

Neighbors Helping Neighbors News: May 2016



The Kitchen is Cooking!

The kitchen at the free Dining Room at the downtown Oakland campus opened on September 20, 1976 and by May 20, 1977 we had served our 100,000th meal.

New seating was installed in 2012 and the adjoining patio upgrade was finished in 2013 but over the years the kitchen's culinary team, students and volunteers have continued to provide hot balanced meals to our clients with the same "seasoned" appliances within the original setting.

In January of this year work began on the renovation of the kitchen. New appliances and ranges, new flooring and ceiling, and upgrades to the refrigeration were installed. During the four months of construction, we served bag lunches to our guests that included a selection of sandwiches with donated fruit, yoghurt or desserts.

Chef Charles might joke with the kitchen team, but he is serious when it comes to serving a balanced and healthy meal to our clients.

Barksdale said the kitchen staff and volunteers

(which will include 3 "lead" volunteers each shift) will also be following enhanced procedures moving forward regarding food safety standards.

Chef Ryan Uyehara said, "We in the culinary team are thrilled that our kitchen - that supports the free Dining Room - is getting a facelift. After 40 years, it is remarkable that our appliances and refrigerators were still operating! That in itself was a 'miracle.' We will now be operating in an environment that will help us all be more efficient and

organized as we serve our clients."

A visit to the new prep kitchen found long-time cook Elvis Tran all smiles as he patiently guided a kitchen trainee with her knife skills.

The Dining Room is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m.





Upcoming Vincentian Meetings and Events

- Saturday, May 14th, 9:00 am, **District Council Meeting**, 9235 San Leandro St. (2nd Saturday of the month)
- Tuesday, June 14th, 10:00 am, **Property Committee**, Fremont Store, 3777 Decoto Road (2nd Tuesday of the month).
- Monday, May 16th, **Finance Committee**, District Council, 4:00 pm (Monday before Board Meeting).
- Wednesday, May 18th, 10:00 am to Noon, **Members Mornings Sale**, 50% off all used items in thrift stores for Vincentians.
- Wednesday, May 18th, **Board of Trustees Meeting**: fellowship/meal at 5:30 pm followed by meeting at 6:00 pm, District Council, 9235 San Leandro St, Oakland. (3rd Wednesday of the month).
- Friday, May 20th, 1:30 to 3:30pm, **Kitchen Re-Open House and Community Mixer**, Free Dining Room, 675 23rd St., Oakland.
- Tuesday, May 24th, 1:30 pm, **Special Works Committee**, Downtown (4th Tuesday of month).
- Thursday, May 26th, 3:00 pm, **Social Enterprise Committee**, District Council (4th Thursday of month).
- Thursday, June 2nd, 3:00 pm, **Development Committee**, District Council (1st Thursday of the month).
- Friday, June 3rd, 1:00 p.m., **Spirituality/Extension Committee**, Nob Hill Foods, 2531 Blanding Ave, Alameda (1st Friday of month).

News Briefs

- Donations are accepted at all of our Thrift Stores, at least six days per week. This includes items you might not expect to find in that store.
- The kitchen upgrade is finished and it looks great! Come see for yourself at our Re-Open House and Community Mixer (details on next page).
- SVdP no longer accepts eWaste, but plenty of other people do! We'd love your clothing donation, though. You can drop off gently used clothing at any of our facilities.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Western Region Meeting will take place in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, from May 26th through the 28th. There's still time to register. Contact Blase for more information.
- An AmeriCorps VISTA participant from St. Mary's University will be working with us from August 2016 through July 2017, helping our programs make the best possible use of volunteers, and placing and developing volunteers to better serve our homeless guests and in other programs.



■ Shopping at SVdP helps us all. We hope we're your favorite thrift store. If we're not, let us know why not. We want to keep improving until we're the favorite thrift store for every one of our volunteers and Vincentians.

■ Thanks to those Vincentians who agreed to be part of a newly formed team to offer help to our neighbors living in service deserts (no Conferenece in their Parish). If you haven't stepped forward yet, please consider offering a bit of your time to help those in need who currently fall between the cracks in our system. The District Council will support this new team with a cell phone and access to the Aid to Needy fund. Contact Lu Cuevas for more information.

■ The *Tiny Tickets* Program lets BART riders donate their partially used tickets to St. Vincent de Paul. We're setting up *tiny* donation boxes at various retail locations near BART stations, where you can drop your ticket off. Thanks to the East Bay Community Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul will receive 100% of the unused value on each ticket. See last page. More details to follow.

The Spirituality of the Home Visit

There is a new resource from our National Office. It's a journal centered on the Vincentian Heritage and Spirituality of the Home Visit. The journal has questions for your prayerful reflection after making a home visit, with space for you to write your answers. The insights then can be shared at your Conference meeting. Doing the home visit with reflection and journal writing leads to a greater closeness with the depth of one's being where God resides and to a deeper meaning of the grace of the event.

To Order "Spirituality of the Home Visit: a Journal" (#9000, \$2.00):
Online at www.svdpusa.org (Click on SVdP Members, then on Order Materials) or email order to: materials@svdpusa.org.



SVdP Alameda invites our neighbors and friends to our

Kitchen Re-Open House and Community Mixer

When: Friday, May 20, 1:30 p.m - 3:30 p.m.
Where: Dining Room, 675 23rd St, Oakland CA
carpool encouraged; limited parking available

Complimentary refreshments

RSVP to jobtraining@svdp-alameda.org
or (510) 877-9212



All Vincentians, staff, donors, vendors, community partners and supporters are invited to this event

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Conversation with Dominique Chauvet

Over three years ago, Dominique moved with her family from France to the Bay Area. She began looking for a nonprofit organization that would be a good match for her skills, experience and energy.

Her internet search took her to St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County and she connected with our mission of helping people in need. She was familiar with the name "St. Vincent" but did not know that the organization originated in Paris – her home city!

After a conversation with Muna Texier, Dominique made an appointment to visit the downtown campus. Within minutes of her first visit she felt welcomed not only by the staff and other volunteers, but by the clients! She already knew she wanted to come back.

She couldn't decide if the connection she felt with SVdP was because of its French roots or was it something deeper? Dominique believes that sometimes in life you find yourself at the right place and on the right path and it's almost as if the decision was made for you.

Since that day eight months ago, Dominique has worked at the downtown campus wearing "her many hats." As a Life Coach for women, she can share her coaching at SVdP with clients who do not have the ability to pay for her expertise. This is just one of the ways Dominique

"gives back" to the community.

Some days she works in the podiatry clinic, some days with the Kitchen of Champions' students and some days she is in the Development Department collaborating on media articles for the Bay Area French community, or planning events.

Dominique has found a place where using her skills has made her time at SVdP not so much a "job" as a "calling." She feels her skills are matched to the needs of the organization. The more she volunteers at SVdP, the more she gets back from working with the clients and helping those in need.

Dominique is now a familiar face at SVdP and she laughs about the path that took her from France to a sister organization in the East Bay. "I guess I didn't make the decision to become a volunteer. After that first visit, the decision was made for me."



SVdP Welcomes Santa Clara U

For the past four years students from Santa Clara University have chosen St. Vincent de Paul in downtown Oakland County as the site for their week of immersion. On March 6th, six participants arrived to spend a week volunteering in the free Dining Room and at the Winter Shelter. Their busy week's schedule also included visiting the Native America Health Center, the Glenn E. Dyer adult detention center, a meeting with a Measure Y activist, a tour of the St. Mary's Center, and a visit with an Alameda County Behavioral Health Care worker. The week ended for the students with a day spent discussing social justice issues with staff and transitional employees about how they can take action in their lives and communities to become catalysts for social change.



Mothers Day Kids' Craft event at Redux

The artist-tenants at Redux organized an event that let parents enjoy food and drink...and shopping! in the front of the store, while their kids (no Moms allowed) worked in the back with our volunteers, making homemade craft projects for gifts for their moms.

There were 5 stations where kids could make various gifts, or buy one essentially for whatever coins they had in their pocket.

The event was very popular and well-attended, and brought a new set of families into Redux who had never been there before. Many of them were parents and children who attended Alameda Public Schools.



Thank you, Guy!

We want to thank Dominga "Guy" Dizon for her 18 years of service in Social Enterprise. Guy retired and on Mother's Day is taking a well-deserved one month vacation "back home" to the Philippines. She is then moving to San Diego to be near her daughter's family.

Guy started her retail career at SVdP in 1998 as a cashier at the Oakland Store and worked in the then Alameda Store, Fremont store and most recently as the assistant manager at the Livermore Store. She loved working with her coworkers as a part of the team to meet and exceed their goals.



Guy remembers one of her first customers asking for a discount on a pair of \$1.00 shorts and when she told him that was not possible he threw the shorts down and left.

Always one to see the good in people, Guy called after him, "Well, thank you

and God bless you!"

A week later the customer returned to apologize and became a loyal and long-time customer.

We will miss Guy but we wish her the best on her well-deserved retirement.

Downtown Campus Seeking Volunteers

There's so much going on on our main campus, and most of it goes better with more hands involved.

We need regular help in the Dining Room, Community Center, Men's and Women's Centers, Job Training Programs, and in the Phone (and admin) Center.

We'd love to train you in a new, rewarding volunteer opportunity. Contact Blase or Muna for more details.

Your free time can make such a difference in the life of someone in need!



May Community Center Programs Calendar

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	5 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	6 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm)	7
10	11 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	12 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	13 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) Community Center CLOSED after 11am	14
17	18 Podiatry Clinic (8:30am) Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	19 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am) Homeless & Caring Court Orientation (12:30pm)	20 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm)	21
24	25 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	26 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	27 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) Women's Fellowship Relief Workshop (10am-2pm) NOTE: Please pre-register	28

Giving

Sheila Gilbert is the first woman to hold the office of President of the National Council for St. Vincent de Paul and she is a strong advocate for "systemic change." By directing our organization to work closely with those living in poverty we can address the root causes of their situation and find ways to reduce poverty.

Here at SVdP Alameda we have elected the first woman president of the Board of Trustees, Maura Bonnarens. Maura is also dedicated to supporting those in need with critical assistance.

Please help us help those in need by making a donation to SVdP.

Online: Visit svdp-alameda.org/gift to make a gift with your credit card using the online form, or to find instructions on how to make a gift of stock or mutual funds.

Mail: Send a check payable to St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County to 9235 San Leandro Street, Oakland, CA 94603 or call 510. 638.7600.



For More Information Contact

Name	Position	Office	Cell	Email
District Council	Main Phone Number	(510)638-7600		
Blase Bova	Executive Director		(510)435-2625	bbova@svdp-alameda.org
Chris Rummell	Creative Reuse Manager (Redux)	(510)865-1109	(510)385-8934	crummell@svdp-alameda.org
Jaime Kim	Director of Development	(510)877-9251	(510)277-2306	jkim@svdp-alameda.org
John Ratti	Downtown Campus Operations Manager		(510)812-9421	jratti@svdp-alameda.org
Lu Cuevas	Director of Conference Support	(510)568-6123	(510)277-6435	lcuevas@svdp-alameda.org
Muna Texier	Volunteer Programs Manager	(510)877-9252	(510)719-0774	mtexier@svdp-alameda.org
Nic Ming	Workforce Programs Manager	(510)877-9236	(510)385-2026	nming@svdp-alameda.org
Ray Carney	Warehouse Manager	(510)636-4254	(510)385-8892	rcarney@svdp-alameda.org
Ron Dean	Director of Finance		(510)229-0793	rdean@svdp-alameda.org
Viridiana Cornejo	Retail Manager	(510)636-4255	(510)692-0460	vcornejo@svdp-alameda.org

Thank you!

Thanks for your interest, and thanks for the work that you do for the St. Vincent de Paul! If you find this newsletter interesting or useful, please distribute it to someone you know who might like to learn more about us.

Many thanks to Marilyn Cahill and Jaime Kim for contributions to this newsletter!



Blase Bova
Executive Director
St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County

Tiny Tickets to benefit St. Vincent de Paul.



Drop your BART ticket with any unused value here, to support meals, training, clothing, & other services for low-income families in Alameda County.

