

Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Table for 3,500

New SVdP kitchen manager, Kelly Rindone, creates tasty, healthy meals for the needy

Is it Appetizing? Nutritious? Is it enough to sustain a homeless man, woman or child if it's their only meal for the day? Can we meet these needs with the donated goods sitting on our shelves?

Kelly Rindone spends most of her day asking questions. As the new kitchen manager at St. Vincent de Paul she is learning to juggle some unique challenges. Kelly and her staff prepare more than 3,500 meals a day for the homeless and working poor. These meals, sent to five St. Vincent de Paul dining rooms and 18 additional nonprofits, must be healthy, filling and, hopefully, tasty. But more than that, these meals must be made based on the goods that have been donated by the community.

“Basically we can only plan so far in advance,” Kelly said. “We’re really not sure what we will have to work with one week to the next. We have to be creative with the products we do get.” She must produce plenty of new meal ideas for large donations of one item, find the most equitable way to use small donations, and sometimes blend unique ingredients to create an end product that’s still palatable.

Kelly’s prior experience in the food industry has given her the tools to manage the kitchen at St. Vincent de Paul. She managed a full-service restaurant and spent much of her career focusing on children’s nutrition – most recently with the Scottsdale Unified School District. One of her most useful talents is her ability to address the nutritional needs of the malnourished homeless and working poor guests who visit our dining rooms.

“My work at St. Vincent de Paul offers all the wonderful things you look for in a job,” Kelly said. “Where else can I put my talents to work while serving the most vulnerable group in our community?”

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides more than 3,500 meals daily to the hungry and homeless populations throughout the Metropolitan Phoenix area. To host a food drive, please call 602.850.6737. To learn about volunteer opportunities in our kitchen, please call 602.261.6886.