, high blood pressure and COPD. Now I try to take care of myself.

"I pay \$665 a month for one room. I have a refrigerator, a crock pot and a microwave and 2 burners and I have a pot to warm my water. The bathroom is down the hall. St. Vincent's can't do everything but this place helps a lot of people. Everyone should be grateful it is here."

