



Vincentian Spirit

A publication of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of San Mateo County

Where Does Your Donation Go?

In the last 12 months the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of San Mateo County has distributed **\$495,490** in emergency rental payments to keep families housed in our community. This is a 22% increase since the previous year. There were over 600 payments given, and most of these households included children. The average payment was \$825.

In order to acquire enough funds to help with emergency rental assistance, SVdP teams with our local conferences, foundation grants, and your individual donations.

Rental help is given when verifiable need is established after an in-home visit by a local conference Vincentian team. All funds are paid directly to landlords.

Urgent Help Needed!!

Do you have a couple of hours a week to give to SVdP? Compassionate volunteers are needed to answer the help-line. Basic data entry skills required. To learn more, call Maritza at (650) 373-0620

450 Vincentians Celebrate at Annual Ozanam Awards



Burlingame's St. Catherine of Siena School received this year's "School Supporter Award" at the annual Ozanam Awards Brunch. Pictured above proudly displaying their St. Vincent de Paul plaque are current student leaders. St. Catherine's was honored for their outreach to the Homeless Help Centers.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of San Mateo County recently honored volunteers of extraordinary service at the annual Ozanam Awards. The morning began with a liturgy presided over by Rev. Bill Justice, the Vicar for Clergy for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, who recognized the importance of Vincentian volunteers who compassionately serve the poor in our community.

The Ozanam Service Medallion, the Society's highest honor, was awarded this year to Anne O'Brien of St. Timothy Conference, Joseph Washington of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Conference and immediate past District Council President Ed Watson of Our Lady of Angels Conference.

Anne became involved in SVdP after her family was assisted by Vincentians when her husband was disabled. She promised that when she could, she would join and help others. She has not only served at St. Timothy, but also helped to establish the San Mateo Homeless Help Center in 1990.

Joe Washington was first introduced to home visits through the OLMC Conference by Lou Rossi. Soon, he was making early morning food pick-ups and delivering goods

Letter from the President



Dear Vincentians,

On October 1, 2007 I began my term as President of the San Mateo District Council of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul. This is the second time that I will be serving as President. I served for six years prior to becoming President of the San Francisco Archdiocesan Council and served in that capacity for another six years. Now I am back in San Mateo.

I look forward to continuing the good work of the Society over the next three years and working with our excellent staff. I want to thank Ed Watson, the former President, who is now continuing on as the President of the San Francisco Archdiocesan Council, and all of the Board of Directors who served with Ed, many of who have gracefully consented to continue on the Board.

We will do our best to continue the good work and the positive direction of our Council. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we hope to be able to answer the challenges of today's complicated social issues. Working together, we have and will make a difference in our society.

I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, and I look forward to working with you over the next three years.

Sincerely,

Joe Marchetti, President

Annual Ozanam Awards - continued from page 1

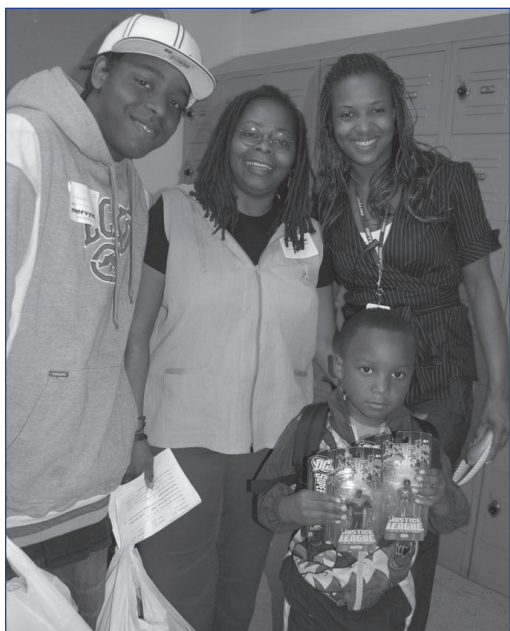
to St. Anthony's Dining Room and St. Francis Center. Joe also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and visits the Menlo Park Veterans Hospital with fellow Vincentians. "It is very emotional wheeling the veterans to the chapel. It makes you appreciate your blessing and good fortune."

After serving as President for the San Mateo District Council for the past six years, Ed Watson was recently elected President of the SVdP Archdiocesan Council of San Francisco. Ed's fondest Vincentian memory was working with the late Sr. Dianne Grassilli, RSM setting up the collaborative venture with the Sisters of Mercy that enabled SVdP's Catherine's Center to become a reality five years ago. Ed is pleased with the program's recent expansion from six to 11 beds, the increased support of donors, witnessing the women's lives changing as they grace us with their presence, and the ongoing support of Vincentians for this under served population. Helping those in need is a family affair for the Watsons, and the District Council is also grateful for the volunteer efforts of Ed's wife, Liz, who will again chair the Auxiliary's annual auction in April.

For a complete list of all generous volunteers honored at the Ozanam Awards Brunch, please go online to www.svdp-sanmateoco.org.



2007 Ozanam Honorees Joseph Washington, Anne O'Brien, and Ed Watson.



Vincentians Bring Joy With Annual Mervyn's "ChildSpree"

The Taylor brothers finish their back-to-school shopping with St. Francis Conference President Melody McLaughlin and Millbrae Mervyn's Store Manager Zita Wren-Hodges. 156 local children shopped, guided by their Vincentian chaperones, with \$100 gift certificates for back-to-school clothes and shoes.

Special thanks to Mervyn's Serramonte and Millbrae stores for hosting the early morning event and for their generous gift of new backpacks loaded with supplies for all the excited kids. Mervyn's has partnered with SVdP for this special activity for over 10 years.

Mervyn's was honored at the Ozanam Awards Brunch with the "Sister Rosalie Rendu, D.C. Supporter Award" for their corporate support of the needs of the less fortunate in our community.

When One Door Closes Another One Opens



Joan Lopiccolo and Pres. Margarita Lee prepare for the holidays.

With the closure of the school at Mater Dolorosa in South San Francisco, Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Conference President Margarita Lee saw an opportunity for expanding the Conference Pantry. Mater Dolorosa had been operating their pantry out of the rectory's garage. An empty classroom now meant dedicated space for a new pantry and meeting area. When Pastor Rev. Brian Castello asked Margarita if she thought the pantry would fit, she replied, "I will make it fit!"

Conference Members went to work installing new shelves purchased with fundraising dollars from Krispy Kreme donut sales and proceeds from the Conference's annual International Dinner. The new pantry evokes feelings of efficiency and abundance. No space is wasted as bags for food are neatly folded up to the ceiling.

Come here for one of their conference meetings, and you will see the shelves stocked with canned goods, pasta, beans, rice, and even hot sauce. Margarita's former students return, especially during the busy holiday season, to help the Mater Dolorosa Conference pack food bags and make home visits. She states, "Poor people's lives depend on us to help put their feet back down on the ground." Conference Member Joan Lopiccolo has seen Mater Dolorosa's membership grow due to Margarita's charisma and passion for the Society's mission of neighbor helping neighbor. Last year

this conference made 562 home visits in their South San Francisco area with only 28 conference members. Over 1,800 people were helped with food from donations and a partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank. Mater Dolorosa is just one of 34 conference groups serving San Mateo County. If you would like to get involved in the compassionate work of SVdP, please call (650) 373-0622.

A Bright Idea for Vincentian Visits

At September's District Council meeting, Corrine Carrol shared a bright idea. St. Andrew's Conference has started distributing energy saving CFL light bulbs when making their home visits. "We simply include a pack of the new light bulbs on top of the bags of food we deliver, with a note encouraging our neighbors to replace their existing bulbs with these energy saving ones," says Corrine.

Lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of the average home's electric bill and the new CFL's use up to 75 percent less energy than incandescent light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. If every home in America replaced just one bulb with a CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes!

If Vincentians distributed these energy saving bulbs on each home visit, over 20,000 bulbs could be replaced this year, not only saving money for our neighbors in need, but also helping to stop global warming...Vincentians, how about it?



St. Andrew's President Corrine Carrol

We Remember...

We remember those who have died and in whose memory the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has received donations between June 1, 2007 and October 31, 2007.

Richard Armstrong	Linda Fanara	Rose Leah Jones	Rose Perez	Miriam Sweetland
Carmen Barlie	Doris Ethel Fetisoff	Mary & John Karsant	Bridget Perotta	Norm Tabor
Angelina Bava	Dorothy Fletcher	Addie Keller	Laura Pickett	Edith Takaha
Patricia Beck	Lou Frank	Albert Landucci	Anna M. Pierazzi	Virginia Taylor
Edward Bizal	Alice Fukuhara	Emma Matteucci	Mary Lou Putnam	Joseph & Leonor Territo
Ethel & Frank Borrmann	Vincent Gallapaga	Margaret McCabe	Amanda Rivera	Mario Tonegato
Tom Brenneke	Florentino Gallardo	James McCracken	John Rivera	Loretta Treglia
Karen Callicotte	Bernice Gasser	John McIntyre	Albie Romeo	Joseph & Domenica
Barbara Ann Casey	Nice Ghiglieri	Marie McMullen	Juana Roque	Vassallo
Nancy Curtis	Ceal Glogowski	Beverly Mills	Ann Sampson	Priscilla Walker
Maureen Dan	Lorraine Godfrey	Wallace Mooney	Elizabeth Schultz	Joe Wall
Nicodemus Gomez-Dasig	Sister Diane Grassilli	Lucille Moore	Margaret Shypertt	Bill Walsh
Bernard F. DeCoster	Richard F. Gustafson	Paul Moriarty	Aldo Simi	Joseph White
Andrew Dei Rossi	Janice Hammes	Anita Muzio	Christopher Simi	Matthew Williams
Barabara Del Dotto	Jan Hannigan	Charlotte Ohlsen	Richard Spillane	Inez Workman
Ed Fabian	Josephine Heckert	Jolynn Paul	Lois Stanghellini	Clem Zarcone
Harry Farrell	Greta Hurtubise	Charles & Mary Pelletier	Tosca Strambi	Jules & Virginia Zimmerlin



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A little goes a long way here

Each day the Society of St. Vincent de Paul renews the lives of thousands of men, women and children throughout San Mateo County. We place the homeless into shelters or housing. We prevent utilities from being shut-off. We help people break free from addiction or rebuild their lives after prison. We offer a fresh change of clothes for a crucial job interview. Sometimes we just provide a clean bed or a hot meal that allows a person to get through the day. Your gift helps more than you know.

- \$25 provides a bag of groceries for a family struggling to make ends meet.
- \$50 provides a hot meal for 30 homeless men and women.
- \$75 provides a night in a motel for a homeless person or family
- \$100 pays a car repair to keep a bread-winner working.
- \$250 helps a struggling family to pay rent and stay housed for the holidays.

Please remember those who live without the simple things many of us take for granted.
In this season of gratitude, we are thankful for your help.



An Evening of Music at Kohl Mansion

benefitting SVdP's Catherine's Center

Sunday, January 27th, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Start the new year with an entertaining evening of music! The 4th annual SVdP's Catherine's Center benefit will honor three special San Mateo County people: Elizabeth Gheleta, who served for 28 years as the Executive Director of the Service League, former San Mateo County Sheriff, Don Horsley, and John Keast, the founder of the Inmate Correctional Education Project.

Entertainment will be provided by "Musae" a renowned San Francisco women's vocal ensemble. The event will start with a champagne reception and, as is our tradition, conclude with toasty Irish coffee and dessert. For ticket information, please contact Erica Reh at (650) 373-0637.

Pictured planning "An Evening of Music at Kohl" are SVdP's Catherine's Center co-founder, Sister Marguerite Buchanan (left) and Ambassadors Lydia Manernow, Antoinette Galindo, and Carole Parfett with event co-chair Diane Fahrner.