

THE
SOCIETY
OF

ST.
VINCENT
DE PAUL



FEED. CLOTHE.
HOUSE. HEAL.

4
Holiday Food
Drives

7
Head Chef Receives
Help, Gives Back

12
Restoring Hope
Breakfast

18
Society of a
Thousand Thanks

VINCENTIAN

CONNECTION

December 2015 Volume 51, Number 3 Newsletter of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Diocesan Council stvincentdepaul.net



ANDREA BOCELLI

sings at our downtown dining room

Story on page 3



The Society of Planting Seeds for the Future

All of us who work together to help those in need, whether through service or financial resources, often wonder if our assistance has made a change in the status of poverty in central and northern Arizona. Do our efforts ever change the lives of the poor?

Whether we are members, volunteers or corporate sponsors, we all want to know if we are making a difference. We can count the numbers of meals we provide or how much was spent on rent or utilities, but it is much more difficult to count the number of people who have transitioned out of poverty.

The resources we spend today may not show us immediate benefits, but they will show success in the future. We've now implemented a "Systemic Change" program at St Vincent de Paul, which we call a pathway out of poverty. Can we count those lives that we will change or is that change still in the future? Either way, we should never be discouraged. We must continue our efforts to make a difference and take solace from

Excerpts from Archbishop Oscar Romero's "Prophets of a Future not our Own"

We plant seeds that one day will grow. We cannot do everything.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. An opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.
We lay foundations that will need further development. And there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something. And do it very well.
We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are prophets of a future not our own. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way.

the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who lived in San Salvador and who, like all of us, wished to make a difference. He was a champion of the rights of the poor, and was ruthlessly killed during Mass on March 24, 1980.

Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated trying to make a difference in the lives of the poor. In his own words, he would be one to plant the seeds, but not live to see his seeds grow to maturity. Most of us will never be asked to make the ultimate sacrifice. But we are asked to have faith, in that what we do today, will someday make a difference in the future. The battle against poverty is not easy. Sometimes we are disappointed that we may not live to see the results of the seeds that we have planted. Rest assured that the seeds planted today will eventually grow to maturity, as "we are prophets of a future not our own."

Frank M. Barrios, President
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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international non-profit organization dedicated to serving the poor and providing others with the opportunity to serve. The Phoenix Diocesan Council has been assisting central and northern Arizona families since 1946. Programs include services for the homeless, medical and dental care for the working poor, charity dining rooms, thrift stores, a transitional housing shelter and general assistance for individuals in need through 85 parish conferences of charity.

If you have a change of address, please call (602) 261-6921.

stvincentdepaul.net

ANDREA BOCELLI sings at Henry Unger Dining Room

On Thursday, Dec. 3, we were honored and blessed to host international opera singer and humanitarian Andrea Bocelli, his wife Veronica and daughter, Virginia, at our downtown Phoenix Henry Unger Dining Room at the Human Services Campus. Mr. Bocelli helped to dedicate the new St. Vincent de Paul basketball court donated by Celebrity Fight Night Foundation. He surprised the crowd by singing a beautiful acapella version of Ave Maria during the ceremony.

We want to give a very special thanks to founder and chairman of Celebrity Fight Night, Jimmy Walker, Executive Director Sean Currie, and Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, for helping to coordinate and participate in this special event.



3



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1. From left: Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, opera singer Andrea Bocelli, Celebrity Fight Night Executive Director Sean Currie, and Celebrity Fight Night founder Jimmy Walker.
2. From left: Joan Goldfarb, Susan French, SVdP executive director Steve Zabalski, and Nancy Walker.
3. International opera singer and humanitarian Andrea Bocelli and Jimmy Walker, chairman and founder of Celebrity Fight Night at St. Vincent de Paul's Henry Unger Dining Room.

4. From left: Veronica Bocelli, daughter Virginia Bocelli, Andrea Bocelli, Mayor Greg Stanton and SVdP executive director Steve Zabalski, cut the ribbon to inaugurate the new basketball court.
5. International opera singer and humanitarian Andrea Bocelli at SVdP Henry Unger Dining Room.
6. Henry Unger Dining Room guests play basketball in the new court with Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVES



Million Can Crusade

KNIX Radio Morning Show Stars Ben and Matt just concluded the 8th Annual "Million Can Crusade." The Million Can Crusade has grown to be the standard-bearer of St. Vincent de Paul food drive events, thanks to loyal listeners of this nationally honored team at KNIX. We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to KNIX, Safeway and Albertsons for their incredible support in helping to feed those in need during the holidays.

From left: Svdp staff: Chef Chris Hoffman, Jamie Bethune, and Lee Henry; KNIX 102.5 staff: Ben Campbell, Matt McAllister, Robyn Moore and Barrel Boy.



Arizona Balloon Classic

Thousands of fans of the Arizona Balloon Classic, Arizona's largest hot-air balloon event, will help St. Vincent de Paul through proceeds from this special event, including a drive to collect peanut butter and gently-used shoes. This exciting event happens December 18 through 20 at the Fear Farm complex, on 99th Avenue North of McDowell and includes evening balloon glows, morning races, contests and more! Five dollar discount coupons are available at all Dunkin' Donuts locations on the Valley's west side. For more information, visit abcfest.com.



DONATE TURKEYS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

12 NEWS TURKEY TUESDAY

CARIBE & COOP VS VANESSA & MARK

Bashas' FOOD CITY

BENEFITS THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Turkey Tuesday

This year for Turkey Tuesday, 12 News' Bruce Cooper and Caribe Devine went head-to-head in a friendly competition with Mark Curtis and Vanessa Ruiz to see who could collect the most turkeys in the nation's largest one-day turkey drive. At the end of the day, the real winners were the hundreds of families who received the turkeys and were able to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner thanks to the tremendous generosity of our partners and community members.

Thank you to 12 News, Bashas', Food City, KLOVE and Air1 for making all of it possible!



Walmart-FOX Sports Radio Food and Turkey Drive

There's still time to donate to the food and turkey drive hosted by FOX Sports Radio and Walmart. Show your support by dropping off nonperishable food and turkey donations at any Walmart in central and northern Arizona through the end of December!

From left: FOX Sports Radio hosts Jody Oehler, Mike "MJ" Jurecki and Mike Bauer.



FOX 10 with Safeway and Albertsons

Safeway and Albertsons stores will continue their great support of St. Vincent de Paul efforts with our first-ever state-wide food drive, thanks to the wonderful support of FOX 10. The drive began December 1 and is generating record pounds of food donations for our famed "Love in a Box" home food deliveries through our food pantries. We salute FOX 10 in Phoenix for this effort that will help change the face of hunger in Arizona, and give special thanks to Albertsons and Safeway for their pioneering partnership.





Photo credits (clockwise from above): 1. Jayson Khademi and a volunteer plant in the raised beds. 2. Food truck owners grow fresh produce in rented raised garden beds. 3. (From left) Resident Gardener Tony Kasowski, Saffron Jak owner, Jayson Khademi, Urban Farm Director David Smith, and Emerson Fry Bread owner, Lorenzo Emerson.



FOOD TRUCK GARDEN LAUNCHES AT URBAN FARM

Despite high summer temps, Jayson Khademi, co-owner of Saffron Jak, a local Phoenix food truck, spent many mornings volunteering in St. Vincent de Paul's Urban Farm. It was during this time, he and SVdP resident gardener, Tony Kasowski, hatched a plan to create a new partnership that will allow local food trucks to feed their clients and the homeless with produce grown in our farm.

The partnership will allow each food truck owner to grow fresh produce in a raised garden bed. By working with our staff, they receive seasonal growing tips and education about locally sourced produce. In addition to a monthly rent to cover the cost of supplies, each food truck will donate meals to help us feed those who are homeless.

"I thought this would be a great way to connect with the community. Because that's what St. Vincent de Paul is all about – feeding those in need and connecting with the community. So what better way than to have six or seven food trucks that are out there every day, to talk about where our produce comes from," says Jayson.

As this pilot program kicks off, we are currently partnered with five food trucks – Saffron Jak, Emerson Fry Bread, Luncha Libre, Frites Street and Rock A Belly.

Lorenzo Emerson, owner of Emerson Fry Bread, is renting two raised beds. For Lorenzo, this partnership is about connecting his work with his family and his community. "I want to be more self-sustained. I want to be able to feed my family and my community with our food trucks. You always have to give back."

SVdP's Urban Farm grows and harvests hundreds of pounds of fresh produce every week. These fruits and vegetables are then used in our kitchens and added to food boxes to feed families in need.

If you're interested in joining us in our work, the farm is always looking for volunteers and donations, whether service or material.

Visit Urban Farm on our website stvincentdepaul.net to learn more, or sign up to volunteer!



BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD SERVICE DAY AT SVDP



On Oct. 17, Blue Cross Blue Shield, a long-time St. Vincent de Paul partner, brought nearly 100 volunteers, including staff and family members, to our main campus for a day of service.

The volunteers served in our Urban Farm, did meal preparation in our kitchen and prepared sack lunches for our homeless guests. This special partnership recognizes and promotes Blue Cross Blue Shield's Nourishing Arizona initiative, which aims to help people understand the importance of good food and how to make healthy eating decisions.



Head Chef Chris Hoffman teaches a healthy cooking class at SVdP.

HEAD CHEF GIVES BACK AFTER RECEIVING HELP

This story could start with a Craigslist job ad being answered in early June. But really, it began years before that. Chris Hoffman, St. Vincent de Paul's head chef, is not here by accident. SVdP helped Chris and his family 12 years ago, and when he saw the ad for a head chef pop up on Craigslist, he knew it was where he needed to be.

Born and raised in New York, Chris started his love affair with food at an early age.

"While I was in high school, my mom was always working, so I cooked a lot at home. I wasn't a gourmet cook or anything, but I had an uncle I was very close to who was a Catholic priest and a big foodie. Whenever I stayed with him, he was always cooking good food, and it got me interested," Chris said.

After graduating from culinary school, Chris began working in several different restaurants. His most exciting gig came in 1999. He applied to be a chef at the Ritz Carlton in Jamaica. He got hired, moved to Jamaica and met his wife. After three years, they decided to move to Arizona.

Unfortunately, the job market in Phoenix was not so great in 2002 and Chris's daughter was born at the same time. "We were a young family, and we were struggling. A lot of places wouldn't hire me because they said I was overqualified. I just couldn't find a job. I was applying everywhere."

That's when Chris decided to call St. Vincent de Paul. Corpus Christi, the food pantry closest to him, helped him with rent, food boxes and signed his family up for the holiday Adopt-A-Family Program. "The help from St. Vincent de Paul was huge. I will never forget it."

After being out of work for six months, he landed a job at The Phoenician, a prestigious resort in Phoenix. He worked there for ten years. After The Phoenician, he did a two-year stint as sous chef at Lone Butte Casino until June of this year. That's when he came across the Craigslist ad for SVdP's head chef position.

"The biggest thought I had was giving back. The position was also intriguing, but giving back and being a part of what St. Vincent de Paul does in feeding people, really interested me."

On his first day, Chris walked over to Sister Carmel, one of the staff members who had helped him previously. He let her know he was working here now and thanked her for what she did to help him during his time of need.

Today, if you were to follow Chris around the kitchen, you'd have to work hard to keep up. As head chef, Chris is responsible for sorting through food donations, planning menus and running a kitchen that serves 4,500 meals a day. This meal count includes SVdP's valley-wide dining rooms.

Despite his tremendous workload, if you asked Chris, it's still not nearly as stressful as other chef positions he's held.

"I come in here every day, and I love my job. At other places, there's a lot of pressure to be perfect. It's so different here. The goal here isn't to be perfect, it's to be kind. Everyone is so grateful, warm and welcoming." Chris wants to start bringing his daughter and nieces and nephews in to volunteer in the family dining room, so they can see that life isn't perfect for everyone.

"Lots of people are struggling, even people you wouldn't think. You have to be grateful for everything you have. That's the main thing – be grateful and give back when you can."



Celebrating Volunteers

We held our final Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon this year in September as a way to give thanks and recognize the hard work of volunteers who have gone above and beyond to serve their neighbors in need. We presented our Andy Andreano Lifetime Achievement Award to Ron Kudulis for his faithful work in our food bank department.



St. Vincent de Paul volunteer Andy Andreano (right) namesake of the Andy Andreano Lifetime Achievement Award, presented the award to Ron Kudulis.

Ron has been volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul for 14 years. He has faithfully served in one of our valley dining rooms, his parish's food pantry and our food reclamation warehouse. According to Mary Thomas, SVdP Food Reclamation Manager, Ron is very humble and reliable. Mary knows she can always call Ron and he will round up a group of his fellow parishioners to come in and get the job done.

"He's a very hard worker and so is his group. And he knows what he's doing since he's been here for 14 years! He deserves this recognition," she says.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Teen's Life Transformed in Unexpected Way

As Esteban Chavez, Jr., walks through the main campus of St. Vincent de Paul, he is greeted by nearly everyone who passes by. He stops to chat with a few people, including staff, asking how their day is going.



It's clear he is comfortable and well known at SVdP, but if you had asked him a year ago if he thought this would be the case, he would have a very different answer for you.

In April of 2014, Esteban was charged in a criminal incident, which resulted in his spending two nights in jail and ongoing legal proceedings. When asked about that time in his life, Esteban thinks back and says, "I was a different person back then. I was materialistic and cared about what people thought of me."

Spending two nights in jail and facing the possibility of more jail time got Esteban thinking. "I felt like I just threw my whole life away. One second changed everything." But his biggest change was yet to come.

After the incident, Esteban began a long road of legal proceedings and currently wears a mandatory ankle bracelet until his final court judgment. At first he was only allowed to be at home or school. But his mother suggested he use his free time to volunteer at SVdP.

Over the summer, Esteban committed himself to learning the ins and outs of several programs.

Proving to be a tremendous asset and help to each department, Esteban was quickly sought after because of his time commitment and willingness to learn every aspect of the job. He volunteered in the Dream Center, served food in the dining room, handled family intakes, translated in the 'barbershop', worked in the food reclamation warehouse, volunteered for Hearts and Hands events and even took on security detail in the dining room.

Norma Carrillo, Esteban's volunteer service coordinator, noticed his dedication right away. "Esteban has become an exemplary volunteer. There is not enough of him to go around. He is in high demand!"

And still even after several months of volunteering, Esteban's biggest eye-opening experience was still ahead.

"After going through all the departments, I felt like something had changed inside me, but not completely. I still didn't feel grateful enough. But then I walked into Special Ministries. The first day I walked in, I wanted to cry."

On that first day, Esteban looked around and saw what homelessness really looked like. Housed on our main campus, Special Ministries welcomes homeless guests and provides them with showers, clothing, shoes, counseling, and referral services. It was here that Esteban saw how much need there is for the homeless population in Phoenix, and he realized that he was still ungrateful for everything he had. But he also noticed something else.

"I realized that having a lot of material things in life isn't everything. You don't need a lot of nice things in order to be happy."

The guests he helped had smiles on their faces. They were grateful for every item they were given.

"I realized that having a lot of material things in life isn't everything. You don't need a lot of nice things in order to be happy."

After volunteering in Special Ministries for three months, his entire outlook on life changed. He became more humble and more caring. He saw how little some people have and knew that despite his circumstances, he should always be grateful.

continued on page 10

Our Honorees



Neil Patel from Toyota/Lexus Financial Services was the keynote speaker of the event.



Volunteer Services Coordinator Norma Carrillo presented an award to Esteban Chavez, Jr., who has put in 1,400 hours of service in just one year.



Director of Retail Operations Ed Dubiel presented an award to David Hicks for his dedicated service to our Shifting Gears Bicycle program.



Clinic Director Janice Ertl presented an award to Ellen O'Connor and Helen Rinne for winning the Wound Team award for their service in our medical clinic.



Director of Retail Operations Ed Dubiel and Katie Strand. Katie was recognized for her volunteer work in our thrift stores where she sifts through donated jewelry to help store managers easily receive and display the jewelry in stores.



Food Services Manager Jerry Castro and Family Dining Room award winner, Jim Chase. Jim faithfully serves in our dining room every Monday night and at any other events where extra help is needed.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

And this new attitude spilled into every aspect of Esteban's life. After returning to school for his senior year, several students criticized the school's decision to let him return after the accident. Esteban admits that in the past these comments would have made him angry and defensive.

But after spending so much time with those in need, he realized he didn't need to impress anyone anymore. He realized there were more important things in life to worry about and so much he could be doing to help others.

Throughout his time here, Esteban has grown close to SVdP Executive Director Steve Zabilski. Steve always encourages him and gives him advice.

"Esteban is wise and mature far beyond his years, and has a gracefulness and gentleness that is frankly uncommon for people of any age, much less a young person," says Steve. "We're a better organization as a result of him being a part of St. Vincent de Paul."

In fact, Steve has offered Esteban a job at SVdP on multiple occasions, but each time Esteban has refused.

"I don't want to make any huge commitments right now, because I'm still going through legal proceedings, but more than that, I'm here to help people. I'm here because I want to be here. It's not about the money for me."

And it shows. In the year that Esteban has been at SVdP, he has put in 1,400 volunteer hours and was recognized for his work during a recent Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. While he waits for his final court judgment, Esteban continues to volunteer, studies fire sciences at Phoenix College to become a firefighter, and would also like to become a Vincentian at a local SVdP food pantry.

"Coming here changed me. It changed my life. I don't know what's going to happen in the future, so I will leave it all up to God and remember to always be grateful in the meantime."



Esteban and his parents, with Executive Director Steve Zabilski at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.



Kitchen Takeover Returns to *Next Phase* Family Dining Room with

WILDFLOWER BREAD COMPANY

Families in our *Next Phase* Family Dining Room were surprised by another special evening Wednesday, Oct. 14, as local-restaurant chain Wildflower Bread Company transformed our evening meal into a fine-dining experience during a St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen Takeover.



Bustling servers and cooks, known as Breadheads, smiling guests, and delicious food, filled the dining room, which had been decorated early in the day by Wildflower staff. The tables were adorned with white tablecloths and Halloween-themed centerpieces. Guests enjoyed an exclusively-prepared menu that included artisan bread, fresh salad, grilled surf and turf, lemon-garlic grilled shrimp, comfort sides and homemade desserts.

Founder and President of Wildflower Bread Company, Louis Basile, attended the event, helping wherever it was needed and spending time with guests.

"We chose to do this Kitchen Takeover tonight, because we believe it's our responsibility to help others in need. It's part of our DNA. We call ourselves Breadheads; what makes Wildflower so special are the folks that work here, our customers, and the ability to come to a place like St. Vincent de Paul. We're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to come here and serve these families."

Similar to the Fox Restaurant Concepts Kitchen Takeover that occurred in August, families were unaware of the special meal that awaited them.

"It was a genuine surprise and simply amazing. I can't believe the beautiful hearts of Wildflower staff and how much they appreciated us. They made us feel like family. It just makes me feel so happy," said Mari Gonzalez, who recently moved

to Phoenix with her husband and two daughters. Giving back to the community is not a new thing for Wildflower Bread Company. This Kitchen Takeover event was the culmination of a two-week campaign called "Wildflower Cares," where the restaurant partnered with "No Kid Hungry" to help in the fight against childhood hunger.

During this campaign, Wildflower successfully raised **421,490 meals** to feed hungry children in Arizona.

"There are too many children in this country who go to sleep hungry and wake up hungry. I applaud No Kid Hungry and St. Vincent de Paul for their commitment to providing care to our community. Wildflower is honored to support them in their mission, and with the help of our loyal customers and generous Breadheads, I believe we are truly making a difference," said Louis.

This is the second Kitchen Takeover initiative at St. Vincent de Paul in the past few months, and we continue to invite restaurants of all sizes to join us for future meals in our Family Dining Room. We are grateful and inspired by the incredible team and mission of Wildflower Bread Company and thank them for giving families a unique dining experience that shows how much the community cares.

WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS?

Every thrift store purchase benefits those who need it most.

Shopping at a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store is always an adventure. From hidden treasures to the most practical items, you're bound to find something that will make you smile. We have 18 locations throughout central and northern Arizona to serve you. And, when you're happy, we're happy. Your purchases help fund our programs for those in need. So get shopping!

THRIFT STORE LOCATIONS:

Apache Junction
2540 W. Apache Trail
(480) 380-4515

Bullhead City
780 Marina Blvd.
(928) 758-3108

Chandler
963 W. Elliot Rd.
(480) 812-1156

Cottonwood
2101 E. Fir St.
(928) 639-3000

Flagstaff
2113 N. East St.
(928) 779-4353

Kingman
218 E. Beale St.
(928) 753-4399

Lake Havasu City
761 N. Lake Havasu Ave.
(928) 453-1399

1850 Commander Dr.
(928) 453-5414

1851 Commander Dr.
(928) 453-3125

Mayer
10376 S. Highway 69
(928) 632-9521

Mesa
2352 W. Main St.
(480) 644-0887

Payson
1006 S. Beeline Hwy
(928) 474-4476

Phoenix
8231 N. 7th St.
(602) 861-2634

2945 E. Bell Rd.
(602) 493-8126

3547 W. Thunderbird Rd.
(623) 931-9901

Prescott
935 Fair St.
(928) 771-9696

Surprise
12851 W. Bell Rd.
(623) 875-5004

**SAVINGS FOR YOU.
HELP FOR OTHERS.**

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Annual Restoring Hope Fundraising Breakfast

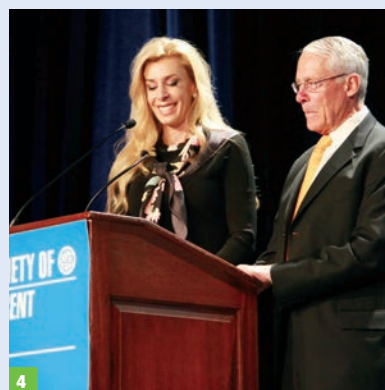
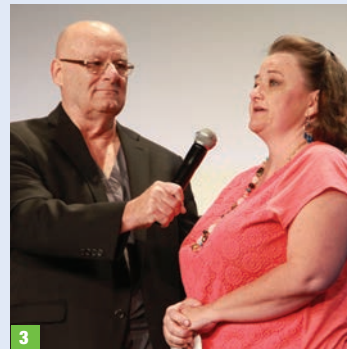
We often hear from people that poverty is too large of a problem to tackle. At our Annual Restoring Hope Fundraising Breakfast on November 20, we learned that as a community, nothing is impossible.

We were blessed to have Mick Ebeling, CEO and founder of Not Impossible, which uses technology to create possibilities for people, as the keynote speaker of the event. During the breakfast, we heard from Lupe, who after being laid off from an administrative job, was faced with the impossible decision of paying rent or feeding her children. With the help of St. Vincent de Paul's volunteers and services, she was saved from eviction and now has a stable job.

St. Vincent de Paul Dental Clinic Director Dr. Ken Snyder shared with us the impact of our dental clinic, which not only provides dental care for the uninsured, it gives technical training to help individuals find much-needed employment.

When done with love, our humble efforts create possibilities for hope—for the individual and for our community.

Rob and Melani Walton announced a challenge gift to inspire us to be generous. And thanks to Rob and Melani Walton, Russ and Lori Scaramella, and other anonymous donors who contributed toward a \$500,000 matching gift, we raised over \$1.2 million. We are so thankful for all who attended the event this year.



1. St. Vincent de Paul Dream Center children Jade, Alisa and Jocelyn share a special poem with the audience.
2. SVdP Dental Clinic Director Dr. Ken Snyder and clinic recipient Danitza Guerra.
3. SVdP Dental Clinic Director Dr. Ken Snyder and SVdP recipient Stefanie Mathews.
4. Rob and Melani Walton, of the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, announce a matching gift challenge at the Restoring Hope Breakfast.
5. The Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop of Phoenix, delivers the invocation at the Breakfast.
6. From left: Becky Pruitt, Melani Walton and Cindy Watts.



7. From left: Craig Coppola, John Graham and Steve Stralser.
8. From left: Becky Pruitt, Gena Bonsall, Cindy Watts, Robyn DeBell and Mary Kay Post.
9. From left: John Misner, Kim Covington and Mark Curtis.
10. Phil and Nita Francis pose for a photo at the Restoring Hope Breakfast.
11. From left: Restoring Hope Keynote Speaker Mick Ebeling, SVdP Dental Clinic Director Dr. Ken Snyder, 12 News Anchor Mark Curtis, and SVdP Chief Philanthropy Officer Shannon Clancy, take a selfie at the Breakfast.
12. From left: Dr. Oliver Harper and Craig Weatherup.
13. From left: Carole and Arte Moreno talk with SVdP Executive Director Steve Zabalski.
14. St. Vincent de Paul recipient Lupe shares her story at the Breakfast.
15. Mike Broomhead, Radio Host of The Mike Broomhead Show (550 KFYI) shares his personal testimony.
16. Keynote speaker Mick Ebeling, CEO and founder of Not Impossible, shares an inspiring message at the breakfast.
17. Julia Patrick and SVdP Executive Director Steve Zabalski pose for a photo.
18. SVdP Chief Philanthropy Officer Shannon Clancy speaks at the Breakfast.

Surprising Twist of Fate Saves Vet from Severe Hardship

It was a typical Saturday evening for Jackie Solares, St. Vincent de Paul Special Ministries Program Coordinator, and her husband. They were headed to Walgreens on 24th St. and Indian School, in central Phoenix. As they pulled up to the building, she noticed an accident had just happened across the street. An elderly man stood on the sidewalk looking very dazed and was bleeding from his forehead. Jackie also noticed that he was impeccably dressed.



Phoenix veteran Donald Kronor meets with SVdP Special Ministries Program Coordinator Jackie Solares.

"I stood there for a bit looking at him, then I said a little prayer and walked into the store. I was worried and felt empathy for him, because he looked very lost and he was alone."

A couple of weeks later, she was assigned a new client in the Special Ministries department, where she works to help those in need. It was a 71 year-old veteran, requesting financial assistance, as he recently fell into some financial trouble.

Jackie thought he looked familiar, but couldn't figure out why. When asked how he had gotten into this situation, he shared with Jackie that he had been involved in a car accident only a couple of weeks before, and had to stop working because of his injuries – cracked ribs and eight staples in his head. Jackie looked over the accident report and suddenly realized this was the very man she had seen on the side of the road.

"As I was looking at it, the whole scene flashed through my mind. I knew it was him."

Before the accident, Donald was hard working and self-sustainable. He worked as a security guard and received social security. But afterward, he found himself without a job and several bills coming in at once. With no family in Phoenix, Donald was in a precarious position.

"No one knows when they can get into trouble financially," said Jackie. "Even if everything is going well and you're supporting yourself, it can happen out of the blue. My boss always says that when she watches the news and something bad happens to someone, she always thinks, 'I hope we can help them.' I tell her, 'We already have so much work, why would you think that?' But it's funny, because I had said a prayer myself for Donald the night of the accident, and through a strange twist of fate, I got to see that prayer be answered."

While in the hospital, Donald's security guard card expired, and he was unable to pay the fee to renew it. His monthly rent, car payment, and utility bill were all due at the same time.

So he decided to drive through downtown Phoenix looking for churches that might be able to help him. He had never been to St. Vincent de Paul. He saw our sign from the street and thought it was worth a try.

By reaching out to donors and finding the right program funding, Jackie was able to help Donald with these expenses, including the renewal of his guard card.

"It was fate," said Donald, who is now in the process of interviewing for a new security guard job at the Veterans Administration building in Phoenix.

"I was worried and felt empathy for him, because he looked very lost and he was alone."

The Society of **Leading The Way with Innovative Service**



THINKING OUTSIDE THE FOOD BOX AT OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry at Our Lady of the Lake in Lake Havasu is thinking outside the "food box" when it comes to helping those in need. In Lake Havasu there are many residents that need mentoring and guidance, instead of pantry and financial assistance. The pantry has been blessed with multiple opportunities to provide career training, mentoring, lifeline cell phones and some bicycles as a form of transportation for many.

They have provided career training while working hand-in-hand with an organization called Achieve Human Services, located in Lake Havasu. Achieve Human Services is used by vocational rehabilitation clients who require extensive services to prepare for competitive employment. At the SVdP locations in Lake Havasu, there is a crew of four individuals that do janitorial services for the stores once a week. At times, they have also had a job coach and one or two volunteers from Achieve help individuals learn necessary job skills.

This food pantry has been able to offer mentoring for multiple families and individuals within Lake Havasu City. They have been fortunate enough



to watch as one individual, who has been recovering from a life-threatening accident, donate his time while re-learning how to do some of the most basic things. This Lake Havasu resident has not only been a blessing to this organization but has progressed by leaps and bounds with his recovery. He has been offered many different tasks and has accomplished them all, while growing stronger every day.

Two individuals have also become certified in being distributors of the lifeline cell phones. These phones have become an amazing gift to so many families in need that otherwise couldn't afford a cell phone. Bicycles are hard to come by, especially in a condition that would be used as transportation. When bicycle donations are received, volunteers go to work in trying to fix them as quickly as possible, so they can be given to those in need.

We are so thankful for all these opportunities that help those in need on so many different levels.

From career training and mentoring to lifeline cell phones and bicycle donations, Our Lady of the Lake is always looking for different ways to help those in need. The need for financial and food pantry assistance is growing. While some days it may feel challenging to keep up with the demand, with the Lord's help and guidance, the volunteers at this food pantry always seem to find a way to help the many families in Lake Havasu.



A TOUCH OF DIGNITY IN SEDONA

St. John Vianney, St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry in Sedona, made a strategic move in their food pantry earlier this year. They completely revamped the small pantry into one where guests could shop and choose what goes into their bag. Each guest is met at the door with a hug and is introduced to a personal shopper who assists them in their shopping experience. Since the change was made, the response from those they serve has been overwhelming. When a Vincentian

volunteer saw one of the guests outside of the food pantry and asked how they liked the new format, the guest responded that they felt so special with their personal shopper. They couldn't believe they could make their own choices.

It's innovative ideas like these that make SVdP's services so unique and forward-thinking!

LEGACY CIRCLE: WHY CONSIDER A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY WITH ST. VINCENT DE PAUL?

We recently asked Mr. and Mrs. G. that very question and they said, "You've got to give back. We feel it does more for us than the people we are helping."

Mr. and Mrs. G. have been long-time supporters of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. As Vincentian volunteers, they've had the opportunity to visit many people in their homes, bringing them food and other assistance to help them through difficult times. They know that SVdP has been around a long time and, as Mrs. G. said, "SVdP is going to continue." They want their financial support to continue as well. They found that making a Charitable Gift Annuity to SVdP would allow them the opportunity to support the work of SVdP, and give them a way to supplement their income during their retirement years. It was a win-win situation.



Q: WHAT IS A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY?

A: It's an agreement with St. Vincent de Paul in which you agree to make an irrevocable donation to us. We agree to make fixed payments to you each year for your lifetime. (You can have the payments benefit others, too, such as your spouse.) The portion of your gift that remains after you pass away helps feed, clothe, house and heal our neighbors in need through the work of the SVdP.

Q: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

A: It's a gift that enables you to meet your charitable goals and provides you with tax-favored lifetime payments. It also offers immediate income tax savings (when you itemize). If you are retired and depend on stock dividends for income, consider funding a gift annuity with those stocks. That way, you'll still receive income from the assets—in many cases, in higher amounts.

Q: WHAT PAYMENTS CAN I EXPECT?

A: The rate of payment is determined by the ages of those receiving payments at the time of the contribution – the older the recipients, the higher the rate. Payment rates are locked in for the duration of the gift annuity.

And, most importantly, in the words of Mr. & Mrs. G., "It makes us feel good."

For more information about charitable gift annuities, contact Donna Rodgers at 602.261.6884 or drodgers@svdpaz.org or your tax planning professional.

SAMPLE ANNUITY RATES

	SINGLE LIFE	TWO LIVES
AGE 60	4.4%	3.9%
AGE 70	5.1%	4.6%
AGE 80	6.8%	5.7%
AGE 90	9.0%	8.2%

The Society of a Thousand Thanks

One of the greatest privileges of serving in Arizona is being able to work with a generous community of people who care about the well-being of our state. Our friends not only host food drives and send volunteers, they donate generously to support our work.



Howdy Partners Fundraises on Monthly Basis

At their Bourbon Jacks Bar and Grill restaurant, Howdy Partners donates over \$1,400 to St. Vincent de Paul every month to help support our mission. Since May of this year, they have raised \$8,500 to help those in need in our local communities. Their support is served up in a warm, urban country, Arizona way!



Charles Schwab Gives Nourishment and Encouragement

Charles Schwab employees have been extraordinarily generous all yearlong by volunteering to make over 10,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to feed the homeless, and by donating over \$25,000 to various programs, including the Dream Center. Their monetary support helps improve the educational experience of hundreds of children who attend the Family Evening Meal on a weekly basis. We couldn't do what we do without the support of companies like Charles Schwab.

Bechtel Corporation Matches Corporate Food Drive

Bechtel Corporation just completed the first phase of our Partnership Plan, which was a successful food drive. Bechtel collected over 2,500 cans of non-perishable food and donated a matching gift of \$5,000 (which is \$2.00 for every can of food). Bechtel continues to increase their engagement with St. Vincent de Paul, and we look forward to their continued support. Recently, Bechtel also volunteered at the main campus of SVdP in several areas, including the Family Evening Meal. Thank you, Bechtel.



The Society of a Thousand Thanks

Toyota Financial Services continues to Support SVdP

Toyota Financial Services participated in a volunteer day in our Urban Farm, harvesting 100 pounds of chard and kale. And in the spirit of continuing support, Toyota Manager Neil Patel was the keynote speaker at our recent Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Thank you Toyota, and a special thank you to Neil Patel for his encouraging words.

Toyota Financial staff and family from left: Angelina Neaves, Erica Neaves, Tamara Newman, Robert Neaves and Laura Noreus.



APS Tour de Paul Days

Every month, St. Vincent de Paul assists APS with their new employees orientation program. The new recruits arrive at the SVdP main campus to see firsthand the amazing work happening for those less fortunate in our community. Following the tour, the new employees volunteer for a couple of hours to be a part of the heartwarming experience they observed.



Walgreens Supports SVdP During Flu Season

In August and September, Walgreens held their second annual flu shot clinic in our Phoenix, Sunnyslope and Mesa dining rooms for those who don't have access to medical care. This generous service helps our guests stay healthy during flu season each year and supports St. Vincent de Paul's mission to heal those in need.



United Healthcare Learns about SVdP

United Healthcare recently invited St. Vincent de Paul to participate in a town hall meeting to kick off their Employee Appreciation Week, that recognizes the service their employees provide to the local community. SVdP was able to share with nearly 300 employees about poverty in Arizona and the rewards of volunteering. United Healthcare's support of SVdP continues to grow and strengthen in multiple capacities, and the caring spirit within the company is contagious. Thank you, United Healthcare.

From left: United Healthcare employees Anthony Caglio, Ashley Ochs and Mark Bartlett.



U-Haul Uses U-Boxes to Collect Food At Nascar Event

U-Haul continues to be an amazing partner of St. Vincent de Paul. Their support demonstrates their deep passion to give back to the community. Their ongoing support includes SVdP's Restoring Hope Breakfast, Annual Golf-4-Charity event, Turkey Tuesday, and their staff has volunteered in our Phoenix Dining Room. Most recently, U-Haul partnered with Phoenix International Raceway to host a food drive during a weekend-long Nascar racing event that attracted nearly 100,000 fans. Thousands of pounds of non-perishable food items were donated to help feed those in need.



Raising Cane's Starts New Partnership with SVdP

Raising Cane's warms the hearts of many with their renowned chicken fingers. After a tour of the main campus of St. Vincent de Paul, the franchise owners, Justin and Joseph Micatrotto agreed to partner with St. Vincent de Paul to help those less fortunate in our shared communities. To date, the program has included their employees volunteering at our main campus and will grow to include multiple components, including monetary support when Raising Cane's opens new locations. Stay tuned to see how these chicken fingers are uniquely different and supportive! Thank you Raising Cane's – this is a wonderful holiday treat!

Voya Financial Funds Education

A new partnership was forged with Voya Financial this year and has resulted in amazing generosity. Recently, St. Vincent de Paul received a \$10,000 gift to benefit the children that attend our Family Evening Meal, and attend the classroom setting of the Dream Center. The donation will help expand our Dream Center's resources and help kids strengthen their literacy skills to succeed in their respective public schools. Voya Financial's commitment to serve those in need, with a focus on education, through this partnership is greatly appreciated.

From left: Tina Duffy, Todd Cooley (SVdP), Tracy Madden and Lydia Homer.



The Society of a Thousand Thanks



SIF Sets Up Hoop House in Urban Farm

Late last year, St. Vincent de Paul partnered with Sustainable Integrated Farms (SIF), which specializes in hydro- and aquaponics systems. With their investment of materials, time and knowledge, a 12-foot by 60-foot aquaponics system was built on our Urban Farm and now houses an entire ecosystem, complete with 1,200 tilapia fish and rows of plants. Within 45 days, the system was able to support and grow an entire transition of produce for a new crop.

From left: Sustainable Integrated Farms (SIF) Managing Partner Steve Stein, Marketing Director Nathalie Ane, Plant Ecologist Amy Eyden, and Facility Technician Julien Mauranges.

Border States Electric Helps Hydrate the Community

Over the last several months, Border States Electric (BSE) donated more than 500 cases of bottled water to help keep guests in our dining rooms hydrated. Many of these cases were also given to our Celebrity Fight Night Water truck to quench the thirst of hundreds of homeless individuals who brave the elements in the Arizona desert. BSE's generous donation has provided clean water to those who cannot afford or access it. We are so grateful to be in partnership with BSE.



US Bank continues to support St. Vincent de Paul

In November, US Bank employee, Mr. Arturo Perez, delivered \$3,500 to support St. Vincent de Paul's Dream Center with additional supplies, general expenses and assistance with Financial Literacy clinics. This support comes at a time when our Dream Center is growing, and during the holidays when children are out of school for the holiday break and additional food, toys, supplies and volunteers are necessary and much needed. Thank you, US Bank.



Humana.

Humana Donates Time to Feed Hungry

Humana Health Insurance is committed to volunteering in our dining rooms, kitchen and our food reclamation warehouse. Last year, Humana hosted a three-week food drive in November and December in order to not let a single adult or child go hungry during the holidays. Their culture speaks for itself, as they seek to inspire health, cultivate uniqueness, re-think routines, pioneer simplicity and thrive together!

Thank you!

TRIBUTES

Gifts received July 1, 2015 - October 31, 2015

IN HONOR OF

Dr. Larry Allen
Jenny Norton
All Veterans
Thomas Popa & Associates
Oscar and Ida Anderson
Lylah V. Swanson
Earl J. Baker, M.D.
Gordon and Carol Ray
Rebecca Beltran - Happy Birthday
Lydia Warnick
Mary Bernstein - 92nd Birthday
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Those less fortunate. May your life be blessed in many other ways.
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Marilyn Gladson
Laurie J. Weber - Birthday
Scott and Debbie Coor
Dolores Witherspoon
Elizabeth Doyle

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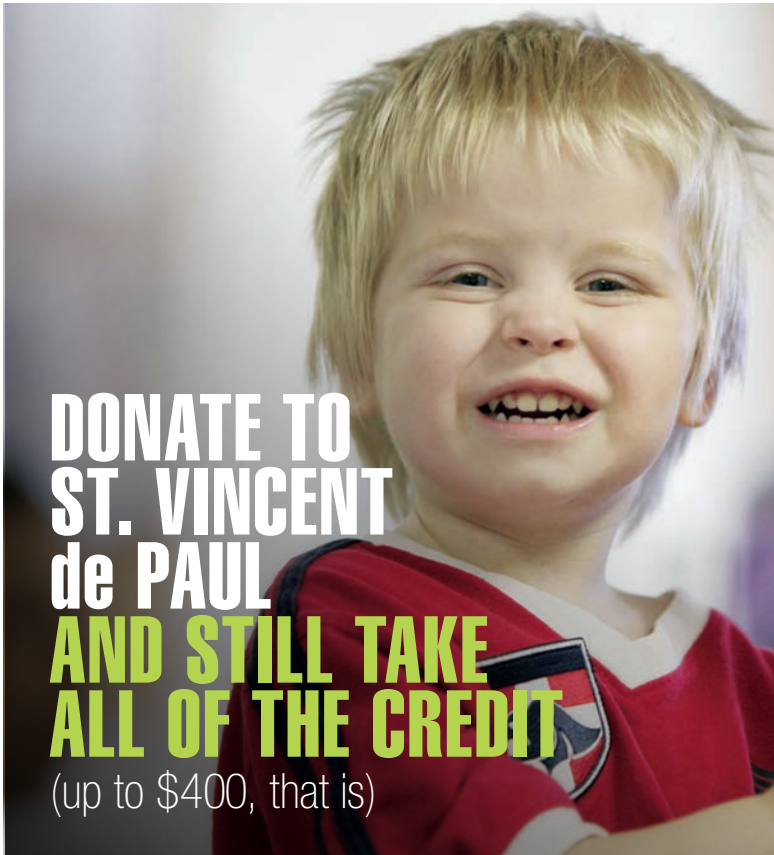
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