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*Holiday
Wish List
for New Items*



- White T-shirts for men
- Razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes
- White sox & underwear
- Travel size shampoo, lotion
- Back Packs
- Sleeping Bags
- Diapers
- Baby wipes, powder, lotion
- Laundry detergent
- Gift cards for shoes

*If you would like a collection barrel
for your school or office:
Please call 650 373-0622.
Thank you!*



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Particular Council of San Mateo County
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Vincentian Spirit

Fall 2010

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Home Sweet Home for Dave & Diane



SVdP Food Pantries a Lifeline in Emergencies

Janice had worked steadily for many years, but when she became disabled, her ability to hold a job was no more. Today, SVdP's St. Francis Conference pantry is a lifeline for Janice, her four teens and 6-six year old son. St. Francis president, Melody McLaughlin, recently visited the East Palo Alto family. "The youngest met me at the door to help bring in 2 large food containers. I had never seen a child so excited to see a box of cereal!"

"Our visits are not just about the food. It is an opportunity to give Janice a hug and let her know she is doing her best for her children. Sometimes people just need our encouragement," says Melody.

This is only one of the 30 food calls the members of the St. Francis Conference make every week. "Families in our community are hungry," explained Melody. "With so many people out of work or with little income, they are facing desperate situations." Over 250 holiday meals will be delivered by SVdP this Thanksgiving in East Palo Alto.

Assisting through the 32 parish based Conferences is one of the most fundamental direct services provided by our grassroots network of neighborhood helpers. 12,000 home visits are made every year in San Mateo County delivering \$1.5 million of donated food. In addition SVdP purchases \$375,000 of fresh food and diapers to distribute or give in the form of food vouchers so that families can shop at local supermarkets.

Please help us this holiday season by donating to our Thanksgiving Drive in the enclosed envelope.

October 8th was a very special day for Dave and Diane. They celebrated their 8th anniversary together in their new home after many years of being homeless. They were very fortunate to receive Section 8 housing after a two year wait on an availability list. In their bright, sunlit one-bedroom apartment they shared with Lisa Collins, Director of SVdP's South San Francisco Homeless Help Center, how grateful they are to SVdP for helping them achieve their dream of having a place to live.

Both Dave and Diane worked for many years, he in construction and she in retail. Unfortunately, after a job related accident, Dave could not work for some time. As for Diane, a violent attack while on vacation on the East Coast left her unable to speak clearly and affected her ability to find work since. They managed to make ends meet, getting motel rooms and apartments when they could. However, in 2007, no longer able to afford to stay housed, they had to face the tough decision to put all of their belongings in storage and move into their van.

Dave and Diane would spend many days visiting Café St. Vincent for food, clothes, shoes, gas, shower vouchers, and whatever else was needed to get by. Their nights were spent parked in an area in OysterPoint. Life was a daily struggle.

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Eyes and Hearts Opened for Hillsdale Students



Recently, a group of students from San Mateo's Hillsdale High School, visited SVdP's San Mateo Homeless Help Center experiencing how complex and intertwined are the issues of poverty, employment, housing, and mental health. Teacher Laura Burtress noted the staff "opened a lot of eyes and hearts".

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Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

I want you all to know that I am very excited to have the chance to work with the District Council, the Conferences, and a new Board to fulfill our Vincentian goals. I know that following the capable and dedicated leadership of Joe Marchetti will be a difficult task, but one that I look forward to. Joe and his Board, many who will continue, should be thanked for their tireless efforts in fulfilling our goals during these trying social and economic times.

During my presidency, I hope to be part of the voice of the poor and needy in our county and to build a Board that can work closely with the District Council and the Conferences in fulfilling their missions. We are all Vincentians for various reasons, but we all share the desire to help those who need our help and care. Together, we are a powerful force in the lives of so many of God's children.

Throughout the first few months in office, I plan to visit as many of the Conferences as I can so I can meet as many of the Vincentians as possible. But more importantly, I want to learn the priorities of each Conference. One of my personal goals during my tenure in office will be to recruit younger Vincentians at all levels and into all groups. This I feel is very important for the long-term success of our organization. I hope you all can share this as one of your goals.

Again, I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Thank you all for everything you do for our Society.

God bless,
Larry Nejasnich

P.S. Save the date for the upcoming SVdP's Catherine's Center annual Kohl Event. This year District Attorney Jim Fox will be honored on January 30, 2011.

Sobrato Family Foundation Awards SVdP Matching Grant



Diane Parnes (left), Executive Director of the Sobrato Foundation, presented Lorraine Moriarty, Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with a check for \$110,000 to support the outreach of SVdP in San Mateo County. "This check and the matching grant could not have come at a better time," noted Ms. Moriarty, "as donations for the year have been down and the requests for help in our community continue to grow."

With every new or increased donation to SVdP, the Sobrato Foundation will match those gifts and SVdP will receive up to \$110,000 again next year. The 2:1 Challenge Grant is the opportunity to double your donation to further our efforts to help so many neighbors in need.



Dave & Diane

Continued from page 1

Then, in July 2008, Lisa approached them to apply for San Mateo County's Section 8 housing lottery. After entering their information online, they were delighted to receive a letter informing them that they had a spot in the list! In July 2010, almost two years in their van, many meetings, and much paperwork later, they were blessed to receive their Section 8 housing voucher. They moved into their new apartment in August 2010, and have not looked back since!

It has been a long, hard road for Dave and Diane to get from living in their van to their new, lovingly-decorated apartment. They proudly display the wooden dresser they recently purchased from St. Vincent de Paul's thrift store. Their cat, MnM (named from the initials of both their fathers who passed away within weeks of each other last year), sleeps on the Bible in their bedroom. They attribute some of their blessings to the after-life intervention by their fathers.

Dave and Diane are very grateful to SVdP, for without them this would not have been possible. They are also grateful to North Peninsula Resource Center, the San Mateo County Housing staff, and their landlady for all the kindness and help they have been given. But above all, they are grateful to God.



2010 Ozanam Awards Celebration



On September 25th over 450 Vincentians gathered to salute this year's Ozanam Award honorees and recognize the service, contributions, and dedication of Vincentian volunteers. During his homily, Most Rev. William Justice, Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco, noted, "We are challenged as people to be mercy, to give order out of chaos, and to share Jesus' love. We do this through the Conferences, the food programs, and the emergency aid. But we bring in ourselves, the Lord Jesus."

Pictured far left: Ozanam honorees: Marty Duda, with Bishop Justice, honoree Tony Rouse, with SVdP President Larry Nejasnich, and honoree Charley McLaughlin. 2ND row: Martha Campos, Tanya Roberts and Dolores Rodriguez congratulate Ozanam honoree Maureen O'Connor (2nd right). OLA School "Wee Care" honorees. For a complete list of awards and more pictures, visit svdp-sanmateoco.org.

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, 2010 and October 1, 2010.

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Bea Adam | Andy Dei Rossi | Blake Interdonato | Richard Merry | Robert Romanovsky |
| Pacita Africa | Mario Delgadillo | Patricia Johnson | Charlie Meyers | Moma Rosas |
| Edward Balestiero | Hon. Joseph Desmond | Harold Kennedy | Mario Montellato | Francis Rouse |
| Aileen Barry Hart | Leo Dicesare | Joan Leahy Burns | Paul Moriarty | Aldo Simi |
| Jack Basler | Edith Duda | Scott & Beverly Linn | Lawrence Nannini | Tom Sims |
| Anne Bayne | Gioconda Fatica | Josie Lima | Ada Nobles | Jane Sorenson |
| Patricia Beck | Rose Ellen Forbes | Roger Mainere | Evangeline O'Connor | Ann Spineharvey |
| Mary L. Ben | George Gaitan | Laura Malespine | Vange O'Connor | Tosca Strambi |
| Catherine & John Bigot | Eda Tognozzi Giusti | Barbara Mape | Richard Parodi | Joseph & Leonor Territo |
| Michael Billiris | Lorraine & Red Godfrey | Enrico Marchesin | Edward Parr | Mary Pelle Tier |
| Bob Borrmann | James Grady | Enrico Maresin | Pilar Parraga | Anthony Torres |
| Dora Bruno | Louis Grech | Anthony Marra | George Pijma | John Joseph Torres |
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