



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Particular Council of San Mateo County
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San Mateo, CA 94401
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Save the Date!

January 29, 2012

SVdP's Catherine's Center
Annual Kohl Event
to honor
Sr. Marguerite Buchanan



Vincentian Spirit

Fall 2011

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

East Palo Alto Food Pantry Wish List

Bread
Fresh Fruit
Canned Tuna
Soups
Cake Mix
Hot Cocoa/Tea
Healthy Kid's Snacks

Call 650-322-1231 for
drop off/pick up information

49ers Head Coach Supports SVdP



49ers Head Coach Jim Harbaugh, pictured with Paul and Nalia Hewko

Voice of Volunteers

What one of our volunteers had to say about us...

"Most people see SVdP as a charity-driven thrift store, but every Saturday, they also run a homeless center in South San Francisco that accepts volunteer help.

I was really inspired by a portrait of St. Vincent de Paul himself up above the area where we were serving the food. Under the portrait were the words "J'ai peine de votre peine." (I suffer when you suffer). It is a humbling experience—here I was serving food for one day to people, when a man like this gave his entire life towards serving the poor. This has really given me the opportunity to reflect on how much I can really do towards serving and helping others. One thing I can certainly say is that I can do a great deal more than go and serve lunch to homeless people on a weekend for a few hours.

I want to thank the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for not only allowing me to help them to serve others, but also for the wake-up call."

SVdP has volunteer opportunities at all three of our Homeless Help Centers, Monday through Friday (and Saturday in SSF). For more information, please call (650)373-0623 to volunteer.

Follow SVdP of San Mateo County on Facebook and Twitter!



"It's great to be a part of this kickoff," said Jim Harbaugh, San Francisco 49ers Head Coach, to the large gathering in attendance at SVdP's San Bruno Store Grand Opening. He expressed great appreciation for everyone there that evening who came to support not only his new tenure with the San Francisco 49ers, but the greater cause of SVdP.

At the front of the store, Vincentian volunteers offered refreshments and SVdP T-shirts for sale, and others offered information on our programs. Before Jim's arrival, attendees spent most of the time exploring the clothes, furniture, and household items at the newest store, many of them making purchases.

John Denniston, SVdP's Stores Committee Chair and long-time friend of Jim Harbaugh, introduced the coach to the excited and eager crowd. "Jim has had a long history of community service, ranging from support of children's issues to hospitals," he said. "He's a very busy man, but he dropped everything to be here tonight."

"I wish you all great success and the best of luck with this endeavor," Jim said. "By being here to show your support to this new store and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, I really hope that we can keep the ball rolling in the right direction for the needy in San Mateo County."

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2011 Friends of the Poor Walk



Over 150 people turned out for SVdP's Friends of the Poor walk on Saturday, September 25 at Lake Merced in San Francisco. Members from SVdP San Mateo participated, as well as students from Mercy High School in San Francisco, who walked in support of women from SVdP's Catherine's Center, our transitional home for women recently released from incarceration.

SHOP • DONATE

25% OFF
Your Purchase*

Come visit one of our 5 stores:

- 6256 Mission Street • Daly City
- 344 Grand Avenue • So. San Francisco
- 1600 El Camino Real • San Bruno
- 40 North B Street • San Mateo
- 2406 El Camino Real • Redwood City



*Up to 3 items and excludes furniture.
Valid at any SVdP Store in San Mateo County.
Only 1 coupon per customer.
Expires 11/30/11

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

This fall marks the start of my second year as president of the Society of St. Vincent Paul San Mateo District Council. Over the past year, I visited over 30 of our Conferences and was overwhelmed by the spirit, dedication and commitment that Vincentians and volunteers possess and make tangible through the work they do daily.

The visits furthered my confidence that our mission was being met throughout San Mateo County as Vincentians served those in need with dignity, compassion and love—all the while providing food, shelter, clothing and basic necessities. This year, I also saw the District Council once again show faith in our donors and supporters by allowing the Board to utilize our financial reserves to ensure that we could expand our services while the economy continued to slumber. Throughout the year, the Board of Directors showed me great leadership, initiative, and creativity. They worked tirelessly—leading committees of volunteers and staff in monitoring our programs with an eye on improving and making life better for those we serve. Finally, I was impressed by the professionalism, loyalty, and tireless efforts of our staff.

While leading this team of Vincentians, supporters, volunteers, and staff, I have concluded that we are only as strong as our weakest link and that only in our commitment to each other and our mission can we continue to succeed. As I start the second year of my term, I pray that we continue to communicate and work together and that we are blessed with whatever we need to accomplish our goals. Thank you Vincentians, supporters, volunteers, and staff for all that you do.

God bless,
Larry Nejasnich

Deborah Payne Leads Voice of the Poor



Voice of the Poor Members (left to right): Maureen O'Connor, Martha Campos, Dolores Rodriguez, Deborah Payne, Tanya Roberts & Barbara Keefer.

As a standing committee of the District Council, SVdP's Voice of the Poor Committee (VoP) addresses needs of the poor and advocates for solutions. Part of this is speaking for families and individuals in our community who do not speak for themselves - the working poor, the homeless, the incarcerated and all people living on the margins. As national and local VoP Committee Chair, Deborah Payne truly lives and works according to this ministry.

A member of Our Lady of Angels Conference, Burlingame, Deborah has been an active Vincentian for nearly 30 years, 25+ as a Board member. She has also chaired

the National Council's VoP Committee since its inception. VoP San Mateo's latest endeavor is examining the effects of pay day loans on those needing to use them in the Daly City area. Daly City Conferences are working with a sub-grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation on this project to survey and educate those impacted by pay day loans.



Store Opening

Continued from page 1

Five SVdP thrift stores are located in Daly City, South San Francisco, San Bruno, San Mateo and Redwood City. Proceeds from shopping at SVdP stores go to support those in need throughout San Mateo County. Store vouchers are given through SVdP's Peninsula Family Resource Center's home visits and at SVdP's three Homeless Help Centers to help people shop at the thrift stores for clothes, furniture, and basic household items at no cost.

As economic uncertainty continues, our stores' presence within San Mateo County will need to remain strong. "In tough times, those who are down on their luck are looking for bargains for the goods they need," said John Denniston, who also serves as a member of SVdP's Board of Directors. "Traffic coming through our stores is up significantly, as are the sales."

With the increased demand for low-cost goods comes the need for SVdP stores to supply more merchandise, which has been a challenge lately as more people are holding onto their possessions longer than they would in better times, he said. There's a great need among the working poor for SVdP stores, and the Society is working hard to meet them.

Denniston is confident in our stores' continued success, and he gives much of the credit to volunteers and store employees. "They live and breathe the SVdP mission," he said. "The volunteers and paid employees work together seamlessly, and it's proven to be a powerful asset."

2011 Ozanam Awards Celebration



On October 1st over 400 Vincentians gathered to salute this year's Ozanam Award honorees and recognize the service, contributions, and dedication of Vincentian volunteers. During his introductory speech, Board President Larry Nejasnich expressed gratitude and appreciation for all volunteers and supporters. "Going to every Conference this year, I was humbled at what I walked away with—everyone is so dedicated, committed, and work so well together. Everyone does their part."

Pictured clockwise from top left: Bob and Judy Carlson (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference) receiving the Ozanam Service Medallion, with SVdP President Larry Nejasnich. Olaus Kyrie (Holy Angels) receiving his award. Members of the St. Francis of Assisi Conference celebrating with Melody McLaughlin (left) on her Ozanam Service Medallion.

Ozanam Honoree, Merle Rensch (St. Timothy) pictured with Pastor Rev. Francis Garbo and Ana Lucas. Youth Award winner Jackson Barnes with parents, Youth Coordinator Lisa Collins and Conference President Carolyn Ghiorso. President Larry Nejasnich congratulates Pacifica's Good Shepherd students for receiving the School Award.

Visit www.svdP-sanmateo.org for more pictures and all honorees.

Special thanks to Ozanam Supporters:
First National Bank of No. California
Woodmont Real Estate Services
BiRite Foodservice
Recology Peninsula Services

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, 2011 and October 1, 2011.

Philip Abinante
Mary Affrunti
David Aguirre
Scott Allen
Irene Ayling
Alma Bagnani
Barbara Bamberg
Mary Barbieri
Joan Baron
John Bataille
Patricia Beck
Myrtle Belli
Thomas Browne
Niccolina Bruzzoni
Angelo Carmassi
Genie Carter
Lorenzo Casetta
Walter Cavagnaro
Aldo Cinquini

Lardelah Cothran Anderson
Andy Dei Rossi
Mario Delgadillo
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Brian Finerty
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Lindsay Fletcher
Robert Galiata
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Giuliano Giuntini
Leo Glatt
Dennis Gleavy
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Cecile Hamilton
Mary Elizabeth Helseth
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Phyllis Howell
Kathleen Hughes
Frank Hunt
Ruth Kane
Dennis Kealey
Patrick Kerrigan
Eto Landucci
Rose Larsen
Lorraine Lautze
John Liberti
Nello Lovi
John Mays
Jack McCourt
Joseph McNamee
Gloria Menconi
Josephine Mercurio
Clyde Mitchell
Wallace Mooney
Paul Moriarty

Stanley Muniz
Cornelius P. Murphy
William Murphy
Lorraine Navarra
Mr. & Mrs. John O'Connor
Agnes Rose O'Donnell-Fernandez
Duane Passalacqua
James Power
Bob Quinn
Maria Raccanello
Frank Ramaciotti
Bertenia Robinson
Donna & John Robinson
Norm Rogers
Carmel Romanski
Grace Romano
Jerald Ted Ryan
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Mario Tognoli
Myrna Tsushima
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William Wanat
Joseph Welch Jr.
Erin West
Pat Westlund
Fran Zadek

