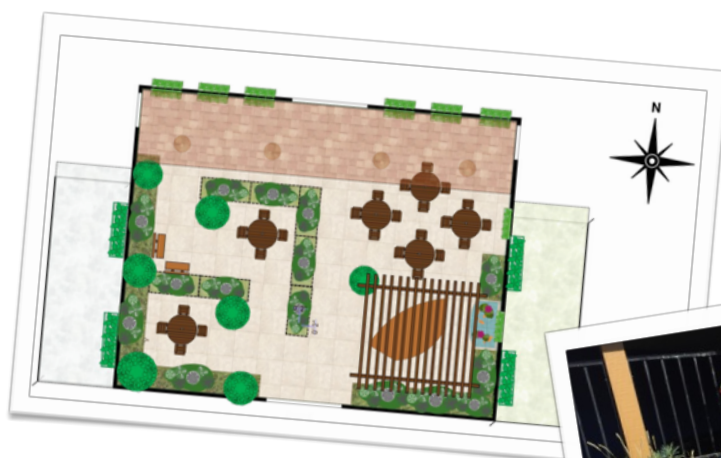


Neighbors Helping Neighbors News: August 2016



Young Vincentian Beautifies Campus

Nicole Jones, a former Young Vincentian and a Special Works volunteer, has begun a really exciting campus beautification project for our Downtown Campus.



Nicole, who is studying permaculture and landscape design, leads a team of fellow student volunteers who have offered to plan, design, and implement all aspects of the project over a period of many months, one step at a time. Nicole is committed to leading the effort, from design to fundraising.

Some of the features she is creating for us are:

- A vertical edible garden installation on the fence along 23rd St, which borders our courtyard, where our dining room guests can enjoy a meal in the open air on nice days.

- Landscaping the courtyard itself, with shade canopies and even a water feature.
- More projects in the future facing San Pablo and West Grand.
- Even some work on our Fremont Store site, along Decoto Road.

The vertical garden is scheduled for

installation on the morning of Saturday, August 27th, with a team of volunteers which still needs your help. With or without a green thumb, if you'd like to lend a hand, please contact Muna Texier.



Nicole has even created a crowdfunding website, [greensvdp.causevox.com](https://www.causevox.com/greensvdp), and she's already raised \$1,500, enough for the vertical edible garden! She needs your help though. Please visit and share this site with others you know who may want to be a part of the beautification of our campus. Together we can bring joy, color, and growth to those whose lives need it most.





Upcoming Vincentian Meetings and Events

- Saturday, August 13th, **Regional Meetings including election of Regional Reps** for the Board in Regions 1, 3, 5 and 7.
- Wednesday, August 17th, **Finance Committee**, District Council, 4:00 pm (just before Board Meeting).
- Wednesday, August 17th, **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).
- Date/Time TBD, **Social Enterprise Committee**, District Council.
- Tuesday, August 23rd, 1:30 pm, **Special Works Committee**, Downtown (4th Tuesday of month).
- Friday, September 2nd, 1:00 p.m., **Spirituality/Extension Committee**, Nob Hill Foods, 2531 Blanding Ave, Alameda (1st Friday of month).
- Monday, September 5th, 2:00 pm, **Development Committee**, Downtown Campus (1st Monday of the month).
- Saturday, September 10th, 9:00 am, **District Council Meeting**, 9235 San Leandro St. (2nd Saturday of the month)
- Tuesday, September 13th, 10:00 am, **Property Committee**, Location TBD (2nd Tuesday of the month).
- Saturday, September 17th, **Special Retreat for all SVDP Alameda County Vincentians and employees.** Theme: Year of Mercy.

News Briefs

- Trainings were offered this month for our Special Works staff and volunteers on domestic violence recognition and referral; stress management; and mental health issues in the homeless and reentry population.
- 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.
- Voting for Region 1, 3, 5, & 7 Representatives for the Board of Trustees takes place on August 13th at our Regional Meetings
- "Our Faith in Action: Today's Society of St. Vincent de Paul" - a half-hour special about the Society will air on EWTN on Tuesday, August 16 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern.
- Celebrate Blessed Frederic Ozanam's Feast Day on September 9, 2016, and St. Vincent de Paul's Feast Day, September 27, 2016.



■ The *Tiny Tickets* Program lets BART riders donate their partially used tickets to St. Vincent de Paul. You can bring your tickets to any SVdP campus. We're also setting up donation boxes at various retail locations. Let Blase know if you'd like to help with this. Thanks to the East Bay Community Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul will receive 100% of the unused value on each ticket.

■ Our thrift stores have implemented a standard "unit pricing" chart, with set prices for dozens of categories of clothing and household items, books and media, sporting, bedding, and furniture. If you'd like a list of these prices, just ask us!

■ Your online purchases can benefit SVdP. Amazon.com will donate 1/2% of anything you spend on their site, once you sign up. Just visit smile.amazon.com, and choose "Society St Vincent De Paul Alameda" as your charity. Once you're set up, every purchase you make yields a donation to SVdP. Thanks for making St. Vincent de Paul your charity of choice!

SAVE THE DATE



Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson
invites you to attend



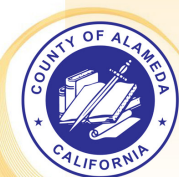
CELEBRATE • EDUCATE • INSPIRE

Join us as we highlight the programs and community resources that our faith organizations provide for residents of Alameda County.

Thursday
September 29, 2016
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Ed Roberts Campus
3075 Adeline Avenue • Berkeley, CA

RSVP your attendance TODAY at www.poweroffaith.eventbrite.com



Sponsorship Opportunities Available. For more information contact
Abigail Mariam | 510.272.6768 | abigail.mariam@acgov.org

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.

Meet Natalya, Our New VISTA Intern



My name is Natalya Ferdinandi, and I am an AmeriCorps VISTA member. My year of service has begun at St. Vincent de Paul, and I am so excited to be here! I grew up in Fresno, California and recently graduated from Saint Mary's College of California.

I am spending this gap year applying to law school, while also helping to strengthen the organization's volunteer infrastructure and community engagement, at the SVdP Community Center in Oakland. Please drop in soon to say hello!

A Prayer for Peace

Mercy: the Heart of Peace will continue the movement that has inspired many men and women of religion to gather together to pray for peace since the first meeting, called by Pope John Paul II, in Assisi in 1986. Thirty years after the first meeting, the Spirit of Assisi reaches the West Coast of the United States in the Diocese of Oakland. The Meeting will embody the message that peace lies at the heart of religion, and that believers are called to be peacemakers and instruments of mercy.

Program : **September 6th, at the Cathedral of Christ the Light**

5:45pm: Prayer for Peace

Five spaces provided for Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism.

6:30pm: Panel Dialogue on "Mercy: the Heart of Peace". 3 panelists of different faith traditions: Islam, Judaism, and Christianity will discuss the theme "Mercy: the Heart of Peace," drawing from their own faith traditions.

8:00pm: Procession and Appeal for Peace



The Faces of Our Downtown Campus

The photos on this page, taken by our very talented volunteer Sacha Kawaichi, illustrate the many faces of our work and the fellowship we share day to day, with staff, volunteers, and the families and individuals we serve.



Key Factors of Our New Program of Work & Budget

The Board of Trustees and District Council of St. Vincent de Paul Alameda County have developed and approved an FY17 program of work and supporting budget that involves changes in our direct service programs for job training, our retail thrift operations, and our staff reporting structure. The overarching goal for this program of work and budget is to move the organization onto more sustainable financial footing by increasing rental income and store profitability, and reducing staffing and program costs while sustaining key services to those in need in our community. Our budget for FY 2017 is balanced for the first time in over a decade.



The majority of our programs and services will remain the same. The following three key changes will allow us to move from a deficit budget to one that is balanced and sustainable:

1. Retool our job training programs. Our Kitchen of Champions culinary training program will retain its current format. However, we will suspend some of the more complex parts of our other job training programs while we restructure them to improve our approaches to onsite training assignments, accounting, outcomes metrics, and volunteer engagement in the programs. This will allow us to strengthen the programs we offer and help ensure that those participating are able to transform their lives and find sustainable employment opportunities using the job skills learned through our enhanced job training programs.

2. Optimize our retail thrift operations. Our stores in Livermore and Fremont will remain open and will receive donations directly from individuals; this is how they currently operate and they are self-sustaining with this model. We will move away from use of central warehouse and donation pickups, in order to allow the thrift stores to do their own donation processing and to be more profitable without the high overhead costs associated with a central warehouse. In addition, we will close the Oakland Store and Redux. The properties currently used by the Oakland Store, the central warehouse, and Redux will be leased as a means to generate income to support our programs.

3. Organize the staff into five broad functional areas, each with a manager reporting to the Executive Director. All non-retail staff will work from the downtown Oakland campus.

The Board recognizes that changes this significant are challenging to work through and can create anxiety and uncertainty. However, we are confident that these are the right changes that are needed at this time and will allow St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County to more sustainably serve those in need in our community for many years to come.

If you have questions about any of this, please don't hesitate to contact Blase Bova, Executive Director, at 510-435-2625 or bbova@svdp-alameda.org, or Maura Bonnarens, Board President, at maura.svdp.alameda@gmail.com.



August Community Center Programs Calendar

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	4 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	5 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) Community Center CLOSED after 11am	6
9	10 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	11 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am) Homeless & Caring Court Orientation (12:30pm)	12 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm)	13
16	17 Podiatry Clinic (8:30am) Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	18 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	19 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) Women's Fellowship Relief Workshop (10am-2pm) NOTE: Please pre-register	20
23	24 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	25 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	26 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) Women's Fellowship Relief Workshop (10am-2pm) NOTE: Please pre-register	27
30	31 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)			27

More News

- The Society of St. Vincent de Paul National Assembly in Columbus, Ohio is only a few weeks away! Do not miss your opportunity to be a part of this special Vincentian gathering from August 30 - September 3. Visit svdp-usa.org for more details.
- Our Back to School drive has been extremely successful this year. We've received almost \$4000 from individuals, from our Conferences, and from Corporate partners like Salesforce. Thanks to their generosity, we will be able to make this school year more fun and productive for hundreds of low-income kids.

Wish List

- Volunteers to help sort clothing donations at our downtown campus, to be given out in the clothing closet in our Community Center.
- Volunteers in the Fremont and Livermore thrift stores, to help process donations, assist customers, and arrange and price items for sale.
- Volunteers to help make thank you calls to our donors and to other volunteers. Our phone center wants to train you to help us thank, listen to, and engage our supporters. You can even do this work from your own home.



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
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
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 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. Whether you are a volunteer, a Vincentian, or someone who supports us in another way, we want you to know how much we appreciate that you make St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County a part of your life. If you would like to learn more about our Society or its work here in Alameda, or if you have questions, ideas, or concerns, I'd love to hear from you. Please contact me at any time at the phone number or email listed above.

In service,



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

