

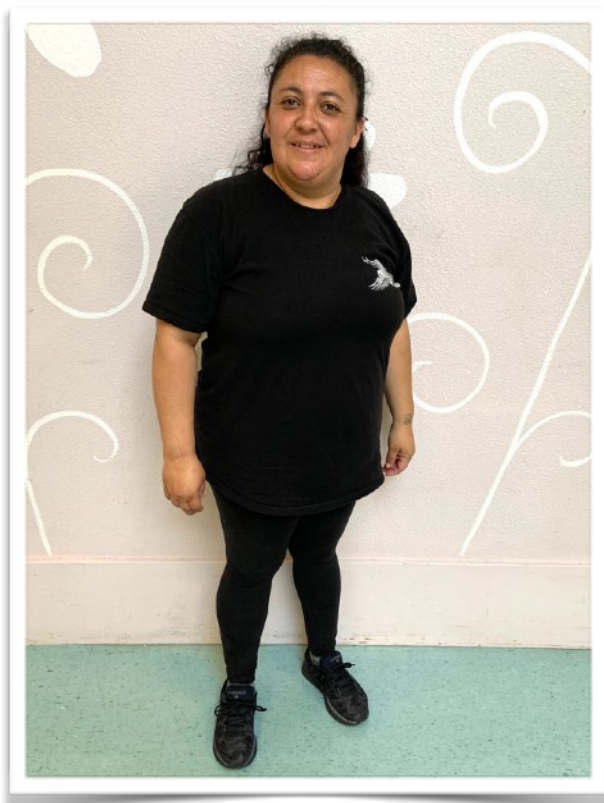
# Neighbors Helping Neighbors News: August 2019



## In Her Own Words: Flo

"I've been coming to St. Vincent de Paul since January 2016. I go to the Women's Center and eat in the dining room sometimes. I keep coming back because the staff is kind and understanding. I utilize the resources, like laundry, because otherwise I wouldn't be able to afford to pay for it. I get coffee and pastries in the mornings as well. I also receive resources for my daughter at the open houses for back to school, Christmas and Easter.

"My daughter has come here with me a lot, and this summer she started officially volunteering in the Women's Center. She likes it a lot. She communicates well to the women and families. She told me the other day she's going to work here during the school year during the week and on the weekends. She'll be able to add the experience to her resumé. I can't volunteer since I use the services here, but I like to help Jasmine by sweeping and cleaning out the showers at the end of the day. Overall people in the community here are very respectful. I feel comfortable. It's a safe setting.



"I like to read books about different cultures in my spare time. I like to learn as much as I can. I'm in the process of studying at San Francisco Community College and working toward my main study, which is family and children mediation and respite for at-risk families. I plan on going to school again in the Spring. My career goal is to do mediation care. I have care and compassion for families that are not heard or understood and I want to be there for them.

"When I come to SVdP, it makes me feel good. People say hi to me and my daughter. It makes me more aware of how important I am and how important other people are to this world. It gives me a feeling of self-worth. Before, I didn't have a lot of that. I was very insecure and protective of my daughter. But now, I can let my guard down and trust people while still having healthy boundaries with others."



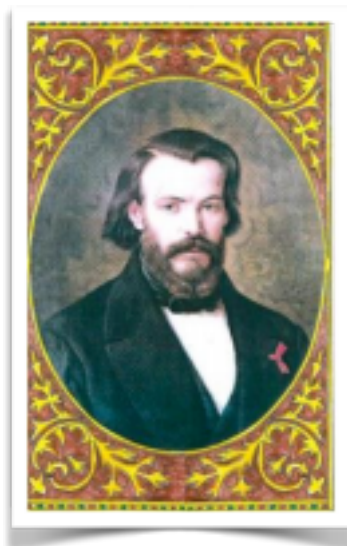
# Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Saturday, August 10th, **Regional Meetings**, 9:00 a.m., various locations.
- Saturday, August 10th, **Back to School Open House**, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., West Oakland Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.
- Monday, August 19th, **Finance Committee**, 4:00 p.m., West Oakland Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.
- Tuesday, August 27th, **Special Works Committee**, 1:30 p.m., West Oakland Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.
- Wednesday, August 28th, **Board of Trustees Meeting**, fellowship/meal at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:00 p.m. West Oakland Campus, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.
- Thursday, September 5th, **Spirituality Committee**, 1:00 p.m., Nob Hill Market, 2531 Blanding Avenue, Alameda.

## Ozanam to be Honored at DC Shrine

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is the largest Roman Catholic Church in North America, located at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. One of its 80 chapels is dedicated to St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will honor Blessed Frederic Ozanam in this Vincentian Chapel by dedicating a mosaic (pictured) to him and the works he was inspired to do by his predecessors. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is raising funds for the mosaic art and installation in the Basilica, along with a Mass and reception to celebrate Blessed Frederic Ozanam on January 26, 2020. To support, please send a check made out to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to:

Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA  
Development Appeal (Please designate Frederic Mosaic Fund)  
58 Progress Parkway  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043



## 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).
- 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.)
- Check out our Facebook page for more updates about our services throughout Alameda County: [facebook.com/svdpalameda](https://facebook.com/svdpalameda).
- Reserve Catering of Champions for your next event! Catering of Champions can provide food for any occasion, from office parties to weddings to church events. Chef Javier and his staff of Kitchen of Champions graduates will work with you to develop a custom menu, or you can order from our Spanish-style menu. To see the menu and submit an order request, visit: [svdp-alameda.org/catering](http://svdp-alameda.org/catering), call 510-681-3301, or email [championscatering@svdp-alameda.org](mailto:championscatering@svdp-alameda.org).

# Solar Chargers to Bring Light to Guests

Mother-daughter duo Failin Au and Claire Draeger brought a gift of six solar chargers to the West Oakland direct service campus. This is a pilot project to help guests stay connected with the world. Failin's 17 year-old daughter, Claire, wrote surveys to give to the charger recipients. The results will be used as data to present to potential donors to buy more chargers. The devices are useful for homeless people who do not have electricity or ports to charge their devices. In a society that relies on cell phones for business, social life and more, it is important to ensure that you have battery power to move forward. "I just want to be able to help one person. If I can do that, I will be happy," Claire said. Failin and Claire also brought us handmade tie blankets, which they help make to donate to local organizations. Homelessness is a crisis that brings about problems that people won't anticipate until they experience it. Thank you for showing us more creative ways to support the community.



# Divine Intervention at Assumption

By Andy Stark, Assumption Conference



A chance meeting in a market. A random phone call, and extraordinary timing culminating in comfort and joy for a needy senior citizen. Recently, The Church of the Assumption Conference received an urgent request from a 64-year-old disabled Oakland resident who came to us through a chance conversation at the market with one of our members. Her bed was beyond repair and she

requested a hospital bed. Several calls and online searches for a donated or affordable bed were unsuccessful. Within hours there was an inquiry on the help line. A gentleman explained that his 105-year-old mother passed away the previous week. He had a hospital bed to donate. A match made in heaven. We put together a crew of three and a pick up truck. Two days later, we delivered the bed to her home. Our crew, with help from her niece, assembled the bed. When we left she was on the bed, remote control in hand, joyfully riding it up and down. Full disclosure: the niece was the brains of the crew. Without her we would still be there. A chance meeting brought the need to us. At the same time a hospital bed was dropped in our lap. Coincidence? Possibly. Divine Intervention? Why not?





# Catering of Champions Raises Thousands

On Saturday, July 20, Catering of Champions hosted its first ever fundraiser at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall in Oakland. Thank you to everyone involved—from buying a ticket, volunteering, preparing the food, setting up the space, donating, cleaning up afterwards—every person made a positive impact for our newest social enterprise! We were happy to see the SVdP community come together in support for the program.

The food received amazing feedback from guests, and Chef Javier even shared his “mother of all recipes” for arroz con leche. We look forward to the next fundraiser. We would like to ask our community to spread the word about Catering of Champions. Please share this information: to order from Catering of Champions for your next event, visit our website at [svdp-alameda.org/catering](http://svdp-alameda.org/catering), email [championscatering@svdp-alameda.org](mailto:championscatering@svdp-alameda.org), or call 510-681-3301.







# Women's Center Uplifts Local Families



The West Oakland direct service campus Women's Center serves hundreds of women each month for showers, laundry, clothing, feminine hygiene products and more. Many women bring their children, and we have a playroom to help them pass the time while their parents receive services. On average, 75 families each month utilize the largest family resource, lovingly called the "baby room," where people receive diapers, children's clothing, family-sized hygiene products, baby food and formula. Families are also serviced through our seasonal open houses. This year, over 180 children

will receive backpacks loaded with school supplies for free. Women's Center Coordinator, Jasmine Rogers, believes children bring life to the center. "The children are coming here to receive help even if they don't know they are. They always end up leaving happy," Rogers said. Rogers has hopes to make the Women's Center more fun for clients by hosting arts and crafts for the children and game days and special catered luncheons for the women. "You don't have to be homeless to utilize our services. It's beautiful that people can come here and lead a more comfortable life by utilizing our services. It is a very welcoming and safe zone," Rogers said. We are always accepting donations of diapers, wipes and hygiene products from the community. Thank you all who make the Women's Center a special place.

# Fremont Window Displays Increase Sales

The Fremont Store's sales techniques brought in record numbers last month. Their July display was decorated in the holiday spirit for 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Thanks to the Fremont Store team for their efforts in brightening up the window.

Sales for this July increased 52% from last year. Donations increased last month, and many donors turned into customers. "It's been a blessing. We've been very fortunate," Rene Campbell, store manager, said. The theme for August is "Fall wedding." This year, the store staff hopes to add fitting rooms and to employ more staff. If you are interested in working or volunteering, please reach out using the contact information on the back page of this newsletter.





# YouthWorks On a Mission In Dining Room



A group of out-of-state high school students and their adult leaders from YouthWorks served in the dining room in late July. YouthWorks is an organization that seeks to connect middle and high school students to God, each other and communities through meaningful Christ-centered mission trips, with the goal of serving God's multi-denominational Church. The organization's website claims "We want to help empower every teenager to know God and be like Jesus in the ways they love and serve others...We aim to create experiences that broaden

perspectives, ignite passions, expose possibilities and inspire pursuits." St. Vincent de Paul partners with multiple organizations that bring groups from across the country with this same goal. "This group was very fun," said Volunteer Coordinator Katie Troy. "It's always nice to host people from another state because simply by being here in Oakland they are surely gaining new experiences." Thank you to all of our volunteers for their wonderful service!

# Corpus Christi Celebrates Vincentians

The Corpus Christi Conference held a mass and Vincentian Appreciation Breakfast on Sunday, July 28. The new Corpus Christi Parochial Administrator, Fr. Louis Lopez presided the mass, where he thanked the 22 Vincentians for their work. He mentioned that St. Vincent changed his vocational path to embrace service to the poor, calling all of us to pray for those we serve and to have the faith and strength to continue our work. Attendees received pins marking their SVdP service, spanning between 6 months and 30 years. District Council President, James Lee, was in attendance thanking the Conference for their work on behalf of the Society and offering the continued support of the Council. Marne Schreiber was given a certificate and Vincentian cross for secretarial service to the Conference and for outstanding work at enlarging and organizing the book section at the Fremont Thrift Store. "The day was full of delicious food, plenty of conversation and laughter," Carol Snyder said. We pray for the continued faith-filled service from all 38 Alameda County Conferences.



# 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 Website: www.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
Marcell Lloyd	Shelter Manager	(510) 393-4259	mlloyd@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	wepalmquist@gmail.com
Volunteer Team	Volunteer Coordinator	(510) 877-9252	volunteer@svdp-alameda.org
Livermore Thrift Store	1817 Second St, Livermore, 94550	(925) 455-1104	lstore@svdp-alameda.org
Fremont Thrift Store	3777 Decoto Rd, Fremont, 94555	(510) 792-3711	fremont@svdp-alameda.org
Catering of Champions	www.svdp-alameda.org/catering	510-681-3301	championscatering@svdp-alameda.org

## In His Own Words: Marlon

"I graduated high school in Memphis, Tennessee in 1990. I did drafting work after that. I was in the army national guard from 1989-1991 and received an honorable discharge. I went to college in Wichita, Kansas. I graduated from cooking school in San Diego in 1991.

"I am a highly disciplined, motivated person and I work well with others. I come to St. Vincent de Paul and help clean up at the end of the day. I go to the Berkeley drop-in center and to a drop-in center in San Francisco and volunteer there every month, too. I've been going to all these places almost for five years now. I do handyman work, sanitation, landscaping and street cleaning.

"I go to church functions. I am a painter. I draw. I have paintings on canvas that I have completed at the Berkeley drop-in center. I brought the paintings in at St. Vincent de Paul to show people. They are all for sale. I try to use a lot of color to show how I imagine paradise. I write poetry, sing, rap and dance. My motto is love conquers hate. I know love is the answer. May God lead and protect us all."

