

## HISTORY

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has sponsored a medical and dental clinic since 1977, initially serving the homeless in a clinic in downtown Phoenix. In 1994, healthcare for the homeless was taken over by Maricopa County. At that time, the SVdP Clinic moved to its current location and the focus changed to serving the working, uninsured poor.

Each year the clinic provides nearly 14,000 patient visits, including those for medical and dental services, as well as health education and prevention classes.

Care is provided by more than 160 medical, dental and ancillary professionals who volunteer their time. The Clinic is also an educational site for local medical schools and programs, providing experience to student dental hygienists, dental assistants, nurses, nutrition students and medical and dental residents.

Typically, those served are working individuals and their children who have no medical insurance and live at less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Funding is through grants and donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.



St. Vincent de Paul has more than 3,000 members in 86 parish-based chapters, called Conferences of Charity, located throughout central and northern Arizona.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international organization with more than 120,000 members in the United States, and 650,000 members in 135 countries. It is dedicated to serving the poor and providing others with the opportunity to serve.

Other Programs and Services offered at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul include:

**HOME VISITS:** St. Vincent de Paul volunteers make home visits – a cornerstone of the Society since it was founded. These personal home visits provide more effective assistance to those in need. Food boxes, limited financial assistance with rent or utilities, referrals and encouragement are offered.

**FEEDING THE POOR:** Hot meals are prepared and served to the homeless and working poor in five dining rooms and at 18 non-profit agencies throughout the Phoenix area. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of food are processed for distribution to the needy in the form of food boxes.

**HELPING THE HOMELESS:** Homeless individuals are assisted with showers, haircuts, hygiene products, clothing and job referrals. Disabled individuals or those older than 50 are housed in our transitional shelter, Ozanam Manor.

**THRIFT STORES:** A number of thrift stores are operated in the Phoenix area as well as central and northern Arizona. They are a place where people in need – and the general public – can shop for low-cost clothing, furniture, and household items.

**SOCIETY of ST.VINCENT de PAUL  
MEDICAL & DENTAL CLINIC**

P.O. Box 13600, Phoenix, AZ 85002  
[www.stvincentdepaul.net](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net)



**SOCIETY of ST.VINCENT de PAUL  
VIRGINIA G. PIPER  
MEDICAL & DENTAL CLINIC**

*faith, hope, love*

**O**ur clinic provides medical and dental care for low-income individuals and children who otherwise would go without vital healthcare.

Each month, the clinic handles more than 1,000 patient visits. Many of the people that we see have needs that go beyond the reach of traditional medical and dental care. We strive to provide the extra word of encouragement, the listening ear, or the occasional food box to help with these other needs.

Besides providing much needed healthcare, our clinic also serves to nurture the next generation of volunteers by hosting student internships from professional schools.

## **MEDICAL CLINIC** For the Working Poor

Care is provided by volunteer medical professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, and naturopathic physicians. The Medical Clinic is open Monday through Friday by appointment. Typically, two to four medical providers are on site during clinic time. They are supported by the Clinic staff as well as volunteer nurses, interpreters, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, physical therapists, and clerical personnel.

A number of local hospitals participate through in-kind donation of services including laboratory, radiology, and reduced surgical fees. Medications are obtained through pharmacy discounts, pharmaceutical patient assistance programs, donations, and patient purchases.

## **Family Diabetes Program and Every Little STEP Counts**

Our Clinic sponsors educational programs for diagnosed diabetics and for persons at-risk for developing diabetes. Both programs are coordinated by bilingual registered dietitians with assistance from health care class instructors and other volunteers. Services include group classes, individual sessions, and case management.

## **DENTAL CLINIC** General Dental Program

Our General Dental Program is open to low-income people who do not have access to dental care. Demand is tremendous and new patients are admitted through a lottery system. Dental visits are by appointment only. The Clinic does not take emergency cases.

New patients commit to following through with a treatment plan for the entire mouth that takes from six to twelve months to complete. Treatment is provided by volunteer dentists and registered dental hygienists with staff support, and includes hygiene, fillings, extractions, root canals, dentures and partial dentures. Once the treatment plan is complete, patients are discharged from the program.

## **Children's Dental Program**

Children ages three and older, who are not eligible for state-sponsored dental services, are accepted through partnerships with schools and Head Start programs. This program is fully staffed due to the need for consistency and expertise when working with very small children and provides complete restorative treatment, fluoride application, and education in proper dental hygiene. Often times, it is the child's first visit to a dentist.

## **Every Little TOOTH Counts**

This program was developed by our Clinic to draw attention to the importance of caring for baby teeth. Targeting children under the age of 6, fluoride varnish is applied and information on nutrition and good oral health habits is provided, along with a new toothbrush!

**TO BE SCREENED FOR MEDICAL SERVICES, PLEASE CALL (602) 261-6868 AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.**

Leave a message to receive a call back to determine eligibility.

**FOR DENTAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (602) 261-6868 AND CHOOSE OPTION #4.**

For administrative information, or to volunteer, please call Janice Ertl, RN, MHSA at (602) 261-6880 or email her at [jertl@svdp-phx-az.org](mailto:jertl@svdp-phx-az.org).

