

Neighbors Helping Neighbors News: October 2016



Hunger Action Month at SVdP

St. Vincent de Paul's direct service campus is located in a food desert, which means that affordable and nutritious food is difficult to obtain, especially for those who do not have a car. The community of West Oakland is home to roughly 25,000 residents. The neighborhood is one of the poorest in the Bay Area and suffers from some of the highest rates of unemployment, poverty, and diet-related disease in Alameda County.

In West Oakland the density of liquor stores is about three times higher than in the rest of

Oakland. There are almost no full-service grocery stores in West Oakland. Instead, residents gravitate towards stores that are close by, such as liquor stores and fast food restaurants. St. Vincent de Paul helps alleviate food insecurity by serving a free hot lunch 5 days a week, including holidays.

In honor of Feeding America's Hunger Action Month in September, we asked our volunteers to share facts like these with their social networks through selfies and group photos like the one below.





Upcoming Vincentian Meetings and Events

- Saturday, October 8, **District Council Meeting**, Mass at 9:00 am, meeting at 10:00 am, 3433 Somerset Ave, Castro Valley, CA, 94546.
- Tuesday, October 11th, 11:30 am, **Property Committee**, Downtown Campus (2nd Tuesday of the month).
- Wednesday, October 19th, **Finance Committee**, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Ave, Oakland, 4:00 pm (just before Board Meeting).
- Wednesday, October 19th, **Board of Trustees Meeting**: fellowship/meal at 5:30 pm followed by meeting at 6:00 pm, Downtown Campus, 2272 San Pablo Ave, Oakland. (3rd Wednesday of the month).
- Date/Time TBD, **Social Enterprise Committee**, District Council.
- Tuesday, October 25th, 1:30 pm, **Special Works Committee**, Downtown Campus (4th Tuesday of month).
- Friday, November 4th, 1:00 pm, **Spirituality/Extension Committee**, Nob Hill Market, Alameda (1st Friday of month).
- Monday, November 7th, 2:00 pm, **Development Committee**, Downtown Campus (Normally 1st Monday of the month).
- Monday, November 14th, 6:00 pm. First night of our 2016-2017 **Winter Shelter Program**. Our supporters and volunteers are encouraged to set up a time to visit or to help out. Call us at 510-638-7600 to find out how you can help.

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.
- 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
- 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!



■ The Phone Center is reaching out to Conference Presidents who have *not* called or emailed regarding their Thanksgiving & Christmas Turkey counts. We will be ordering turkeys soon! If you haven't already done so, please contact Jackie at 510-638-7600 to confirm your turkey counts.

■ The Phone Center will also be reaching out to Conference Presidents to confirm contact information for all Vincentian members. Do you have new members in your Conference, or has someone moved away? Now's your chance to let us know about any changes. Hard copies of our current list of Vincentians will be distributed at the upcoming District Council meeting, and electronic copies will be emailed thereafter.

■ 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.

■ A direct mail solicitation letter is going out this month. When you receive yours, please be as generous as you are able with your gift. All our programs depend on support from people just like you. Thanks!

40th Anniversary Party



On Tuesday, September 20th, SVdP celebrated 40 years of serving nutritious meals in our Free Dining Room. We decorated the dining room with streamers and balloons, and the Chefs and the Kitchen of Champion trainees prepared a special lunch. We hosted a corporate group from Chevron, which we were so blessed to have since it was extremely busy: the line to get food was all the way down the block! Here's to another 40 years!

Graduation Celebration



Graduation is a time to celebrate our workforce programs. Our graduation ceremony on September 15th brought together the community of friends, family, and the SVdP staff and volunteers who are with the trainees all along their journey. Our keynote speaker was Oakland Fire Chief Teresa Deloach-Reed (in photo).

The Elements of Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Gu

Guests: Willie is homeless, yet so full of light. His smile really does light up the room. Willie is anguished about young people, worried about children and teenagers who don't have any trust in their parents' generation, and who get into trouble because they turn to their peers for advice. It is much different now than when he was growing up. "It was a real community then. People watched out for each other, and for each other's children..."



Vi

Vincentians: Nancy is an amazing volunteer who is here week after week, year after year. Her warmth and kindness are contagious. This is evident through her talent of crocheting clothes for dolls that she herself has purchased, to give to the sweet children who come to St Vincent de Paul. Each one is made with love, unique and beautiful in its own way. Nancy works in our Free Dining Room, as well as sorting clothing for the Community Center Clothing Closet.



St

Staff: Elvis has worked at St Vincent for almost 15 years. He is extremely quick and knows everything. He helps train new chefs as well as assistants into the workings of the St. Vincent kitchen. His father was a cook in Vietnam. If anyone has a question about anything, they turn to Elvis. He makes sure everything is done well and completely. If it is not, he does it himself. He is tireless and always so kind.



Vo

Volunteers: Oscar has gone through the Kitchen of Champions culinary training and now returns to volunteer. To be around Oscar is to be happy. You can't help yourself. He carries his spirit with him. He is a disabled Marine with PTSD. Oscar is also a lay minister. Every morning he gets up at 3:30 am to send personal messages of hope and prayer to the 500 people who follow him on Facebook. He does this every day. When I questioned why he gets up so early, he answered that people ask for prayers from all over the world, and he wants them to receive the prayers early in their day. Oscar has fallen in love with wonderful woman and is leaving to go to be with her in Mississippi. I feel very lucky to have met him.





SVdP/Order of Malta Podiatry Clinic

and orthotics, are provided to our clients free of charge.

Eight volunteer nurses and other ancillary staff keep the clinic running smoothly at each clinic session. An additional 20 volunteer hours per month is spent keeping the clinic stocked, cleaned, and prepared for each clinic session.

Each client is provided with a new pair of socks to promote healing of the treated feet. Every client is also offered, and most receive, a pair of reconditioned (used) shoes if available at the time of treatment.

Our Clinic Coordinator spends about 20 hours a month collecting donated used shoes from shoe stores, gyms, and sports teams for our clients.

The St. Vincent de Paul/Order of Malta Podiatry Clinic collaboration was created in December, 2014. Podiatry Clinic is held monthly, on the third Wednesday, from 9AM - 12 Noon.

Our annual budget varies and is dependent on donations and grants.

The Order of Malta of Northern California provides key financial support by providing our Podiatrist's salary, medical supplies, and malpractice insurance.

St. Vincent de Paul provides the physical space to provide clinical services; volunteers and staff to assist with clinic operations, and coordination with other services.

Janet Waring, our volunteer Clinic Coordinator, solicits donated supplies; clinic volunteers also donate items as needed.

An average of 32 clients are seen at each clinic session, that's 384 clients per year.

The most common problems of Podiatry Clinic clients we see are fungal infections and overgrown toenails. All medical treatments by our podiatrist, and prescribed topical medications

SVdP/Malta Podiatry Clinic Wish-List

- **Cash** to purchase topical medications, baby wipes (to wash feet), and other needed supplies. Funding for 2017 has not yet been identified and is urgently needed.
- **Socks.** Men's and women's winter-weight, cotton blend socks are needed for distribution to clients during clinic sessions.
- **Shoes.** Most of our clients are homeless or living below the poverty level and simply cannot afford a good pair of shoes. New or gently used closed-toe sneakers and shoes are especially appreciated.



More Faces from Our Downtown Campus

We wanted to bring you a few more photos taken by our wonderful volunteer Sacha Kawaichi, which give you a sense of whom you might meet if you visited our main campus on San Pablo Avenue. If you'd like to see for yourself, just let me (Blase) know. I'd love to show you around!



October Community Center Programs Calendar

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	6	7 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm)	8
11	12 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	13 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	14 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm)	15
18	19 Podiatry Clinic (8:30am) Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	20 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am) Homeless & Caring Court Orientation (12:30pm)	21 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm)	22
25	26 Men's Group (9am) Health Screenings (10:30am in Dining Room)	27 Happy Practice (9am) Photography Workshop (10am)	28 Mobile Health Clinic (9:30am-3pm) Women's Fellowship Relief Workshop (10am-2pm) NOTE: Please pre-register	29

Did You Know?

Your financial support of St. Vincent de Paul's programs goes a long way to provide direct assistance and life-changing programs for those in need:

- For \$2,850 you can provide a full scholarship, from enrollment through graduation, for a student in our Kitchen of Champions culinary training program.
- For \$1,000 you can provide 598 lbs. of groceries for low-income families in our communities.
- For \$500 you can keep a working family from being evicted, one whose income normally covers their expenses - except when someone gets sick.
- For \$250 you can serve 100 hot nutritious meals in our Free Dining Room.

Please consider a gift to St. Vincent de Paul. Contact Blase Bova or Muna Texier (see last page) to learn more.

We need your help

- 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.
- Help feed 600 meals daily to those in need and volunteer in our Dish Room! Join the camaraderie in the dish room and be a part of the team that helps to feed those who are hungry! Volunteers are urgently needed Tuesday - Friday from 9:30am to 1pm.



For More Information Contact

Name	Position	Phone	Email
District Council	Main Phone Number	(510) 638-7600	
Blase Bova	Executive Director	(510) 435-2625	bbova@svdp-alameda.org
Carmen Jones-Weeks	Human Resources Manager	(510) 435-1576	cjonesweeks@svdp-alameda.org
Julia Catania	Administration Manager	(510) 692-0460	jcatania@svdp-alameda.org
Muna Texier	Community Engagement Manager	(510) 719-0774	mtexier@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	ruyehara@svdp-alameda.org
Wesley Palmquist	Facilities/Tenant Services Manager	(650) 796-7349	wpalmquist@svdp-alameda.org

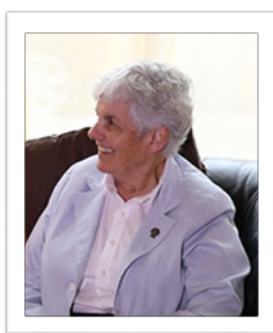
Year of Mercy Retreat

41 Vincentians gathered at Our Lady of Grace, Castro Valley on September 17th for "Year of Mercy: Living our Vincentian Virtues"

The day began with mass concelebrated with three members of the Franciscan Minor, Conventual with Fr. Paul Gawlowski, as homilist.

Vincentians live their vocation in the midst of their Vincentian life of spirituality, friendship and service. Sr. Paule Freeburg, Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul was the facilitator.

With over 50 year's vocation, Sr. Paule revisited our charism focusing all our works of justice and charity in our foundation of Vincentian Spirituality, lived through our 5 virtues: Simplicity, Gentleness, Humility, Selflessness, and Zeal.



Thank you!

Thanks for your interest, and thanks for the work that you do for St. Vincent de Paul! Once you've read this, please think of someone you know who might like to learn more about us, and forward it to them.

We appreciate all the ways that you make St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County a part of your life. If you'd like to learn more about our Society or its work, 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 Muna Texier, Lu Cuevas, Sacha Kawaichi, and Natalya Ferdinandi for their contributions to this issue!

In service,

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

