

Neighbors Helping Neighbors News: September 2016



40th Anniversary of Free Dining Room

Our Free Dining Room served its first meal on Monday, September 20th, 1976, and by the end of

supplies. The Dining Room is funded through the generous support of donors, grants, and in-kind donations. In fact, the large majority of operations

of the facility are carried out by volunteers, around 20 or more at a time, who handle the daily duties of food preparation, serving, and cleanup. The kitchen itself is staffed by Kitchen of Champion trainees, while the dining room is run by a dining room manager, a security guard, and a host of dedicated volunteers. Together staff and



September had served 2,279 meals. By July 2016, St. Vincent de Paul had served almost 6 million nutritious meals. The dining room is currently open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm, including holidays (except New Year's Day). When the dining room opened, there were only four paid employees – the cook, janitor, and the crew of two who operate the truck in picking up the donated food and



volunteers work to prepare and serve around 600 meals a day.





Upcoming Vincentian Meetings and Events

- Saturday, September 10th, **District Council Meeting**, Mass at 9:00 am, meeting at 10:00 am, 9235 San Leandro St.
- Saturday, September 10th, 11:30 am, **Spirituality/Extension Committee**, District Council Office (normally 1st Friday of month).
- Monday, September 12th, 2:00 pm, **Development Committee**, Downtown Campus (Normally 1st Monday of the month).
- Tuesday, September 13th, 10:00 am, **Property Committee**, Location TBD (2nd Tuesday of the month).
- Thursday, September 15th, 4:30 pm, **Graduation Ceremony** for Workforce Program and Kitchen of Champions Cohort 49.
- Saturday, September 17th, **Special Retreat for all SVDP Alameda County Vincentians and employees**. Theme: Year of Mercy.
- Wednesday, September 21st, **Finance Committee**, District Council, 4:00 pm (just before Board Meeting).
- Wednesday, September 21st, **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, September 27th, 1:30 pm, **Special Works Committee**, Downtown (4th Tuesday of month).

News Briefs

- 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 took place on August 13th at our Regional Meetings. Please welcome returning Regional Reps Janet Capurro Graham (1), Russell Sell (3), and Inga Lewis (7), and new Regional Rep Fred Stein, from Region 5.
- Celebrate St.. Vincent de Paul's Feast Day, September 27, 2016.
- 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
- If you read that our Livermore and Fremont stores were closing, in the Alameda Times or another Bay Area News Group paper, please know that they're not. The paper is issuing a correction in its next issue. Fremont and Livermore are open seven days per week!



■ Please share this crowdfunding website with your networks: greensvdp.causevox.com. We've raised enough for our first just-completed beautification project, but still need funding for other landscape projects around SVDP.

■ Please visit our San Leandro site during the month of September to take advantage of our huge Warehouse Sale. You'll find escalating discounts on all sorts of things. Things you've always wanted, or things you never knew you needed!

■ The Graduation Ceremony for the Champion Workforce Program and Kitchen of Champions Cohort 49 is Thursday, September 15th, at 4:30 p.m., on our downtown campus. Call us for more information, or just come by.

■ Best Practices: Our Lady of Grace Conference in Castro Valley publishes stories of the families they help in the church bulletin. The parishioners love reading about how our work touches lives right in their own neighborhood. We hope other conferences will follow this best practice too.



THE WEIRD, WILD AND WONDERFUL WAREHOUSE & THRIFT STORE CLOSING SALE

SEPTEMBER 1-30, 2016
MON- SAT 10-5
9235 SAN LEANDRO ST, OAKLAND

Furniture, Tools, Clothing,
Appliances, Displays & Fixtures,
Books, Kitchen Goods, DVDs, Cds &
Albums, Christmas Decorations-
Décor and Ephemera of all kinds!

.....
ESCALATING DISCOUNTS STARTING
AT 10% GROWING TO 90%



Raul, from Kitchen of Champions Cohort 49

SVdP strives to create and sustain programs that not only benefit our clients, but our community. Since 2007, the Kitchen of Champions (KoC), has given our trainees, many with barriers to job training, an opportunity that might not have happened otherwise.

One of our trainees, Raul Torres, is a great example of how much this program can help individuals who go through the intensive nine-week training.

Raul is a hard worker with a positive attitude, someone who exemplifies that "what you put into things is what you get out of them." Trainees like Raul remind us that our programs give the instruction, tools, confidence and support to be successful.

Raul had worked as a plumber's assistance for two years, but the KoC program seemed like a better fit for his interests an opportunity to get real work experience in the culinary world and to help feed those in need in Oakland.

On his first day of training he met Chef Ryan, Chef Charles and the trainees in Cohort 48. From the start, the chefs showed him how the kitchen worked. One of Raul's challenges was learning to use unfamiliar herbs and spices, but he learned through Chef Ryan's patient instruction.

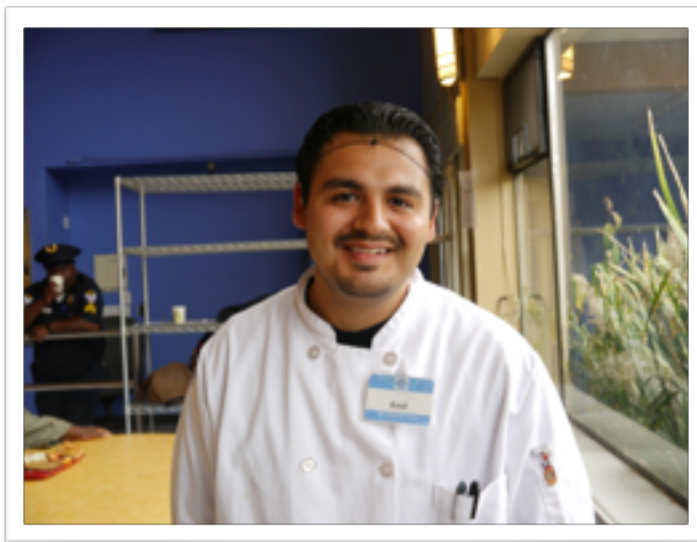
Raul is grateful for his training at SVdP. He loves the people he met there and wants to help out by teaching future cohorts. He is proud of his upcoming gradation because he has worked hard to get to this point and says, "God bless St. Vincent de Paul and its programs!"

Recently Raul has become very busy balancing his last weeks of KoC training and a new job he got through a Workforce Program placement. Raul's talent and work ethic was recognized by the Workforce staff and his resume was forwarded with a

recommendation when a position opened up for a line cook at a local restaurant, McGee's Bar and Grill in Alameda. McGee's has partnered with SVdP for over two years in creating job opportunities for KoC graduates, showing community support for the KoC program.

Raul loves his new job and really appreciates his KoC training, as his new job is fast-paced and there is no room for error!

We are proud of Raul and all of the successful graduates of the KoC program. For more information about the program call us at 510-638-7600.



Beth Cayabyab

Years ago a gentleman was shopping at the St. Vincent de Paul Oakland thrift store. As he chatted with the cashier while he waited to have his purchases rung up, she mentioned they needed help. He responded that his daughter Elizabeth had just moved to the Bay Area from the Philippines, was looking for job, and he would have her stop by for an interview.

That interview long ago led to *thirty* years of dedication and hard work from Oakland Store Manager Beth Cayabyab. After joining the staff as a cashier, Beth was promoted to assistant manager at the store located in Hayward. When that site closed, she was moved to the Fremont store where she worked nearly 15 years before being transferred back to the Oakland store where her management and retail skills were needed.

Over the years Beth has waited on thousands of customers from not only Alameda County but the entire Bay Area. Customers who came years ago with their young children are still coming back with their grandchildren, and they always make sure they say hello!

Beth knows that working at the stores was more than a job. She was helping serve the SVdP mission of helping those who are less fortunate.

Once a gentleman stopped by the Fremont Store and asked if he could walk into the back (which now serves as the offices and merchandise area).

Surprised, Beth asked why, and he replied that although he was now working a full time job in San Francisco, during a difficult time he had slept



and showered at the Fremont Store that once also offered an overnight shelter. He was grateful for the help he received from SVdP and wanted to say "thank you" and share his story.

Viridiana Cornejo, Retail Merchandise Manager says, "Beth's retirement is bittersweet. Although we are happy Beth will be able to enjoy some well-deserved 'vacation time,' she will be missed by so many people. Her dedication to SVdP and her tireless work ethic will be hard to replace!"

The staff and customers wish her well on her retirement.

Thank you Beth for your many years of hard work, teamwork and humor, and dedication to our mission of serving those less fortunate. God bless you, Beth. Enjoy the new chapter of your life!



■ 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.

■ 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!

■ One of the things we learned from the recent client and guest surveys done by St. Mary's University was how much our guests *appreciate our volunteers!* Thank you to everyone who volunteers with St. Vincent de Paul, whether on our main campus, at a thrift store, or through your Conference!

SAVE THE DATE



Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson
invites you to attend



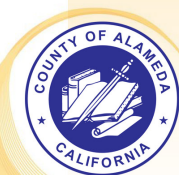
CELEBRATE • EDUCATE • INSPIRE

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.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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

September Community Center Programs Calendar

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	1	2 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm)	3
6	7 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	8 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	9 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) Community Center CLOSED after 11am	10
13	14 Podiatry Clinic (8:30am) Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	15 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am) Homeless & Caring Court Orientation (12:30pm)	16 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm)	17
20	21 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	22 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	23 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) Women's Fellowship Relief Workshop (10am-2pm) NOTE: Please pre-register	24
27	28 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	28 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	30 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) Women's Fellowship Relief Workshop (10am-2pm) NOTE: Please pre-register	1

Giving Brings Joy

Your gift to St. Vincent de Paul can keep a family facing eviction in their home, train someone for a better future, or provide a much needed safety net to someone who has nowhere else to turn. Our neighbors need your help. Please call Blase at 510-435-2625, send a check to 2272 San Pablo Ave, Oakland, CA 94612, or give online at www.svdपालameda.org. We so appreciate your help. Thank you, from all of us at St. Vincent de Paul.



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.



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.

Thanks to Alfreed Dixon, Muna Texier, Marilyn Cahill, Tierney Berlinski, Nic Ming, and Natalya Ferdinandi for their contributions to this issue!

In service,



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

